



# Blaeberry Woodland

**Management Plan**  
**2020-2025**

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0    Site details	5
2.0    Site description	5
2.1 Summary Description	5
2.2 Extended Description	6
3.0    Public access information	8
3.1 Getting there	8
3.2 Access / Walks	9
4.0    Long term policy	10
5.0    Key Features	11
5.1 Connecting People with woods & trees	11
5.2 Mixed Habitat Mosaic	15
6.0    Compartment Map	19
Appendix I: Compartment descriptions	20
Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)	24
Glossary	25

## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

Our strategic aims are to:

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

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk).

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

## SUMMARY

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

## I.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Blaeberry Woodland
<b>Location:</b>	East Whitburn
<b>Grid reference:</b>	NS958646, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 65
<b>Area:</b>	35.32 hectares (87.28 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Hidden within the urban setting of Whitburn, this site is an oasis that transports you away from the hustle and bustle of modern life without stepping foot out of the town at all. Take a moment to sit on the bench by the White Burn and just listen to the breeze and water trickle by. You may be lucky enough to hear a splash as the local water vole population here move between their burrows in the bank.

With numerous paths to explore, travel through the tapestry of broadleaf woodland, open glades and rich heathland to reveal spectacular views of local landmark- the Five Sisters Bings. Manifestations of the local history, these giant spoil heaps represent how the community was literally built around the shale-mining industry in days gone by. Remnants of this remain at Blaeberry wood as small ponds now conceal the once used sandstone quarries. The landscape formation also hints at the agricultural past of the site with its structure of rectangles, former farming and crofting plots, bordered with hedgerows.

With a rich and varied landscape to explore, Blaeberry is the perfect place for a family adventure, a walk with the dog, a wildlife encounter or a moment of peace. Discover how it transforms through the seasons; rich with perfumes from the flowers in the spring, erupting with numerous bird calls in summer, the exploding shades of reds and orange as the leaves change in autumn, finally appreciate the stillness and tranquillity in winter.

Protected by the Woodland Trust since 1994, this woodland will continue to grow, with help from the local community, as an invaluable refuge for wildlife and people alike.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Blaeberry Wood is situated to the south of the M8 and lies between Whitburn and East Whitburn.

The undulating topography is influenced by glacial deposits, which produce a series of characteristic east-west gentle ridges, with the land gradually rising from 160m in the north to 200m a.s.l. to the south, with a generally northern aspect. The soil parent material is derived from sedimentary rocks, mainly sandstones and shale. These are grouped as the Rowanhill Association producing brown-forest soils with various degrees of gleying. These soils are characterised by slowly permeable clayey horizons at varying depths. Where these occur 40-80cm with overlying till, as at the north end of the site, soils are moderately draining, but to the south of the site, gleying occurs closer to the surface and soils are poorly drained. Pockets of richer alluvial soils occur along the White Burn which flows through the north of the site and the Bickerton Burn which forms the southern boundary, whilst the area to the south-east of Glenburn gardens contains areas of shallow podzol with a peaty surface layer over sandstone. This area is drained by several ditches, which collect in a deep drain running into the White Burn. Ground adjacent to this peaty area has been disturbed in the past and topsoil covers a compacted layer of clayey subsoil. Out with these peaty areas, the site is capable of supporting a range of tree species.

The woodland consists of a series of linked blocks of woodland and shelterbelts, with larger blocks of woodland directly to the north and south of the A705. The east west aligned belts are generally broad in width at 50-100m, with narrower strips of woodland aligned north-south. Areas of open space have been retained along the Bickerton Burn and White Burn with additional open glades within the planting. The areas of woodland are bordered by housing developments to the north and west and enclose a number of lowland crofts as well as grazing land associated with an equestrian centre. The A705, Hens Nest Road and a private access road to the Bickerton crofts all separate and fragment the woodland areas.

Due to the site's exposure, being surrounded by open ground, it is unlikely to produce trees of great height, although growth should be better to the north of the area. This is supported by the MLURI climate map which identifies the area as fairly warm moist lowland (rainfall c1000mm per year) but as being exposed with moderate winters.

The belts and blocks consist of planting from 1994-96 that is now well established. Compartment 5b was planted in 2002 and the northern boundary of 2a was planted with shrub species in early 2020. Overall about 25% of the site has been retained as open space. This is concentrated along path routes and watercourses with the central area of peaty acid grassland also left open. The woodland was planted as amenity woodland, with about 25% of the area occupied by non-natives, but exposure tolerant species, including beech, sycamore and larch to the north and Scots pine to the south. Other species include oak, birch, aspen, with small proportions of rowan, whitebeam, goat willow and hazel as under storey, and relatively large groups of woody shrubs, including blackthorn, hawthorn and some guelder rose, generally located between open ground and woodland areas. The planting was intended to produce high forest of mixed broadleaves to the north of the site and pine, birch, aspen and mixed broadleaves to the more exposed south. Older mature, but often stunted beech trees are found along old field boundaries and roadsides.

Woodland habitats are now (2020) well established but still young and developing. Non-woodland habitats are represented by the two burns and associated wet valley floors, with occasional hawthorn and dog-rose; areas retained as open grassland within and beside planted woodland areas, and the peaty area, to the south-east of Glenburn Gardens. The west of this area contains unimproved acid grassland and includes patches that are more heath like in composition, with heather, heath bedstraw and blaeberry, whilst the east is classed as a

mosaic of dry heath/acidic grassland. Goat willow and scattered rowan occur in places, with willow concentrated around three small seasonal ponds. A second area of dry heathland/acid grassland including tormentil, heath bedstraw and heather occurs on the south-facing slope above the Bickerton Burn, to the south-west of the site. The burns and dry heathland/acid grassland areas add natural biodiversity interest, being longer established.

The remnant rectangular field pattern of the area probably dates from the early 19th century when drainage systems were installed to improve the land, which has been much fragmented and modified by recent development. Some of the old hedgerows and lines of beech still remain but much of the field structure and the shelterbelts that would have been planted on the higher ground have disappeared. The south-west of the site, still contains an area of the previous rig and furrow drainage system and was planted (as were other similar areas) as a shelterbelt in the past, rather than drained. Tree cover was reinstated in this area in 2002. Its absence seems to have been relatively recent considering maps consistently show it as mixed woodland. The area of peaty soil in the centre of the site contains a number of shallow pits, now often filled with water throughout the year, which may have been small sandstone quarries at some time. There is also evidence that Scots pine were present on this area in the past, with bark scales found in the peaty surface horizon. Historically, the entire site was grazed as part of East Whitburn Mains Farm. The site was gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1994 when the area was developed as a lowland crofting scheme. This allowed low density housing to be built within a planned wooded landscape, designed to improve the general landscape, screen the new housing and to provide recreational opportunities to the local community.

The ground flora within planted areas is grass-dominated and reflects previous use. Diversity is limited, with the northern area consisting of mainly of Holcus/Agrostis grassland with frequent creeping buttercup and docks. The southern areas are of ranker, tussocky Dactylis-dominated grassland, but also containing bents, fescues, meadow grass and with herbs including spear thistle, creeping buttercup, and docks. As part of a ground flora trial in 2001, foxglove, bluebells, primrose, tufted vetch, red campion, self-heal, and wood avens of Scottish provenance were introduced to the planted area in the south-east of the site (6a). Although not all of these species are still evident, red campion, bluebell and tufted vetch now thrive within this compartment twenty years on. In 2002, a vegetation survey was carried out over compartments 2c and 2d, highlighting the local conservation importance - although much of this area suffered fire damage in spring 2003. In terms of mammals, voles are common on site and deer are also an occasional visitor. Water vole have also been seen (2010) along the White burn with holes in the banks indicating a permanent presence.

The woodland was designed prior to the Woodland Trust's ownership to create a new landscape structure to the south of East Whitburn. The design reflects the layout of narrow shelterbelt complexes planted in the mid 18th century found elsewhere in West Lothian, and to a certain extent also the species in them, namely beech, sycamore and Scots pine. The tree belts now form boundaries and screening to lowland crofts and new housing developments built along Hens Nest Road that runs south from East Whitburn. Links between this site and adjacent woodland planting with public access, on Whitrigg bing to the east of the railway line and to the south of Blaeberry Wood, increase the overall value of the site as well as providing essential wildlife corridors in an urban setting. Amenity value is at times reduced by accumulation of litter and fly-tipping which tends to occur at the north of the site, along housing and roadside boundaries and also along the White Burn and drains. Although there is currently relatively little deliberate vandalism, illegal access by motorbikes and quad bikes continues.

The site was planted as community woodland and initial involvement with planting and naming of the site was high. Since then there have been few opportunities for direct practical works and less interest expressed, except in attendance at organised activities. The community continues to be involved through consultation in

---

the management plan process, posters informing of works and direct contacts with site users and local residents over specific issues such as litter and access.

Sited between the busy communities of East Whitburn and Whitburn within the Central Scotland Forest, Blaeberry Wood offers excellent opportunities for recreation either on foot or by bike. There are approximately 5.5km of paths throughout the site, consisting of both mown grass paths and areas that have been whin-dusted with a firm surface. Due to the woodland layout and fragmentation by roads and watercourses, most paths are effectively through-routes, with no opportunities as such for circular routes within the site boundary. The site however provides good public access for both short and longer routes as part of the local footpath network. This includes adjacent land at Whitrigg Bing, Fairbairn Wood and the Trust's nearest site Foulshiels to the south.

Access routes are well used by different visitors including walkers, horses and cyclists. The fragmented layout requires gates at frequent intervals. Management gates are padlocked to prevent access by motor cycles, which damage paths and cause nuisance to local residents. Local horse owners have been provided padlock keys which allow access to most of the southern section of the wood although the need to exclude motorbikes restricts the attractiveness of the area for riding. Squeeze entrances and kissing gates allow access to pedestrians. In 2003, a bridge was installed over the white burn in compartment I to provide a link from north to south. Management access to the site is good and can be obtained from a number of gates around the site, leading off Hen's Nest Road and the A705. Within the site access is generally along or adjacent to the footpath network, which effectively limits vehicle access during very wet conditions.

There is no Woodland Trust car park at the site; parking is limited to roadside parking within local housing areas.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

The wood is located on either side of the A705 between East Whitburn and Whitburn. There are 20 entrances across the site, including one either side of the A705 as well as others from Hens Nest Road and Glenburn Garden.

**By bus:**

The nearest bus stop (701, Livingston) is about 300m (330 yards) away on Main Street, East Whitburn. For details of buses and timetables visit [traveline.org.uk](http://traveline.org.uk); or telephone 0871 200 22 33.

**By train:**

The nearest train stations are Addiewell, which is 5.8km (3.6miles) away and West Calder, which is 5.5 miles from Blaeberry Woodland both located south of the site. There is also Armadale Train station to the north west of the site which is approx.10 minutes' drive away (3.5miles). For up-to-date information on public transport, visit [traveline.org.uk](http://traveline.org.uk) or phone 0871 200 22 33.

**By car:**

From Edinburgh, head west along the A71 and join the M8 at Junction 1. Leave the M8 at Junction 4 and take the A801 slip road towards Falkirk/Bathgate/Whitburn. At the roundabout, take the first exit on to the A801. Turn right onto the A705 (Main Street). There is no public car park at Blaeberry Woodland, but parking is permitted on surrounding roads, including Hens Nest Road.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

Most of Blaeberry Woodland is open and is easy to access. It has lots of open, grassy areas between the more recent tree planting. Access to the wood is mostly through pedestrian gaps next to gates.

Blaeberry Woodland has over 5km (three miles) of paths which link to the wider path network through surrounding housing. The main section of the wood connects up with a footpath that links Foulshiel Wood and Stoneyburn.

Compartment 1a has approximately 780m of footpath and includes a bridge over the White Burn with access points to housing areas on Bathgate Road and Katherine Road. Whilst this is a surface path there are areas which are currently damp throughout the year. Compartment 2a is the largest compartment and has the longest paths equating to over 1.5km. These include three bridges, one of which travels over the White Burn and two over drainage ditches. The path surfaces are predominately soft and strimmed in summer including a track that leads through the glade down towards the river. Paths provide access directly to Hen's Nest Road and neighbouring cemetery from this compartment. There is also a bench facing north towards the White Burn in the south east area of this compartment. Travelling south west in the woodland leads to Compartment 2b which is a small area that has approximately 400m of path that has been recently upgraded to a firm whin-dusted surface that provides access to/from the north of Glenburn Gardens. Compartment 2c encompasses two paths from Glenisla housing area over to compartment 3a totaling approximately 820m. One of these paths is a firm surface and includes a bridge over a drainage ditch and leads visitors past the informal 'fort' structure that was created in 2008. The other leads southwards through the heathland landscape and is a soft surfaced path that is strimmed during summer. Compartment 2d has a small (approximately 108m), narrow path to the north of this compartment that hugs the boundary line leading through a mix of young native trees and shrubs. There is nearly 900m of surfaced path in compartment 3a which includes 7 water bars for drainage and two perch posts for visitor use. To the east of the site both compartment 4a and 6a have surfaced paths (165m and 287m respectively) that link into longer walking routes beyond the site. Whilst compartment 5a has around 530m of soft, strimmed path leading to the east of the compartment, 5b is the only area on site without any footpaths.

Whilst the unusual layout of the site does not naturally lend itself to a direct circular route, the variety of paths and entrances allows visitors flexibility to join into other local path networks.

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term aim is to develop a diverse native broadleaved woodland that will further increase in diversity as it matures. The woodland will contain paths that provide a link for people between the urban environment to the north and the countryside to the south.

The woodland will consist of predominantly native mixed broadleaves with a fairly open structure and the retention of shrub species where planting adjoins residential properties in the northern half of the site. To the south, where the site borders farm land rather than housing, a more mixed woodland with a canopy of Scots pine, oak and birch will be encouraged. Beside the White Burn, alder, aspen and willows will become established but prevented from shading the length of the burn due to the presence of water voles. Understorey species will be important within narrow belts to maintain screening, but there may be a need to coppice or introduce shrub species along edges in the future, to maintain depth of canopy and the screening value of these areas.

Non-native trees such as sycamore, beech and Larch will be accepted as a small percentage of the species mix. As the majority of these species are mature and found on the boundaries they will be monitored for tree safety purposes but retained for their biodiversity value as long as they are safe. Once these individuals have failed or have been removed, appropriate native species will replace them. In the medium term, general thinning or the use of halo thinning will be undertaken if necessary to remove some non-natives and create the open structure adjacent to paths and housing and to allow native species to develop within the woodland areas.

Small areas of open ground habitat will also be retained across the site with the majority of compartment 2c being retained for this purpose.

The path network and access facilities will be maintained and upgraded to suit local demand (WT Grade A - high usage) with consideration to the development of West Lothian's Core Path network and further development around East Whitburn and Whitburn that is likely to impact on levels of use on all paths throughout the site. Many of the surfaced paths originally laid in 1996 will be improved as required.

## 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 Connecting People with woods & trees

#### Description

Blaeberry is a very well used woodland linking the populations of East Whitburn and Whitburn (population of approximately 11,800 combined). The level of public use is defined as WT Access Category A (High usage). This is a popular woodland with dog walkers. The local cemetery has an access point and this is well used by its visitors for quiet reflection on the glade benches by the stream. The woodland is a valuable outdoor resource for the thriving local population of ex mining communities on one of the main routes towards Edinburgh.

Located nearby to the M8, Blaeberry Wood is easily accessible for visitors. The internal network of 5.5km of paths range in type from the very heavily used paths to the north of the site in compartment 1, through the whin dust surfaced paths heading south through compartments 2, 3,4 and 6 to the mown grass paths of compartment 5 and areas of 2d and 2c reflecting the differing uses and expectations of users.

These internal paths link seamlessly with larger local path networks. Compartment 1a includes the public Right of Way (ROW) path from the White Burn on the west boundary, south east towards Hens Nest Road. To the east the site links onto the pavements of East Whitburn and out onto the Whirrigg Bing, to the south there are links with Fairbairn Wood and out towards Longridge and to the west there are links into the Whitburn network of paths. The Old Railway path linking East Whitburn and Stoneyburn (including the Trust's Foulshiels Bing) is now the Stoneyburn to Whitburn Core Path and linking onto this crossing within Blaeberry is the Whitburn Town Core Path. There is no car park and no interpretation due to likely vandalism at entrances.

The access points and signage were recently updated in 2019-2020, welcoming visitors through the 20 entrances to the site. The main entrance into the woods from East Main Street, in the North area of the site, has post and rail fencing and ladder board signage. The entrances are wide and welcoming from a street lit pavement and many have been specifically designed to prevent illegal access by motorbikes and quad bikes.

Highly successful annual events have been held on the sites since 2017 centered on different themes including bushcraft (2017), Easter (2018), a Lantern event (2019) and community tree planting (2020). In 2019 there was also a funded project that engaged local primary schools and culminated in a community woodland walk attracting almost 200 people.

There is an informal 'fort' landscaped area in the higher ground central to the site with views extending over to Edinburgh on a clear day. The structures here were created in 2008 as part of the Branching Out West Lothian Project (BOWL) and involved local schools in its construction.

There are 3 local schools Whitburn Academy, Whitedale Primary School, Croftmalloch Primary School as

well as a further 3 schools to the west of Whitburn; Polkemmet Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School and Burnhouse School which could provide opportunity for future engagements. East Whitburn Community Education Centre is on Hens Nest Road and can be hired as an indoor venue for events with parking and toilets. Otherwise on-street parking is available

Whitburn Community Council are well engaged with the site and with the desire to make the entrance to the town more attractive, which is adjacent to our woodland boundary. The community used part their Council Village Improvement Fund budget in 2018/19 for village approach environmental improvements to repair the Blaeberry Wood former stone dyke walls on either side of East Main Street / A705, at the east end of Compartment 1a, along with some path improvements from Main Street to connect south west towards the cemetery.

## Significance

Blaeberry is a popular local wood accessible to a large demographic of people and easily reached without transport.

The woodland is <1km from the centres of both East Whitburn and Whitburn and forms part of the longer distance route west through Whitburn and south to Stoneyburn. The path network incorporates a Core Path. The site provides a chance to access a safe, semi-natural environment, close to a growing centre of population. It forms an essential part of the local access network, providing varied and alternative routes and is well used by local residents. Particularly popular with dog walkers, visitor numbers to parts of the wood, particularly the northern side, are likely to be over 100 per day on the well-travelled routes. Therefore Blaeberry Wood falls within Category A of the Woodland Trust Access classifications. The wood provides a much-needed natural space for relaxation and recreation in an urban area.

Historically, Whitburn is known to have its roots in farming since the 17<sup>th</sup> century and was significantly influenced by industrialization through the construction of the railway line during the mid-late 1800s and coal mining in the 1900s. These industries have shaped the community and are reflected in the landscape of Blaeberry Wood. Some of the footpaths that pass through and around Blaeberry Woodland and nearby open farmland follow the routes of old branch lines of the Wilsontown, Morningside and Coltness Railway. The line was opened in 1845 and connected Morningside, near Wishaw, to Bathgate, and served the thriving shale oil and ironworks of the early Victorian era, including the shale colliery at Foulshiels.

## Opportunities & Constraints

The narrow shelterbelt nature of much of the site limits opportunities to have a clear circular route or separate routes for horse riders and pedestrians.

Previous experience of vandalism limits the opportunity for signage, interpretation or physical installations on site

Motorbikes accessing the open ground in the woods is an ongoing issue but community policing has reduced this significantly. Opportunity for creation of a Volunteer Warden post to help monitor any anti-social behaviors experienced here as well as wildlife found on site.

Opportunity to upgrade and reimagine the natural play area created in 2008 as a new community engagement project with local schools and community groups- establishing this as a destination area of this site.

Multiple areas of the path are suffering from poor drainage and other areas have become narrow over time particularly in the north of site and in areas by bridges. Opportunity to upgrade the paths to provide a consistent surface and width across the whole site. - possible need for the path to be moved further away from the river.

Opportunity to collaborate with other local organization through the Whitburn Regeneration Group to encourage activities for health and wellbeing- A 'trim trail' would provide reason for people to use the woods for increased health benefits, implementing low level markers to indicate routes and distances covered, with reduced vandalism likelihood.

Opportunity to foster more of a connection with the neighbouring cemetery to encourage visitors to move between the two sites treating Blaeberry Wood as a place of peace and reflection.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Vandalism- Damage to signs, posts, benches and other site infrastructure as well as litter and flytipping detract from the beauty of the site as well as hazardous for visitors and wildlife.

Flooding across the site from the stream due altered local water table, due to housing developments on western edge of woodlands and climate change. Increased water levels are beginning to undercut the nearby path edge (1m away at present)

Residential garden encroachment on the site boundaries and garden waste-dumping is contributing to the introduction of non-native plants to the site.

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

The site will be well used and appreciated by the local population. There will be a safe, welcoming and well-maintained access network to allow local people and visitors to enjoy the woodland and open space.

It will be known for its wildlife interest, varied landscape, history and habitats.

There will be occasional small scale events appropriate to the nature of the site.

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

During this plan period, the short term objective is to continue to provide public access at Blaeberry wood which is safe and welcoming. This will be achieved by:

- (i) Thinning in compartments 1a and 5b removing ash suffering from ash dieback where it may become a safety issue for boundaries and paths (2021)- see harvest table for details (p.24).
- (ii) Path and infrastructure maintenance
  - a) Two path cuts a year; start and end of summer
  - b) Three routine litter picks annually (spaced across the year as required) and lift any fly tipping as and when reported/found
  - c) Annual tractor and flail cut backs of dense vegetation along path in north of 2a and along hen's nest road
  - d) Annual burn clearance to prevent flooding onto path
  - e) carry out regular safety inspections (as per site risk assessment)
  - f) Estate furniture to be repaired as required (2020-2025)
  - g) Periodically put up temporary signage reminding dog-owners of their responsibilities,

particularly in relation to waste

(iii) Path upgrades

a) Path audit to identify areas of highest priority and to inform strategy for type of path upgrades suitable for each compartment including any diversion as and when required (2020-2021)

b) Schedule path upgrades standardizing the path width to 1.6m for 2022-2023:

1) Compartment 1a resurfacing hard surface path with new whin-dust cover and additional material for areas surrounding bridges (approximately 780m)

2) Compartment 2a resurfacing hard surface path with new whin-dust cover and additional material for areas surrounding bridges (approximately 1.5km)

3) Compartment 2c resurfacing hard surface path with new whin-dust cover and formalizing soft surface paths that runs along the west and southern boundary of compartment (approximately 400m)

4) Compartment 2d surfacing soft surface path including path that runs along the west and southern boundary of compartment (approximately 200m)

c) Scheduled path works standardizing the path width to 1.6m for 2024-2025:

1) Compartment 3a- resurfacing hard surface path with new whin-dust cover (approximately 650m) and southern end of the compartment requires conversion of soft path into 1.6m whin-dust surface including drainage (approximately 250m)

2) Compartment 4a- resurfacing hard surface with new whin-dust cover (approximately 165m)

3) Compartment 5a- converting soft path into a 1.6m whin-dust surface including new drainage (approximately 530m)

4) Compartment 6a- resurfacing hard surface with new whin-dust cover (approximately 300m)

(iv) More people will visit and/or be engaged with the site by:

a) Hold annual events on site (2021-2025).

i) Collaborating with Dogs Trust on partnership events to promote responsible dog ownership on site (2021)

b) Design and create an imaginative play-theme trail in association with the local community leading through the site to the informal play area in compartment 2d (2023)

d) Commissioning a welcoming sculpture for the entrance from the neighbouring cemetery (2023-2024)

e) Creating a trim trail throughout the site (2024-2025)

(v) Develop community and volunteering opportunities by:

a) Recruiting a volunteer warden who has an 'eyes and ears' role and can report site issues to the Site Management Team (2020).

b) Organising two community litter picks of the site per year (2021-2025).

(vi) Liaison and partnership working with other local groups and authorities:

a) West Lothian Council/ Whitburn Community Council will be essential to achieving some of these objectives. Meetings with the Whitburn Regeneration Group will be attended by staff when possible/appropriate (ongoing).

b) Join the new 'Anti-social off-road vehicle use' Scotland-wide working group to discuss the issue of motor/scramble bikes on site and how to manage this use going forward (2020)

c) Engage with the local community police officer for West Lothian regarding motorbike use and other anti-social issues for the site (2020 and ongoing)

## 5.2 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

### Description

The woodland was planted prior to the Woodland Trust's ownership to allow low density housing to be built within a planned wooded landscape. With the initial planting beginning in 1994, Blaeberry is young woodland with a design that reflects the layout of narrow shelterbelt complexes typical of those planted in the mid-18th century and found elsewhere in West Lothian. The woodland consists of a series of linked blocks and shelterbelts, with larger blocks of woodland directly to the north and south of the A705. The east west aligned belts are generally broad in width at 50-100m, with narrower strips of woodland aligned north-south. Areas of open space have been retained along the Bickerton Burn and White Burn with open glades also created within the planting.

The woodland tree species include approximately 25% non-native species - beech, sycamore and larch, with the remaining area planted with sessile oak, ash, birch, aspen, with small proportions of rowan, cherry, whitebeam, goat willow and hazel with relatively large groups of woody shrubs, including blackthorn, hawthorn and some guelder rose. Older mature beech trees are found along old field boundaries and roadsides.

Dead wood habitat is minimal with only a few standing trees and large fallen trunks typically of mature relic beech at the boundaries with farmland. There are limited options for leaving standing deadwood due to the proximity of housing, roads and busy footpaths. All felled material is left on site to decay for wildlife. Timber is left in large sections to avoid fire lighting on site.

Overall approximately 26% of the site has been retained as open space, concentrated along path routes and watercourses and the central area of heath (compartment 2c). Open glades are also found in compartments 2a, 5a, 5b and 6a. A strip below the powerlines in compartment 1a is also retained as open space for safety.

Across all compartments there is a dominant Holcus/Agrostis neutral sward which, although not necessarily extensively diverse, is of inherent interest due to the herb mix of which it is composed. In 1997, areas of rank grasses were identified within compartment 6a to be included within 'The Ground Flora Project'. This involved the hand-sowing of various native wild flower species, in 2000, early-on in woodland establishment to encourage biodiversity and a more semi-natural composition, especially in fragmented new woodlands. The species included bluebells, red campions, primrose, ramsons, wood avens, meadowsweet, foxglove and selfheal.

A vegetation survey carried out in 2002 suggests much of cpt 2c is H12a Calluna vulgaris - Vaccinium myrtillus heath and is of some local importance. Unfortunately this habitat is also prone to damage by fire raising which in turn leads to opportunities for invasive species such as rosebay willowherb to colonise. In 2004, small patches of crack willow and blackthorn were planted over areas of existing rosebay willow herb within previous fire-damaged areas. Both these tree species will help attract a wide range of bird species to the area while helping to prevent the further spread of the willow herb to help protect the more important habitats (H12a).

Natural features include the White Burn that winds through the north of the site, with functional bridges to cross at five points along the paths. Bickerton Burn also skirts along the southern boundary in compartments 5 and 6. Despite being a busy site, various wildlife has been sighted at Blaeberry including water voles, roe

deer, brown hares and birds of prey. Trout are known to spawn in the rivers here too. Grazed fields surround the open area giving a real sense of being miles away, whilst so close to the town.

The banksides and surrounding grassland along the White burn are important grassland grazing habitat for water voles that were noted as having a permanent population at Blaeberry in 2010 with some holes in the river banks still present in 2020.

## Significance

Blaeberry Wood has a diverse rich habitat supporting various species and providing an essential wildlife corridor in an urban setting. In particular, the rare and protected species of water vole are reported to have been present along the White Burn.

The wood and heathland habitats are important locally providing variety within the wider landscape. There is also increasing habitat value as the site provides an attractive setting with easily accessible recreational opportunity for new housing as local settlements expand.

The woodland around the North East and South East of Bickerton Crofts is also of the Local Biodiversity Site associated with the adjacent Whitrigg Bing.

## Opportunities & Constraints

### Opportunities:

Conduct a water vole survey to determine current populations and use on site to inform future management practices along the burns.

To thin out non-native species and improve native woodland development and redesign woodland edges to improve edge habitat and maintain grassland for water voles along the White burn.

The last vegetation survey for the site was 2002. Opportunity to conduct a new survey for the site nearly two decades later to observe any changes, including impact of 'The Ground Flora Project', and inform management practices going forward.

### Constraints:

Small core area of woodland and narrowness of woodland strips

There is a lack of age diversity due to extremes of mature boundary individuals and young newly-planted areas. Opportunity to review thinning regime to enable a more complex age structure in the long term.

Due to the predominantly young age of the woodland, deadwood is minimal across the site. However, as the mature beech along the edges of the woodland continue to decline and Ash Die Back develops a mix of standing and fallen deadwood will be maintained.

## Factors Causing Change

Young woodland is starting to mature and trees may increase shading conditions and change the grassland composition. Coppicing of trees close to riverbank may be required in the future.

Senescence of the beech and sycamore on boundaries will eventually lead to loss of mature trees and reduced age complexity of the woodland but provide deadwood for the site

Previous incidents of fires in the heathland have increased Rosebay willow herb occurrence on site.

Ash die back is expected to have a big impact on the ash tree population. Potential for canopy to naturally thin itself due to this disease but some areas will require active restructuring for safety such as compartment 1a- open space could be utilised by sycamore and beech or native species. This should be monitored to determine if enrichment planting may be required in certain areas.

There is a risk of more garden escapee species appearing in the wood due to garden encroachment on the western boundary within compartment 2b and 2c and dumping in compartment 1a.

Roe deer are known to travel though the site and could impact on regeneration. However, they are thought to be rare visitors due to the number of dog walkers using the site and the increasingly built up nature of the area. The impact of deer has not been monitored as control within the site is not practical due to its urban location.

## Long term Objective (50 years+)

To manage developing woodland to achieve mixed broadleaf high forest (native mixed broadleaves with some beech and sycamore) to the north of the site and birch, aspen, oak and Scots pine to south of site.

The existence of non-native tree species will be accepted as an occasional feature of the canopy. Areas where these species are significantly shading out native species will be considered for halo-thinning in the long-term. As the mature beech, sycamore and other non-native species reside on the boundaries eventually fail or are removed for safety issues, the regeneration of these species will be actively removed and replaced with low-level appropriate species for these areas.

To retain depth of canopy in narrow strips of trees. To maintain good external and internal views. Overall open ground will not expand or contract by greater than 5% from the 2005 baseline of 25%. The heath will be maintained while allowing some scrub areas to establish on around 20% of the area.

Safeguard species diversity by controlling the spread of invasive non-native ground flora where practical.

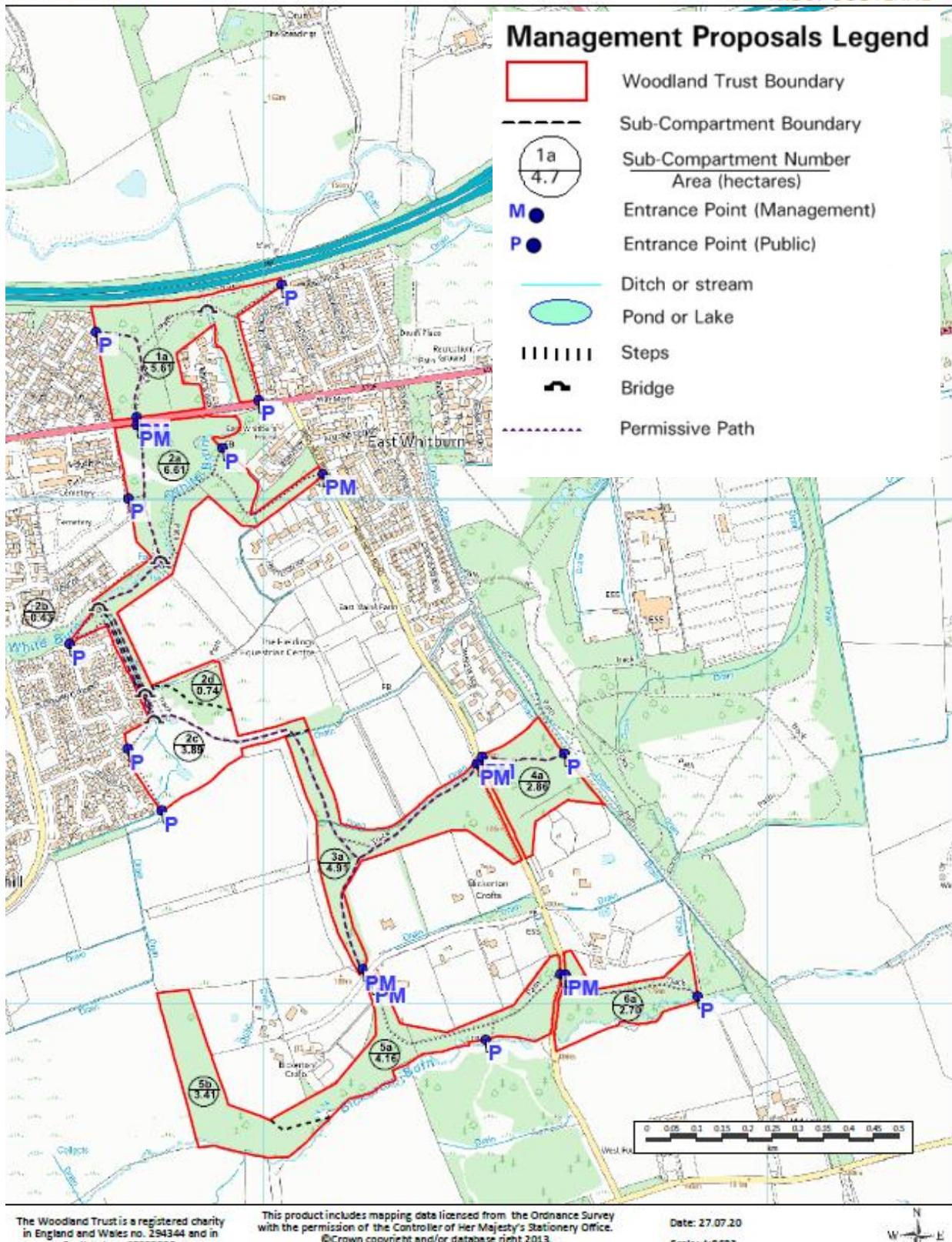
Ensure the site remains a suitable habitat for water voles.

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

- (i) Following ash thinning for safety:
  - a) Monitor natural regeneration and consider removal of beech/sycamore saplings if undermining/significantly out-competing native species (2021-2025).
  - b) It is expected that woodland ground flora will also benefit and be at least frequent on the DAFOR scale by end of plan period (2025).
- (ii) Manage open ground to achieve a balance of habitats by:
  - (a) Map and survey ground flora to review the value of the open ground habitat across the site (2021).
    - (i) Compare with the 2002 survey, observing any changes and impact of 'The Ground Flora Project' (2022)
    - (ii) Review whether change in open ground has exceeded previously set target of +/- 5% from 2005 level, and whether this target is still a valid one.
  - If there is either:
    - (1) a trend towards a reduction in diversity or loss of locally important habitat (e.g. heath) or
      - (2) an opportunity to improve diversity by vegetation management; then record those targets & actions in the Short Term Objectives and work programme, consulting with local stakeholders as appropriate. Action plan (if needed) by 2022, work commenced by end of plan period.
    - (b) No management of the heathland area is planned during the period of this plan. The heathland area will be monitored at the end of the plan period to ensure scrub does not establish on more than 20% of the area (2025).
- (iii) Maintain biodiversity by safeguarding native ground flora by:
  - a) Engage with neighbours by letter/information sheet to inform about the damage done to native woodlands by garden flora escapees dumped at the woodland edge (2020)
  - b) Identify garden escapees present particularly in compartments 1a, 2b and 2c- from this information a strategy will be created to prioritise removal based on threat and realistic, practical action possible (2022)
- (iv) Ensuring good habitat for water voles by:
  - a) Ecological survey and mapping for water vole across whole site (2021)
  - b) Review of shading levels along riverbanks and incorporate coppicing regime into volunteer projects if trees look like they will start to have detrimental impact on water vole habitat (2022-2025)

# Blaeberry Wood

## Compartment map



The Woodland Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885.

This product includes mapping data licensed from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
©Crown copyright and/or database right 2013.  
All rights reserved. Licence 100021607.

Date: 27.07.20  
Scale: 1:9602  
Author:



## APPENDIX I: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
Ia	5.61	Mixed broadleaves	1995	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
<p>Mixed broadleaves and woody shrubs planted in 1995; sycamore, beech, sessile oak, rowan, silver birch, whitebeam, blackthorn, buckthorn, hawthorn, guelder rose and holly. Cherry, ash and horse chestnut are also present on site with ash dominating the western side of this compartment. Mature trees to west of compartment boundary, mainly beech and sycamore, with some loss through old age. Small area of 50 mixed native broadleaves planted in 2004 behind beech avenue. Ground flora dominated by Holcus &amp; Agrostis with frequent creeping buttercup and docks. Yellow iris and cuckoo flower present by the bridge crossing the White Burn and Red campion and blue bells utilize the shaded woodland ground. Garden escapees are present in this compartment on the eastern side of this compartment near the boundary with Bridge end housing development; including a large pocket of Snowberry, a couple of patches of Pyrenean Lily and rhododendron ponticum. Overhead service cables cut through the site east to west across the top northern section of the site allowing for open ground in this compartment.</p>							
2a	6.61	Mixed broadleaves	1996	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
<p>Area of young mixed broadleaves planted in 1996; sessile oak, beech, whitebeam, willow, sycamore, ash, horse chestnut, rowan, alder, blackthorn, buckthorn, hawthorn, guelder rose, holly and elder. Additional species noted in this sub compartment include elm, Norway maple, cherry and aspen. The latter of which is particularly significant within the regeneration of this area. The roadside boundary was planted in March 2020 with 205 trees (a mix of crab apple, hazel, blackthorn, holly and rowan) as a community event. Approximately 1.1ha to the northeast of the sub compartment was burnt in May 2003 and restocked in November 2003. The south western leg adjacent to 2b contains a mixture of larch and broadleaves to provide year round screening to Glenburn Gardens. Ground flora dominated by Holcus &amp; Agrostis with frequent creeping buttercup and docks. Areas of open ground in this compartment leading from just before the cemetery entrance down towards the White Burn allow for more variety in the ground flora including Ribwort plantain, spear thistles, orchids and speedwells. Occasional garden escapees also present including</p>							

honesty plant found near the river. There are drainage issues in the north western corner by the roadside leaving some trees in standing water.

2b	0.43	Beech	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
----	------	-------	------	-------------	--	--	--

Area of predominantly open ground with scattered mature broadleaves, mainly beech and sycamore, many showing signs of senescence. Understorey becoming more diverse with broom, rowan, hawthorn, willow, birch, cherry present in this compartment. Occasional beech regenerating in more open areas. Ground flora dominated by Holcus & Agrostis with frequent creeping buttercup and docks. Occasional garden escapes also present from dumping of garden waste and garden encroachment including snowberry.

2c	3.89	Open ground	2004	Non-wood habitat	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
----	------	-------------	------	------------------	--	--	--

Patches of dry heathland/acidic grassland with an area of H12a *Calluna vulgaris* - *Vaccinium myrtillus* (heather and blaeberry) heath with patches of heath bedstraw, *Juncus*, tormentil, brambles, ladies mantle, broom, vetch, orchids and soft grasses. Despite open ground a variety of tree species are found in this compartment including rowan, birch, ash, beech, alder, horse chestnut, larch, cherry, oak, sycamore and aspen. Especially around the ponds, where small patches of willow and blackthorn are present. Lupins, cornflower, copper beech, fuchsia and other garden escapees are noted within this compartment. A 1ha patch to the south of the footpath was damaged by fire in April 2003. Informal play area created in 2008 as part of the 'Branching Out West Lothian Project' present just below the south east corner of 2d.

2d	0.74	Grey willow	1996	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
----	------	-------------	------	-------------	--------------------------------------	--	--

Area of young willow with hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and guelder rose, planted in sleeves in 1996. Ash, alder, birch, beech, sycamore, cherry, crab apple and willow have also become established in the area. Ground flora dominated by Holcus & Agrostis with frequent creeping buttercup and docks. A path runs along the drain at the north of this compartment and follows the fence-line southwards at the eastern edge

leading towards the informal play area.

3a	4.91	Mixed native broadleaves	1996	High forest		Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
----	------	--------------------------	------	-------------	--	--	--

Area planted with mixed broadleaves in sleeves in 1996; silver birch, aspen, sessile oak, beech, whitebeam, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn, with occasional Scots pine. Now well established with the predominant species being rowan, birch, cherry, ash, aspen, beech, elm, sycamore and willow. Line of mature beech at the north west boundary to the fields showing signs of senescence here. Ground flora dominated by Holcus & Agrostis with frequent creeping buttercup and docks.

4a	2.86	Birch (downy/silver)	1996	High forest	Services & wayleaves	Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
----	------	----------------------	------	-------------	----------------------	--	--

Area planted in 1994 with mixed broadleaves with some Scots pine, in sleeves. Sessile oak, aspen, beech, silver birch, hazel, whitebeam and woody shrubs. Elm, horse chestnut, ash, alder, sycamore and rowan are also present in this sub compartment, Ground flora consists of bents and fescues with creeping buttercup and docks. Trees now well established.

5a	4.61	Birch (downy/silver)	1995	High forest	Services & wayleaves, water features on or adjacent to site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
----	------	----------------------	------	-------------	---	--	--

Area of young mixed broadleaves and Scots pine, planted in sleeves in 1995. Mixed broadleaves consist of silver birch, sessile oak, beech, ash, whitebeam, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. Alder, rowan, elm, willow, sycamore, cherry are also present in this compartment. Some sleeves have caused minor damage. Ground flora of Dactylis-dominated grassland, but also containing bents, fescues, meadow grass and with herbs including spear thistle, creeping buttercup, and docks.

5b	3.41	Birch (downy/silver)	2002	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, water features on or adjacent to site	Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
----	------	----------------------	------	-------------	---	----------------------	--

Area of mixed broadleaves in 0.6m tubes, with some Scots pine planted in 2002. The mixed broadleaves

consist of ash, oak, alder, birch, rowan, willow, blackthorn, hawthorn, and bird cherry. Ground flora of Dactylis-dominated grassland, but also containing bents, fescues, meadow grass and with herbs including spear thistle, creeping buttercup, and docks. Also small patches of heather, blaeberry and heath bedstraw. There are no footpaths running through this sub compartment.

6a	2.70	Birch (downy/silver)	1996	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
----	------	-------------------------	------	-------------	--	--	--

Area of mixed broadleaves and Scots pine, planted in sleeves in 1996. The mixed broadleaves comprise of hawthorn, blackthorn, silver birch, sessile oak and hazel. Cherry, beech, elm and sycamore are also present in this compartment. Ground flora of Dactylis-dominated grassland, but also containing bents, fescues, meadow grass and with herbs including spear thistle, creeping buttercup, and docks. In 2000, 'The Ground Flora Project' introduced foxglove, bluebells, primrose, tufted vetch, red campion, selfheal, and wood avens of Scottish provenance in trial plots. In 2020, there is evidence of vetch, blue bells and red campion with the latter becoming prolific in this sub compartment. There are a few areas of open ground in this compartment including under overhead service cables which cut through the site in the eastern corner.

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

<b>Forecast Year</b>	<b>Cpt</b>	<b>Operation Type</b>	<b>Work Area (ha)</b>	<b>Estimated vol/ha</b>	<b>Estimated total vol.</b>
2021	1a	Selective Fell	0.00		1.5
2021	5b	Thin	3.00	1	1.5
2025	2a	Thin	3.00	1	2
2025	3a	Thin	0.00		1
2025	4a	Thin	1.00	1	0.5
2030	5a	Thin	4.00	1	3
2030	6a	Thin	2.70	0	1

## 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.

**The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.**

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885.

A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.