



Tramlines Wood

Management Plan

2020 – 2025

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Tramlines Wood
Location:	Okehampton
Grid reference:	SX596945, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 191
Area:	5.69 hectares (14.06 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Tramlines wood is a linear corridor of ancient woodland in close proximity to the town of Okehampton. The site covers a steep section of north facing valley slope and is dissected by many streams and wet flushes feeding into the East Okement River which flows from east to west along the northern boundary of the site. At the Western end of the site, the woodland is abutted by an open area of meadow grassland, planted partially with trees as part of the Woodland Trust's national 'Woods On Your Doorstep' (WOYD) Millennium project.

The wood has its origin as part of the historic Okehampton Deer Park established by the de Courtney family in the late 13th century, an enclosed hunting ground surrounding Okehampton Castle. The deer park was later 'disemparked' and returned to farmland in

the 18th century. Tramlines is designated as part of 'the Culm' landscape character area (149). The ancient woodland component is a good example of internationally rare Upland Oak woodland, or 'Atlantic Rainforest' habitat, and has been identified as being of high importance for a number of rare species including various lichens, willow tits and pied flycatchers. The sites designation as a 'County Wildlife Site' (CWS) or 'Local Wildlife Site' (LWS), a non-statutory protection allocated to sites with 'substantive nature conservation value', reflects its local importance as remnant ancient woodland. The wood is composed primarily of a post wood pasture, high forest structure with a shrub layer of frequent hazel and holly regeneration. Livestock historically had access to the wood as part of a much larger grazing unit, helping to control species like holly and bramble, which are now becoming more dominant following the release of grazing pressure. There are a number of significant older trees, with open canopy growth structure, that could be deemed to be of veteran interest. Additionally, the riverside strip is very varied in structure and this, along with numerous boggy wet flushes, dramatically increases the biodiversity of the site, due to the rich floral and lichen assemblages these support.

The 'WOYD' meadow is a small area species poor grassland, with limited conservation value, but does provide an area of open habitat in an otherwise unbroken complex of mature canopy woodland. The glade also forms an ecotone between the river and woodland, contributing to the biodiversity of the site. Minor planting of willow shrubs took place along the river bank in December 2000, as part of the 'WOYD' scheme, but the majority of the area remains predominately open acidic grassland, featuring loamy, free-draining floodplain soil and encroaching bracken and bramble indicative of moderate fertility levels. The 'WOYD' Millennium Feature is a wooden footbridge spanning the Okement River, facilitating local public access from a public footpath which leads from Simmons Park.

2.2 Extended Description

Tramlines wood is a linear corridor of ancient woodland in close proximity to the town of Okehampton. The site covers a steep section of north facing valley slope and is dissected by many streams and wet flushes feeding into the East Okement River which flows from east to west along the northern boundary of the site. At the Western end of the site, the woodland is abutted by an open area of meadow grassland, planted partially with trees as part of the Woodland Trust's national 'Woods On Your Doorstep' (WOYD) Millennium project.

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3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Main public access is via a public bridleway running west to east along the old tramway

through the site from Station Road in Okehampton to a public access field with an accessible path to Ball Hill Viaduct. A small path from the top bridleway down the slope to Okehampton town centre through Simmons Park provides access to the riverside woodland and 'WOYD' areas. The local college and town sports pitches are also accessible from the wood via the same path and 'WOYD' millennium wooden footbridge crossing the river. The nearest bus stop is in the Okehampton train station car park from which the wood is clearly signposted. Tramlines Wood is located next to the A30 just south of the town of Okehampton, and the site is accessible from both east and west. Arriving at the western entrance there is a push open gate and this leads onto Station Road adjacent to Okehampton Train Station. To access the eastern side there is parking space at Ball Hill Viaduct car park for about six cars, (in addition to car parks at Okehampton train station and Simmons Park). From Ball Hill Viaduct car park walk past the house and through the push open gate. The stream in front of you can be crossed by climbing a few steps up to a narrow wooden bridge. From the other side of the stream turn right and follow the path west, through another large push open gate, into the wood. The public bridleway through the wood is wide, level and a good all weather surface with no obstacles. Both entrances into the wood are clearly signposted. The small path linking from the top bridleway down with the footbridge over the river accessing Simmonds Park is steep, with steps and handrails, but may be uneven and muddy underfoot in poor weather conditions.

Public Toilet Facilities

The nearest toilets are in Okehampton and the toilets at Fairplace, Market Street and at the Station have RADAR accessible toilets.

3.2 Access / Walks

There is a public bridleway running west to east along the old tramway through the site from Station Road in Okehampton to a public access field with an accessible path to Ball Hill Viaduct. The bridleway is a wide, hard surfaced path accessible in all weathers. A small path from the top bridleway down the slope to the riverside areas and a footbridge over the river leading to Simmons Park. This path features steps, handrails and a boardwalk to increase the usability and safety of the path, which is narrow, steep and uneven, becoming muddy and rutted during poor winter weather.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Ancient Woodland: To be maintained and developed as a mixed aged, high forest structure, mainly driven through natural processes, such as storm damage, and natural regeneration, fitting with the Woodland Trust's aims of protecting ancient woodland. Active management of species such as holly, sycamore and beech and selective ride edge coppicing will take place to increase the habitat suitability for lichen communities, willow tits and pied flycatchers and to help maintain its LWS status and condition as an Upland Oak Woodland. Reducing the dominance of holly, and encouraging the development of a diverse shrub layer of native species such as hawthorn, elder, holly and alder, while relying on natural processes to create open canopy gaps as older trees senesce, will help to retain the woods humid conditions and habitat value for species such as willow tit. The river edge will be managed as necessary, with sunlight being able to reach deeper pools and dappled shade over the shallow riffle areas, increasing fish spawning habitat quality. Ash Die Back disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) will be managed as a tree safety issue, with large canopy standards being left to create gap opportunities for regenerating tree species and light demanding ancient woodland ground flora. Oak, hazel, hawthorn, alder and willow regeneration are to be preferentially encouraged, however some beech and sycamore regeneration will be tolerated under 10% abundance each to increase species resilience and provide a suitable habitat proxy for the loss of Ash from the canopy. Hedgerows to be laid on rotation every 10–15 years to maintain their value for biodiversity. Due to high proportions of young ash along the river bank, this will be used as an opportunity to naturally increase deep pool light levels and stream deadwood volumes, and replanting species such as willow and alder may be used to promote bank stability and maintain dappled shade over riffles. The millennium 'WOYD' tree planting area from 2000 will be maintained as an open glade, meadow grassland with coppiced willow element, through active intervention. Management will encourage the development of a more species rich wildflower meadow community over time. Scrub development such as bramble will be left unmanaged along the river bank and lower woodland edge as long as it forms no more than 25% of the total area.

Public Access: Visitor levels are regarded as being relatively high, consisting mainly of horse riders, dog walkers and people using the pathways as a link into Okehampton or the nearby school, via Simmons Park. Tree safety will be paramount around the paths and trees will be assessed and managed accordingly. Removal of trees for safety reasons will

also provide opportunities to create gaps in the forest canopy and encourage natural regeneration. Access infrastructure will be monitored, maintained and upgraded to improve visitor experience and safety, selective ride side coppicing of paths will help to dry out paths and improve walking conditions. This will help towards the Trust's objectives of inspiring everyone to value woods and trees.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

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

5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Mature ancient woodland on steep ground, typical of the Dartmoor Area's upland Atlantic oak wood habitats, comprising predominately Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) high forest, comprising NVC types W10e, W7c and W4b. Main canopy and understory tree species include oak, beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). The soils are free-draining, acidic loams with low to moderate fertility. The site also contains various Red Data Book lichen species indicative of 'Humid Ancient Woodland', conditions produced by the north facing aspect and high rainfall. The woodlands small size, damp soils, relatively open grown canopy oaks and native hazel shrub layer make it a good, but declining habitat for specialist species such as willow tit (*Poecile montanus*). Biodiversity is enhanced by a wet woodland riparian zone along the East Okement River and also wet flushes throughout the wood, which contain a rich ground flora of species including bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), opposite leaved golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*), herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and dog violet (*Viola riviniana*). Many tree species within the wood are currently of a similar mature age class, due to simultaneous competitive release from livestock grazing, but processes such as natural regeneration and wind blow events are beginning to diversify the age structure. The shrub layer is currently dominated by regenerating holly. In 2000 a small area of willow was planted on the northern edge of the woodland adjacent to the Simmons Park entrance as part of the Trust's WOYD project. In addition to the willow copse, the 'WOYD' also features a small glade of species-poor meadow grassland, acting as an ecotone between the woodland the river. The glade is mostly dominated by rough grass sward species, with some golden saxifrage and encroaching rough vegetation such as bramble and bracken. Historically the wood was part of a large, wider grazing unit grazed at low intensity as parkland or wood pasture. Since that time holly, bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), beech and sycamore regeneration has become more dominant. The river is defined as

having good ecological status and recognised as being of importance to a variety of wildlife communities, with medium sediment, phosphate and surface water nitrate run-off issues associated with farming practises on the higher Dartmoor moorland areas.

Significance

Upland oak woodland or 'Atlantic rainforest' is recognised as an internationally rare and important woodland habitat type. Ancient Woodland is nationally rare and its conservation is one of the fundamental objectives of the Woodland Trust. Tramlines Wood has also been identified as a Local Wildlife Site, which is a non-statutory designation allocated to sites with 'substantive nature conservation value'. A lichen survey carried out in 2003 revealed several red data list species present within the woodland, including nationally and internationally scarce *Anisomeridium viridescens*, *Calicium lenticulare* and *Graphina ruiziana* emphasising the site's significance for lower plant communities. It also has a locally rare population of pied flycatchers (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) and willow tits which are both UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List species.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- The environmental effects of increased nitrous oxide emissions and impermeability of the A30 Bypass may limit the potential biodiversity of the woodland due to reduced connectivity and reduced air quality, with particular emphasis on the rare lichen assemblages for which the Dartmoor area is noted.
- It may be of ecological value to re-introduce short 'pulses' of grazing disturbance with a small number of livestock to the site to maintain understory light levels for lichens and to control holly, bramble and sycamore regeneration. However, due to the woods small size, steep slope, wet ground and lack of other higher quality grazing adjacent, this is not considered feasible or desirable.
- Ash Die Back will likely result in the loss of 80-95% of all ash trees in the wood, making it more difficult to maintain high levels of resilience and biodiversity without facilitated introduction of tree species. The unique soil building properties of Ash leaf litter lost from the woodland ecosystem will also make it harder to protect soil health long term.

Opportunities:

- The mature age class of most trees on the site offers opportunities for regeneration by natural processes due to seed source and gap creation potential from natural wind blow, and the development of 'legacy trees' via the process of natural or assisted veteranisation.
- Ash Die Back is an opportunity to naturally increase standing and fallen broadleaf

deadwood volumes within the wood. Additionally, to create natural large canopy gaps, aiding light demanding tree species regeneration, as the older canopy ash collapse. The riparian zone is valuable in terms of flora and fauna diversity and enhances the overall diversity of the site, ash succumbing to the disease along the river bank also provides a natural source of woody debris and the opportunity to increase stream deadwood volumes, contributing to natural flood management, bank erosion mitigation and biodiversity.

Factors Causing Change

- The cessation of grazing pressure and the encroachment of holly, bramble, sycamore and beech regeneration are reducing understory light levels and threatening features such as lichen, light demanding tree species regeneration and ground flora.
- Increases in peak river flows from more intense winter rainfall patterns associated with climate change causing more riverside bank erosion and flooding.
- Population increase in the town of Okehampton leading to higher visitor pressure, particularly of dog walkers leading to further riverside bank and erosion, ground compaction, wildlife disturbance and increase inputs of nitrogen and chemical pollutants from dog faeces.
- Increased drying of soils due to higher summer temperatures associated with climate change could compromise the survival of species which rely on the sites humid woodland conditions.
- Increases in the frequency of severe weather events such as storms will likely lead to increased number of windblow events of canopy trees, particularly as mean age structure approaches more veteran stages. This will lead to more creation of canopy gaps and deadwood volume.
- Ash Die Back will likely result in the loss of 80–95% of all ash trees in the wood, which will compromise the survival of species dependent on the specific biophysical properties of this species, such as specialist Lichens that rely on its specific bark PH. The loss of the unique dappled light levels produced by an ash canopy in favor of a more shading sycamore or beech canopy will have a negative impact on ancient woodland ground flora. Ash also has the most important leaf litter for building soil fertility and structure which will also translate to a net long term loss for the health and regeneration of the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A multi-aged, regenerating Oak woodland with damp soils, suitable light levels and resilient, abundant understory of native shrub species such as hawthorn, willow, alder and

elder, to support a range of target species including lichens, pied flycatchers and willow tits. Significantly increased standing and fallen deadwood resources providing habitat. The woods humidity levels are maintained, providing a valley refugia for threatened species against the effects of a warming climate. The river corridor has a varied structure of light and shade, in addition to good levels of immobile deadwood, improving conditions for wildlife, particularly freshwater fish and invertebrate species.

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

The wood has a balance of sufficient light levels and soil humidity to provide suitable habitat conditions for its rare and diverse lichen community assemblages and bird species such as willow tit and pied flycatchers. Opportunities for a diverse and abundant community of native shrub species (such as hawthorn, willow, elder and alder) to develop will be created by reducing the dominance of holly, sycamore and beech. Gap creation and natural regeneration will come from natural processes such as wind blow, but the canopy will be actively retained to ensure stable humidity levels within the wood. Future veterans or 'legacy trees' will be identified and nurtured within the Woodland Trust's guidelines on managing and restoring ancient woodland.

Work programme:

1. Continue Zone 3 ride side coppicing of holly, sycamore and beech on paths at 10m buffers to increase light levels and create structural diversity.
2. Cut and treat areas of unmanaged holly, sycamore and beech leaving larger individuals of diameter 15cm and above, and some aggregated around trees with bird nest boxes, retaining perching opportunities for Pied Flycatcher.
3. Mow the open glade in August each year, removing arisings to reduce fertility and encourage the development of a more species rich grassland habitat. Test for phosphate levels to ascertain fertility and consider scarifying and introducing native, local-genetic provenance wildflower seed mix species in the long term (2025-30) to increase species richness.
4. Selective veteranisation of 'legacy trees', including girdling of buttress roots and lower branches to produce future veteran habitat features within the wood.
5. Installation of woody dams in selected wet flushes to increase resilience of soil humidity levels to climate change.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The site is located on the southern edge of the Okehampton and adjacent to residential areas, agricultural fields, a local park and the A30 bypass. The wood is used heavily for recreation and commuting by local people, particularly for dog walking. There is a public bridleway running west to east along the old tramway through the site from Station Road in Okehampton to a public access field with an accessible path to Ball Hill Viaduct. The bridleway is a wide, hard surfaced path accessible in all weathers. A small path from the top bridleway down the slope to the riverside areas and a footbridge over the river leading to Simmons Park. This path features steps, handrails and a boardwalk to increase the usability and safety of the path, which is narrow, steep and uneven, becoming muddy and rutted during poor winter weather. The woodland has a semi-natural aesthetic, in contrast to the more formalised recreational park adjacent, and is a valuable resource for promoting health and wellbeing to the local community. The 'WOYD' area provides a more open area for visitors to walk in fine conditions and creates a more welcoming feel to the site upon entry from Simmons Park.

Significance

Promoting greater access to woodland areas on the fringes of the Dartmoor NPA has been identified in a number of key local biodiversity action plans as a strategy to reduce recreational pressure on more fragile moorland habitats in the national park. As an urban woodland, the site is a significant area of green providing the town of Okehampton with a recreational resource within walking distance. Providing free public access, promoting health, wellbeing and education and inspiring people to get out and connect with woodlands is a principal objective of the Woodland Trust.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

- The steep, uneven and often wet conditions of the slope and connecting paths frustrate visitor access from the riverside areas to the top bridleway path, also presenting an additional safety issue.
- Due to the presence of wet, sensitive areas of ground along the riverbanks and wet flushes, the introduction of any new routes or circular walking routes within the wood is not feasible.
- The small size of the wood means there is a limit to the amount of footfall that can be

sustained without degrading other values such as biodiversity and environmental, and can impact on visitor experience.

Opportunities

- The hard-surfaced, all weather bridleway path provides access for disabled visitors who may otherwise find accessing the countryside difficult.
- The close proximity to Okehampton provides a large population of visitors within walking distance to provide education and wellbeing resources to, promoting sustainability in recreation.
- The 'WOYD' bridge is an excellent piece of existing infrastructure that provides otherwise absent access from Simmons Park over the physical barrier of the river to the wood.

Factors Causing Change

- Increasing numbers of recreational uses causing erosion of paths, creating unofficial paths or 'desire lines' through sensitive areas and compromising the stability of the river banks due to ground compaction.
- Increases in winter rainfall and storm frequency due to climate change potentially increasing erosion of paths within the wood and along river banks and compromising visitor access.
- Increases in drought conditions in summer and storm frequency in winter due to climate change increasing chance of 'summer limb drop' and wind blow events, particularly in beech, contributing to tree safety issues.
- Ash Die Back and other potential imported diseases increasing the risk of structural failure of ash trees adding an extra safety issue to Zone B paths.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A well-used, treasured and attractive informal link out of the town to the public rights of way network and wider countryside, providing a recreational resource with associated health benefits within walkable distance of Okehampton. The path network and infrastructure are safe, fit for purpose and in well-maintained condition. The main users of the site are local residents, school children and staff, walkers, horse riders, cyclists and to a lesser degree tourists, in particular those visiting the steam railway.

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

To ensure that the wood remains accessible and safe to the public and sustains a welcoming and restorative natural aesthetic.

Work Programme:

1. To carry out annual tree safety inspections on both zones A and B due to the high levels of use and manage as necessary.
2. To carry out ride side coppicing for the link path from the bridleway to the footbridge to attempt drying out path conditions.
3. Replace handrails, boardwalk (with revised infrastructure) and fence near Station Road entrance. Upgrade steps as necessary.
4. Annual path safety checks and required maintenance and litter picks.

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	5.30	Oak (sessile)	1850	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>W10e, W7c and W4b NVC type upland oak, Atlantic rainforest semi-natural, native broadleaf woodland. Loamy, acidic, free draining soil with low fertility over a metamorphic aureole of granite bedrock. Relatively even aged, high forest structure with scarce tree regeneration, canopy dominated by mature sessile oak (P1850) woodland and birch (P1930), with some (rare) large, open beech, ash and sycamore standards over a hazel and holly understory (W10e), areas of wet flushes and riparian zone along river contain more ash, alder and willow (W7c). Bramble, bracken and bluebell are common on the higher ground whilst bryophytes, rushes, ferns and flora such as golden saxifrage, wild garlic, lesser celandine, herb Robert, dog violet are present in the wet flushes and stream sides areas.</p>							
1b	0.40	Other	2000	Non-wood habitat	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access	
<p>A small area of species poor, semi-improved, acidic, streamside meadow grassland with loamy, acidic, free draining flood plain soil with moderate fertility. Adjacent to the East Okement River, tree species include a small area of planted willow (P2000), ground flora includes areas (10%) of encroaching bracken and bramble scrub with ferns, golden saxifrage and acidic meadow grass species.</p>							

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

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

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

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

Ancient Woodland Site

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

Beating Up

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

Broadleaf

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

Canopy

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

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

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

Conifer

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

Continuous Cover forestry

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

Coppice

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

Exotic (non-native) Species

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

Field Layer

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

Group Fell

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

Long Term Retention

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

Minimum Intervention

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

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

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

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

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

Origin & Provenance

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

Re-Stocking

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

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

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

Sub-Compartment

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

Thinning

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

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

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

Weeding

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

Windblow/Windthrow

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

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