



# Churchdown Hill

## Public 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](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.

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Churchdown Hill
<b>Location:</b>	Churchdown
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SO879189, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 162
<b>Area:</b>	15.48 hectares (38.25 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	No designations for this site, Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Churchdown Hill is a 15.48Ha site of secondary woodland, grassland and scrub on Chosen Hill in Churchdown, Gloucester. It is a prominent part of the landscape of Gloucester, Cheltenham and the M5 motorway, with spectacular views across the countryside, and is within the National Character Area 106, 'Severn and Avon Vales'.

The site known locally as Chosen Hill, comprises Churchdown Hill East and West, Tinkers Hill, and a small area called The Pines - all within WT ownership and acquired in various stages. The top of the site (South) has a topograph viewpoint with great views over the Cotswold Hills, Gloucester, the Malverns, and the Forest of Dean.

### 2.2 Extended Description

Churchdown Hill is a 15.48Ha site of secondary woodland, grassland and scrub on Chosen Hill in Churchdown, Gloucester. It is a prominent part of the landscape of Gloucester, Cheltenham and the M5 motorway, with spectacular views across the countryside, and is within the National Character Area 106, 'Severn and Avon Vales'.

The site known locally as Chosen Hill, comprises Churchdown Hill East and West, Tinkers Hill, and a small

area called The Pines - all within WT ownership and acquired in various stages. The top of the site (South) has a topograph viewpoint with great views over the Cotswold Hills, Gloucester, the Malverns, and the Forest of Dean.

Located close to Gloucester, the site is mainly ash, oak and hawthorn secondary woodland with large areas of regenerating scrub, and pockets of grassland. It has been cleared at various times in its history via quarrying, encampments and farming, with various stages of regenerating woodland and scrub, and occasional mature and remnant fragments of ancient woodland characteristics in old hedgerows and banks.

Churchdown Hill is locally well used as a public amenity by dog walkers, the villagers of Churchdown, and visitors to the 13th Century Church of St Bartholomew and its cemetery. The site has multiple entrance points through kissing gates, and a good network of public and permissive footpaths providing circular and linear routes.

The site links with neighboring, adjacent woodland and grassland owned by both Severn Trent, and the Church. Severn Trent also owns and manages two reservoirs with no public access on the highest point of the hill. As a result habitats are well connected and very permeable to wildlife. The main access to the network of footpaths can be gained from the centrally located car parking area, which also provides access to the Church and burial ground, although it is not owned by the Woodland Trust.

The hill top to the south east of the site was a former Iron Age Hillfort according to old Land Registry maps - Churchdown Hillfort (SMR 4426), but the reservoirs, road, church and cemetery were built on top of the Iron Age Camp, and quarrying, vegetation growth of scrub and woodland have all now hidden the once prominent site and camp area.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

The site is within 2km of Churchdown village and Gloucester, between the M5 motorway and A417 major road. The landscape surrounding the hill is well served with a PROW network providing links between the site and neighboring residential areas of Churchdown and Hucclecote. The sites have a myriad of public and permissive routes providing some stunning views and a range of habitats and experiences for pedestrians only. Many are steep in sections and they are all un-surfaced and prone to becoming slippery in wet conditions.

The Stagecoach 94, 97 and 98 link Gloucester with the village of Churchdown, with a short but steep walk uphill to the site.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

Access to the complex network of public rights of way and permissive footpaths can be gained from the centrally located car park which also provides access to the Church and burial ground, and for locals or the more determined there are numerous connecting footpaths from the lower ground surrounding the hills via

gates, stiles and open entrances.

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Churchdown Hill will continue to develop into a predominantly native broadleaved woodland, with a diverse age and species structure. The woodland will provide a variety of successional habitats, linking mature woodland with developing shrub-rich areas, and natural glades of open grassland. Woodland ground flora will develop and spread over time, with levels of fallen and standing deadwood increasing via natural factors. A small proportion of ash with some resilience to Ash Dieback may remain as part of the canopy. Deer populations will be managed at levels enabling natural regeneration processes to occur unimpeded by browsing. Existing and future veteran trees will be retained providing an important habitat for protected species. The Trust's duty of care will be addressed through on-going tree safety, tree health, and site risk assessment regimes, which may require remedial works as required.

The site will remain a high quality recreational resource valued by local users and visitors alike. Churchdown Hill will be enjoyed by people through welcoming, easily accessible entrances and a network of paths and views all maintained to a high level of quality and safety.



## 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 Natural Secondary Woodland

#### Description

Churchdown Hill is a 15.48Ha secondary woodland, with areas of grassland and scrub on Chosen Hill in Churchdown, Gloucester. The site complex also known as Chosen Hill, comprises Churchdown Hill East and West, Tinkers Hill, and a small area called The Pines - all within WT ownership.

All woodland areas, or areas naturally succeeding into woodland have a predominantly ash and oak canopy with large areas of hawthorn. There are components of beech and sycamore in places, with some Crab apple, blackthorn and hazel understorey. Otherwise areas are dominated by both mature and young hawthorn scrub. In some areas the upper canopy is missing and the field layer is completely shaded out by hawthorn and blackthorn, likely on previous disturbed ground. Occasional mature veteran ash and oak are present along old field boundaries, and in areas of more mature woodland and old hedges, there are some fragments of ancient woodland ground flora remain including dogs mercury, lesser celandine, and occasional bluebells.

Open areas in previous grazing fields - compartments 4b and 4c known as Tinkers Hill - are scrub in transition back to woodland after previous unsuccessful periods of grazing, or are heathland type habitat with bramble and gorse. Together providing a diverse habitat mosaic. They are mainly composed of dense hawthorn, blackthorn, gorse and bramble scrub. Some open areas of bracken, willowherb, and rough grassland remain, and small glades of short grassland kept open by rabbit grazing. There are wet areas on the lower slopes with heavy clay underfoot.

Two small separate areas of woodland exist to the east of the main WT site complex: 2a) the conifer plantation known as the Pines, planted in 1898 with Corsican and Scots pine, now with surrounding natural broadleaf secondary woodland; and 3a) Churchdown Hill East - the mature oak and ash woodland copse adjacent to the bridleway and road, principally of mature veteran oak and occasional ash with some field maple, Small-leaved lime, sycamore and Wych elm, with elder and hazel understorey. The ground flora includes bluebells, dog's mercury, lesser celandine, and Lords and Ladies. Cpt 3a is not recorded as ancient on the ancient woodland inventory (it is under the 2Ha size limit) but the presence of strong, locally typical ancient woodland indicators suggests a continuity of natural woodland cover.

Surrounding Churchdown Hill are areas of interconnected woodland, scrub and grassland - owned by both Severn Trent, and the Church, or a large network of farmland - agricultural fields grazed by cattle or occasionally arable. Some small areas of neighbouring land have been planted with native broadleaved woodland. As a result habitats are relatively well connected and very permeable to wildlife despite the proximity to Gloucester and the road network.

Ash dieback is present in 2019 and 2020. Along the Zone A and B boundaries, ash will need to be annually

surveyed as part of site risk assessments. The Zone B network of paths may need to be rationalised with restricted access on some, and safety felling on others. There is a TPO (234) on a veteran ash tree in the south of the site (Cpt 1a) from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

### Significance

The site is locally important for its prominent viewpoint across the surrounding countryside. It is closely linked with historic features in the neighbouring area, and is an important woodland landscape that connects with surrounding woodland and grassland in conservation management. The veteran trees are also of particular importance to biodiversity and these, together with the successional habitats and spectacular views, make Churchdown Hill a significant part of the local landscape.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To provide an abundance of natural stages of woodland habitat.

Constraints:

Poor accessibility

Occasional campfires, mis-use and vandalism of structures, trees and fences.

### Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback.

Vandalism

Squirrels damage on SY and BE.

Deer browsing.

Rabbit grazing.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Churchdown Hill will continue to develop into a predominantly native broadleaved woodland, with a diverse age and species structure. The woodland will provide a variety of successional habitats, linking mature woodland with developing shrub-rich areas, and natural glades of open grassland. Woodland ground flora will develop and spread over time, with levels of fallen and standing deadwood increasing via natural factors. A small proportion of ash with some resilience to Ash Dieback will remain as part of the canopy. Deer populations will be managed at levels enabling natural regeneration processes to occur unimpeded by browsing. Existing and future veteran trees will be retained providing an important habitat for protected species. The Trusts duty of care will be addressed through on-going tree safety, tree health, and site risk assessment regimes, which may require remedial works as required.

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

Ensure continued existence of the woodland habitats, allowing grassland and scrub to develop with a broad range of tree species and secondary woodland to be maintained through largely natural process.

Ash dieback tree safety assessments and subsequent felling of dead or dangerous ash along Zone A and B areas as per WT ash dieback guidance on managing ash dieback on the estate.

## 5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

### Description

Churchdown Hill is a 15.48Ha site on Chosen Hill, Churchdown, Gloucester. It is a prominent part of the landscape of Gloucester and Cheltenham, between the A417 and M5 motorway. The site is well used as a public amenity by dog walkers, the villagers of Churchdown, residents of Gloucester, and visitors to the 13th Century Church of St Bartholomew and cemetery, and the surrounding neighbouring woodland owned by Severn Trent.

The whole hill has spectacular views across Gloucester and Cheltenham. A focus for visitors to the WT Churchdown Hill is the topograph viewpoint in the south of the site (Cpt 1a) which provides vistas over the surrounding area and over to the Cotswold Hills, the Malverns, Severn Estuary, the Forest of Dean, and Wales. The construction of a topograph in 2001 was jointly sponsored by Churchdown Parish Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and the Woodland Trust.

The site has multiple entrance points through kissing gates, all upgraded in 2018; and a good network of public and permissive footpaths providing circular and linear routes. The site links with neighbouring woodland and grassland owned by both Severn Trent, and the Church (the water company also owns and manages two reservoirs with no public access on the hill). Access to the network of footpaths can be gained from the centrally located car parking area which also provides access to the Church and burial ground, although it is not owned by the Woodland Trust.

For the more determined there are numerous connecting footpaths to the lower surrounding fields and near-by hills. A combination of steepness and heavy clay soils conditions mean that walking conditions in wet weather along some steeper sections of Churchdown Hill are difficult, especially in winter. There are steps and handrails in some areas to facilitate access.

The site sometimes suffers from misuse and vandalism, with occasional campfires and damage to trees and benches. Unauthorised access to the site by horse riders and less frequently motor bikes has happened in the past, but this has reduced following access improvements and installation of kissing gates in recent years.

The hill top was a former Iron Age Hillfort backed up by old Land Registry maps - Churchdown Hillfort (SMR 4426), but the reservoirs, church and cemetery were built on top of the Iron Age Camp. Stone was quarried from the hill top too, and the development of the reservoirs, road, church and cemetery, and vegetation growth of scrub and woodland have all now hidden the once prominent site and camp area, resulting in the loss of the majority of the historic features. Sections of incomplete iron age ramparts run through woodland at the south of the site in Churchdown Hill West (1a) and East (3a), and into woodland managed and owned by the Church (also a former quarry) next to the cemetery.

The site is supported by a group of local people known collectively as 'The Friends of Churchdown Hill' who were directly involved with the initial acquisition and its subsequent management. They still meet occasionally and carry out work onsite and on neighbouring Chosen Hill nature reserve maintaining paths. There is also a recent blog and range of well-maintained social media profiles called Our Chosen Hill that is active onsite, and corresponds with WT regularly. Our Chosen Hill is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – all @OurChosenHill and <https://ourchosenhill.wordpress.com/>.

The site is within the jurisdiction of Tewkesbury Borough Council despite its proximity to Gloucester.

### Significance

Public access is vital to ensure on-going support for the Trust's work. Inspiring everyone to enjoy and value trees and woodland is a fundamental aim of the Woodland Trust. Churchdown Hill provides an important local amenity for people living in the area, and it is well used by local walkers, dog walkers and visitors to the hill.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To improve access to a wider audience, especially in winter.

To engage with local interest groups and social media.

To connect with people who value and appreciate Chosen or Churchdown Hill, and develop a wider community where working together, we can ensure that Our Chosen Hill is kept and maintained as a clean, tidy and safe place for us all to enjoy.

Constraints:

Littering, camp fires and vandalism.

Access due to the heavy clay soils and wet nature of the site in winter.

The proximity to the road and bridleway of Cpt 3a and ash dieback within the general woodland makes tree safety an important issue.

### Factors Causing Change

Erosion and deterioration of paths

Mis-use and vandalism

Loss of trees or woodland through pests/diseases E.g. Ash die-back.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site will remain a high quality recreational resource valued by local users and visitors alike. Churchdown Hill will be enjoyed by people through welcoming, easily accessible entrances and a network of paths and views all maintained to a high level of quality and safety.

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

The short term objective is to maintain the site as easily accessible, attractive, well maintained and safe woodland.

The path network and entrances should remain in good condition and appropriate for level and type of use and in accordance with access category A.

Muddy or difficult paths throughout the site will be improved for access for all weather use throughout the year by the end of the management plan period.

Entrance furniture will be maintained as required to keep them welcoming and in good condition during path cuts and allow access to walkers.

Litter will be regularly collected to maintain a welcoming feel to the site, and other anti-social activity will be monitored and rectified as appropriate.

Ensure visitor safety via ongoing tree and infrastructure monitoring regime and remedial works as necessary.

## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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## APPENDIX I: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	6.61	Hawthorn species	1940	High forest	Archaeological features, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Natural Secondary Woodland	Tree Preservation Order

Churchdown Hill West, a semi-natural recent secondary woodland to the south of the hill.

In the north the terrace is more open and composed of scrub, thorns, bracken, and willowherb. There are a number of large trees, predominantly of Ash and Oak around the upper rampart, these species tend to form a discontinuous upper canopy in the rest of the wood. There are some scattered beech and sycamore. A secondary canopy is formed by large hawthorns on previously cleared ground, and the occasional crab apple. A sub-canopy of hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel is widespread. In some areas the upper canopy is missing and the field layer is completely shaded out by the thorns.

Ground flora abundance is low as a result of previous ground disturbance or clearance, but ride edges and old banks have some locally typical ancient woodland indicators, including dogs mercury, bluebells, lesser celandine and occasionally angular Solomon's seal.

Mussel Well (Muzzel well) - a spring, capped with a concrete basin is situated on the north-west slope and provides an interesting location for visitors. Flow is now minimal. It was capped at some point prior to WT ownership and provided a previous water supply to a pond and fields at Green Farm in Churchdown Village via a pipeline across the north of the sub-compartment. It is not known if this still flows, but rights are retained by the vendor.

This compartment has the remnants of part of the Iron Age Hill fort rampart to the SE. The upper rampart is more significant than the lower and there is a broad terrace between the two. Other remnants of the ramparts are outside Woodland Trust ownership, damaged by quarrying, covered in thorn scrub, or are under the reservoirs.

Most of the paths through Churchdown Hill West are over steep ground, and on heavy clay and erosion prone soils. In winter there are long sections that are passable only with care. The majority of access provision through the woodland is public rights of way (footpaths) but there are 2 permissive paths, several have long flights of wooden steps with handrails.

There is a TPO (234) on a veteran ash tree in the south of the Cpt by the entrance behind the reservoir from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

2a	0.25	Corsican pine	1887	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Natural Secondary Woodland	
<p>Known as The Pines - this cpt is a small annexe to the east of the site includes secondary woodland, but was planted with Corsican and Scots pines in 1898 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It forms a distinctive feature on the north east side of Churchdown Hill just below the Church of St. Bartholomew.</p> <p>Beech, elm and ash fill canopy gaps with a sub-canopy of elder, hazel and blackthorn. The ground flora is composed of Ivy, cleavers, Lords and Ladies, bramble, ferns, herb robert and nettle.</p> <p>The public right of way through The Pines links the local residences to the church. The path runs steeply through WT ownership to the church's permissive stepped path, and offers a steep alternative to the road. Note the WT does not own the road boundary.</p>							
3a	0.66	Ash	1880	High forest	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Natural Secondary Woodland	
<p>Churchdown Hill East; a small semi-circular annexe to the east of the main site consisting of semi-natural secondary woodland with more ancient characteristics.</p> <p>This compartment lies between the bridlepath and the road which serves the Church, Burial Ground and Severn-Trent Water facilities at the top of the Hill. The canopy is principally of mature oak and ash but also some field maple, small-leaved lime, sycamore and Wych elm. There are also five larch stems in the lower part of the wood. The sub-canopy is well developed and comprises of elder, hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel with abundant standing and fallen deadwood. The ground flora includes ivy, cleavers, bluebells, Dogs mercury, lesser celandine and Lords and Ladies. The woodland is not recorded as ancient on the ancient woodland inventory (it is under the 2Ha size limit) but the presence of strong, locally typical ancient woodland indicators suggests a continuity of natural woodland cover.</p> <p>There are no internal permissive or public rights of way within, but the bridleway and road run either side.</p>							
4a	3.29	Hawthorn species	1950	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Natural Secondary Woodland	



Churchdown Hill Extension (Tinkers Hill) is both semi-natural secondary ash and hawthorn woodland, and scrubby heath of gorse, bracken and bramble, with pockets of open grassland grazed by rabbits.

In the central section of Tinkers Hill is mature woodland dominated by oak and ash, fringed by developing scrub habitat dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn. Flora is suppressed underneath the canopy, but ancient woodland indicators such as dogs mercury are present, some occasional hazel understorey can be found here too. Flora underneath the scrub fringe is not present in any form.

A mix of permissive and public footpaths traverse the sub-compartment north-south, and are moderate to steep in gradient.

Management access provision is some 350m distance NE across poorly drained third party grazing land, or via steep access from Churchdown Hill West cpt to the south.

4b	2.42	Other	1999	Wood establishment	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Natural Secondary Woodland	
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Cpt 4b is naturally regenerating scrub, with grassland clearings and wide rides. Vegetation is dominated by gorse and bramble thickets with hawthorn scrub developing, and hawthorn areas also located to the east boundary.

Comprising ex grazing land, compt 4b is naturally regenerating back to woodland and has been included in the woodland key feature as a semi natural recent secondary woodland. It has been noted that in dry summers, drought stress in the grassland upon the ridge is severe and may never establish woodland, this is to be welcomed as the natural environmental conditions of the site will dictate the developing habitat mosaic.

4b is different in character to the rest of the Trust holding at Churchdown being previously open downland heavily grazed by rabbits with large areas of Gorse and Bramble thickets. The eastern flank has also being colonised by Hawthorn scrub. 1999-2003 provided intermittent grazing as part of the previous open ground management regime. Grazing proved very troublesome and eventually untenable given the location, access and lack of water.

A complex pattern of footpaths traverses the sub-compartment. Two public rights of way and one permissive route dissect the area. Walking conditions are generally good, the steepest slopes are moderate, and wide rides are maintained regularly.

Management access provision is some 350m distance NE across poorly drained third party grazing land, or via steep access from Churchdown Hill West cpt to the south.

4c	2.28	Other	1999	Wood establishment	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Connecting People with	
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						woods & trees, Natural Secondary Woodland	
<p>Cpt 4c is naturally regenerating scrub, with grassland clearings and wide rides. The naturally encroaching vegetation is dominated by bramble thickets, and hawthorn and blackthorn scrub, and in wetter areas species like willow and alder grow. Cpt 4c is the flattest and lowest part of Tinkers Hill and is considerably wetter particularly around the wet flush which traverses the meadow.</p> <p>Comprising ex grazing land, compt 4c is in a transition to woodland and has been included in the woodland key feature as semi natural recent secondary woodland. The area was formerly meadow and has been in transition back to woodland for some decades. 1999-2003 provided intermittent grazing as part of the previous open ground management regime.</p> <p>There are both public and permissive rights of way through 4C, mostly following flat but potentially uneven and boggy ground in winter.</p> <p>Management access provision is some 300m distance NE across poorly drained third party grazing land, or via steep access from Churchdown Hill West cpt to the south.</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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