WOODLAND TRUST

Friezland Wood

Management Plan 2020-2025

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Friezland Wood
Location:	Tunbridge Wells
Grid reference:	TQ562383, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 188
Area:	7.48 hectares (18.48 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Scheduled Ancient Monument, Site of Special Scientific Interest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Friezland Wood is situated on the Kent/East Sussex border just south-west of Tunbridge Wells. The site was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1986 with a substantial part of the purchase price being donated by the Friends of Charlie Payne, a group of conservation volunteers, in memory of one of their friends.

The geology is very variable for a relatively small site and has been recorded in some depth. The main part of the wood sits on Tunbridge wells sands of the Lower Cretaceous age and it is the Ardingly Sandstone rock outcrops known as ‘High Rocks’ at the western end that have resulted in part of the site being notified as a Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI). The rocks are of importance due to the sandstone weathering features on the highest cliffs in the Weald, and are comparatively rare in the British Isles.

The woods away from the rocks have Grinstead Clay overlaying the sandstone along the north facing slope and alluvial clays follow the valley floor alongside the River Grom. The area east of the rocks the site is very wet despite the slope. There are a number of springs in this part of the wood and the clay soils inhibit drainage. A lot of the flora is consequently that which is associated with damp woodland and there is a rich lower plant flora (ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens) as well as fungi and slime moulds can be found on or around the rocks, some of which are very rare.

Most of the site lies on a north-facing slope, running steeply down to the River Grom, within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The site is designated as ancient semi-natural woodland and the varied geology is matched by a very diverse woodland flora both in tree species and ground flora, which includes spectacular spring displays of bluebells and wood anemones. Alongside the river is a more level area of secondary woodland dominated by alder, with a spring ground covering of lesser celandine and yellow pimpernel. The western end, as mentioned, is dominated by outcrops of sandstone rock with some spectacular examples of English yew. The higher slopes are varied with a high proportion of ash, much of which is showing advanced signs of ash dieback.

There is a network of paths and the High Weald Link Route crosses the site, as well as a permissive path loop taking in the eastern end of the wood. The site is well used by local people (WT access category B) but it has a long history of misuse including motorcycles, vandalism and fly-tipping.

Most of the western part of the site is also part of the High Rocks Camp Scheduled Monument. The monument includes an Iron Age multivallate hillfort with some earthworks visible in the south-western part of the wood indicating that the fort was occupied in about 150 BC - 100 BC and again in the 1st century A.D. The rocks also show evidence of human habitation, with evidence of Mesolithic (10,000 BC - 4,000 BC) and Neolithic (4000 BC - 2200 BC) occupation.

2.2 Extended Description

Friezland Wood is situated on the Kent/East Sussex border just south-west of Tunbridge Wells. The site was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1986 with a substantial part of the purchase price being donated by the Friends of Charlie Payne, a group of conservation volunteers, in memory of one of their friends.

The geology is very variable for a relatively small site and has been recorded in some depth. The main part of the wood sits on Tunbridge wells sands of the Lower Cretaceous age and it is the Ardingly Sandstone rock outcrops known as ‘High Rocks’ at the western end that have resulted in part of the site being notified as a Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI). The rocks are of importance due to the sandstone weathering features on the highest cliffs in the Weald, and are comparatively rare in the British Isles.

The woods away from the rocks have Grinstead Clay overlaying the sandstone along the north facing slope and alluvial clays follow the valley floor alongside the River Grom. The area east of the rocks the site is very wet despite the slope. There are a number of springs in this part of the wood and the clay soils inhibit drainage. A lot of the flora is consequently that which is associated with damp woodland and there is a rich lower plant flora (ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens) as well as fungi and slime moulds can be found on or around the rocks, some of which are very rare.

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There is a network of paths and the High Weald Link Route crosses the site, as well as a permissive path loop taking in the eastern end of the wood. The site is well used by local people (WT access category B) but it has a long history of misuse including motorcycles, vandalism and fly-tipping.

Most of the western part of the site is also part of the High Rocks Camp Scheduled Monument. The monument includes an Iron Age multivallate hillfort with some earthworks visible in the south-western part of the wood indicating that the fort was occupied in about 150 BC - 100 BC and again in the 1st century A.D. The rocks also show evidence of human habitation, with evidence of Mesolithic (10,000 BC - 4,000 BC) and Neolithic (4000 BC - 2200 BC) occupation.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General location:
Friezland Wood is situated off High Rocks Lane, Tunbridge Wells, on the Kent/East Sussex border, approximately 1.5 miles south-west from the town centre. The lane approaching the wood is narrow and has no pavement. The wood can also be reached on foot from the A26 Eridge Road via the Tunbridge Wells Link, part of the High Weald Walk.

General overview of paths & entrances:
There are 3 entrances into the wood. In the east the High Weald Walk approaches the wood from the A26, between Ramslye housing estate and the Spa valley Railway. It enters the wood via a squeeze gap. The wood can be entered from the north, off High Rocks Lane via a track under the Spa Valley Railway where a stile gives access into the wood. In the west the High Weald Walk enters the wood from High Rocks Lane, close to High Rocks Hotel via a squeeze gap.
Within the wood most of the paths are narrow, unsurfaced and can be wet, muddy and slippery. There are some steep gradients, narrow footbridges and several flights of steps.

Parking:
There is very limited parking at the northern entrance where 2 cars can be parked on the rough verge, just off the lane. The nearest car park is off Major York's Road, near The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, approximately 1.25 miles away. From here the wood is reached via Major York's Road, Hungershall Park Road and High Rocks Lane. Not all of this route has pavements and would involve walking on a narrow, busy lane.

Public Transport:
Nearest train station: Tunbridge Wells, approx 1.5 miles from the wood.
Nearest bus stop: Major York's Road, junction with Hungershall Park Road., approx 1 mile from the wood. There are several services per day from the town centre/train station. Information obtained from Traveline website on 22/11/2006.
Further information on public transport can be obtained from Traveline: www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk or tel: 0870 608 2 608).

Public Toilets:
The nearest public toilets are at Linden Park Road, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, approximately 1.5 miles away. There are disabled toilets accessible with a RADAR key, available from the tourist office in The Pantiles. Opening hours: 7am-7pm. Parking available within 100m.
Information correct as at 22/11/2006. Further information is available from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Environmental Services (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk).

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term policy for Friezland Wood is to let the ancient woodland to senesce naturally, which should allow the continuity of diverse species, structure and age composition, primarily dominated by native species as well as well-developed typical shrub layer. Management on the site will concentrate on dealing with the effects of ash dieback on visitor safety and ride management, whilst conserving biodiversity, in addition to maintenance of the High Rocks SSSI and the provision of low-key public access by maintaining entrances and infrastructure as necessary.

Dead and decaying wood, standing and fallen, will be retained for its biodiversity value wherever it is safe to do so. Regular tree safety inspections will inform decisions about ride management, including path closures /diversions, where making diseased ash trees safe would be to the detriment of biodiversity or woodland structure. Coppicing of the remaining woodland rides will provide structurally diverse wide rides with scallops and pinch points, cut on rotation to create herb, scrub and coppice edge habitats. This will benefit public access by allowing the tracks to dry as well as creating a diverse mosaic of habitats for wildlife and flora.

For the management of the sandstone outcrops (subcompartment 1c) the focus of advice from NE is to protect the sandstone outcrop by keeping it largely free from vegetation so that it is visible and not excessively damp. There is the additional WT aim to maintain light and humidity levels suitable for the continued growth of the rare lower plant flora (ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens) associated with the rocks. Occasional removal of some holly, birch and sycamore regen which is obscuring or excessively shading the rocks, should achieve this. Annual checks for rhododendron seedlings will be necessary to prevent the spread of this invasive and heavily-shading shrub from the neighbouring property where it is present. Further protection of the rocks and their associated geological features and flora from physical damage will be achieved by continuing to enforce a ban on rock climbing on the WT property.

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 Geological Feature

Description

Subcpt 1c (1.1ha) is part of High Rocks SSSI, first notified in 1953. It is a key geomorphological site for sandstone weathering features developed on the highest cliffs in the Weald. The Cretaceous Ardingly Sandstone is gently cambered (deformed) and the joints have opened out to form spectacular gulls (tension cracks) which are wide enough in places for a person to enter. Open gulls are comparatively rare in Britain, except in the central Weald with High Rocks having some of the best examples. The Ardingly sandstone is friable and poorly cemented, but the surface develops a protective crust and displays a variety of micro-weathering features, notably honeycombing and polygonal cracking. The origin of this cracking may relate to freezing and thawing under peri-glacial conditions during the Pleistocene period. This is only found in the UK on sandrock outcrops in the Weald.

In addition to the geological interest these sandrock outcrops are a very important habitat for lower plants (ferns, lichens, mosses and liverworts). Many of these are rare in the SE of England and some are internationally rare, surviving here only with the right levels of light, warmth and humidity.

Another feature of the rocks is the number of large trees such as yew and oak that grows on the edge of the vertical slopes. The roots of these trees frequently grow over the rocks into the cracks in the rocks and can extend for considerable distances from the tree.

It is recognised by Natural England that the Woodland Trust area of SSSI is NNW facing and so the rocks will be damp and prone to becoming moss covered, although the advice to maintain a favourable condition centres around encouraging operations that would protect the sandstone outcrop by preventing it becoming excessively damp or mossy and keeping it largely free from vegetation so that it is visible and available for scientific study.

This area is also part of High Rocks Camp Scheduled Ancient Monument. This designation relates to the use of the rocks as temporary shelter by Mesolithic/Neolithic man and the resultant archaeology likely to be present at the foot of the rocks, as well as its use as an Iron Age hill fort.

According to Historic England; the hillfort measures about 470m north west to south east and 350m north east to south west. There is a double bank and ditch on the north east, south east and south west sides, while the north west side is defined by the High Rocks escarpment. The site was partially excavated in 1940 and between 1954 and 1961. A variety of Mesolithic and Neolithic material was found in association with the rock shelters, and the Iron Age hillfort yielded pottery which indicated that the fort was occupied in about 150 BC - 100 BC and again in the 1st century A.D. Evidence for later Romano-British occupation site was also found in the eastern part of the hillfort.

Significance

These sandstone outcrops have been designated as a SSSI for and also contain a rich variety of cryptogram flora that includes lichens, bryophytes and ferns.
Many of the features and plants associated with this site are of regional, national and international importance

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: to preserve the geological and botanical interest of the rocks by preventing climbing and maintaining appropriate light levels.
Constraints: a 'no climbing' policy is difficult to enforce. All work relating to this area needs to be approved by Natural England & Historic England.

Factors Causing Change

Illegal rock climbing, swings and graffiti causing damage to rocks/flora
Dense shading due to holly, birch and sycamore regeneration and invasive rhododendron spreading from the adjacent property.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the geological and botanical features of the rocks in a favourable condition by assessing the regeneration of holly, sycamore, birch and rhododendron on and around the outcrops and where necessary control. An effective rock-climbing ban will remain in place.

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

To maintain a favourable condition of the rock outcrop. This will be achieved by carrying out monitoring & control of holly, sycamore and birch regen.
• The last SSSI condition assessment (2009) recognised heavy shading in the WT owned part of the citation. Following recommendations from that report & subsequent NE advice, some vegetation will be removed to make the rock more visible and less damp. 30-50% removal of small tree regen at base and on top of the rocks in 2020/21.
• Subsequent biennial monitoring of the regen and visibility/light levels on rocks to provide favourable geological conditions whilst supporting rare lower plant life.
• Any rhododendron found will be removed.
• Monitoring of the no climbing policy annually.

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

The majority of the site is designated as ancient semi natural woodland apart from the area alongside the River Grom that was apparently previously cleared, possibly when the railway was built, which is now an alder carr.

The woodland is complex for such a small site, grading from dry sandstone in the west to much wetter woodland through the centre and eastern edges. There are 3 basic groups of plant communities present. On the upper slopes (Subcpt 1b) there are base-poor to slightly base rich soils supporting W10 oak/bracken/bramble and W8 ash/field maple/dog's mercury woodland types. Other main tree species in this area are birch and alder. The sandstone outcrops (Subcpt 1c) have a non-classifiable community which includes beech, sessile oak, yew and holly. Finally on the flat alluvial soils along the river, (Subcpt 1a) and in the area of secondary woodland, there is W7 alder/ash/yellow pimpernel woodland with some willow and oak.

The alder carr on the lower slopes has previously been partially drained by plastic and clay pipes running under the path into the river and bramble is developing in the drier patches. These areas of wet woodland have declined over the last century as a result of sites drying up & being invaded by scrub but remain extremely rich invertebrate habitat as well as for species including marsh tit, barbastelle bats.

Ground flora includes species strongly associated with ancient woodland including bluebell, wood anemone, yellow archangel and wood sorrel. Towards the western end of the site where the soils are more base-rich the W8 woodland consists more of ash and birch over hazel, holly and maple with a ground flora including dogs mercury, enchanters nightshade, wood speedwell and ivy. There is also rare coral root (Cardamine bulbifera) recorded along the banks of the river.

Most of the wood shows a coppice with standards structure however after decades of little or no management this structure is becoming a 2 storied high forest with much ash and alder coppice now forming the canopy. There are several overstood coppiced ash stools on the upper slopes that are deteriorating with significant decay at the bases. These stools are severely affected by ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus), with a large amount of branch drop and extensive crown die back. The level and rate of tree mortality from the disease varies from site-to-site but current research suggests up to 85% mortality, which seems likely to be the case at Friezland.

A small area of hazel has been coppiced piecemeal in the past by volunteers resulting in an open structure with a bramble layer. Initial coppice regrowth was hampered by deer and rabbit browsing but regrowth does now appear to be getting away.

Significance

Friezland Wood is a good example of a small but very diverse woodland habitat. Its diversity is a result of its underlying geology and soils combined with a very long existence as woodland. The amount of ASNW left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. Approximately 40% of England's ASNW is found in the South East. ASNW is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites. Friezland Wood is situated within the High Weald AONB which has at least 25% woodland cover with a high proportion of ancient woodland. In a heavily wooded area where woodland has become fragmented larger areas of woodland are able to withstand external pressures such as climate change much better. Ancient woodland is irreplaceable and the prevention of its loss is one of the main aims of the Trust.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity: Potential for disease resistant ash to emerge if left unfelled
Constraints: Increase in tree safety hazards as coppice stools degenerate and are windblown.
Management access for machinery is limited by the railway bridge, culvert and topography.
Scheduled monument and SSSI consent required for certain operations

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback - the upper part of compartment 1b is approx 40% ash almost all of which shows extensive dieback, branch drop and canker resulting in the closure of ~0.5km of paths.
Invasive species – Himalayan balsam and potential for rhododendron from neighbouring property
Deer browsing of coppice regrowth
Increase in tree safety hazards as coppice stools degenerate and are windblown.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To allow the woodland to senesce and develop largely by the processes of natural succession, with wide rides providing structural and biological diversity, thereby resulting in a long term increase in the amount of deadwood, changes in light levels and natural tree regeneration of various species, with the potential for disease resistant ash to emerge. Invasive species controlled to a level whereby they will not pose a threat to the ancient woodland biodiversity and tree regeneration.

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

To address the affects of ash die back and maintain a varied composition and structural diversity of the woodland.
• Selectively thin ash along the remaining top track (initially for tree safety, subsequently for ride widening by coppicing hazel along 300m of SE rides to a width of ~10m on a 5-8 year rotation starting in 2021.
• Close approx 500m of paths through the areas most affected by ash dieback in 2020. Fence sections of the southern field boundary (~150m) to prevent access to closed areas
• Maintain path closures where felling unsafe ash would be to severe detriment of woodland structure and biodiversity (2020). Allow the ash in these areas to naturally senesce and collapse, increasing valuable deadwood habitat, monitor for any signs of resistance.
• Block up ~50% of the culverts draining the most water from the alder carr to re-wet the higher areas (Subcpt 1a) in 2021, monitor the effect on the path surface and ditch just the path area if necessary.
• Monitor the impacts of deer, rabbits, squirrels and tree diseases through annual observations.
• Annually inspect invasive species across whole site (rhododendron and Himalayan balsam) and address accordingly.

5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

With its meandering stream, footpath connections, spectacular spring flowers and geological features the wood provides a tranquil rural escape less than 10 minutes from Tunbridge Wells town centre. There are also 3 other Woodland Trust woods close by, namely: Hurst Wood, Nellington Wood and Hargate Forest.

The site contains a selection of rides and paths with suitable infrastructure which improves access. This includes some surfacing and drainage. The High Weald Link route crosses the site from east to west and the site is also linked via High Rocks lane to the local footpath network. The site is in close proximity of the town of Tunbridge Wells, which has approximately a population of over 60,000 people. The proximilty to such a large local population mean the site is subject to a variety of antisocial behaviour including fly tipping, vandalism and motorcycle trespass. The site is defined as a WT category B site (Moderate usage site: Regular usage, 5 – 15 people using one entrance per day) whereby people are thought to be using the site on a daily basis. It is therefore managed as medium priority site in terms of access.

Significance

The site allows for quiet informal recreation as a contrast to the more active pursuits taking place on and around the privately owned High Rocks. One of the Woodland Trust's main objectives is the promotion of public access to, and enjoyment of, woodlands. The site also provides a permissive link to the local public footpath network allowing people in the urban part of Tunbridge Wells direct access into the countryside.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: to provide access to a site of high conservation and historical interest to the large local population.
Constraints: In addition to extensive ash dieback, the site has a history of fly tipping, vandalism and motorbikes driving through the wood

Factors Causing Change

Motorcycle damage to paths
Path spread & desire lines
Vandalism of High Rocks SSSI
Ash die back

Long term Objective (50 years+)

There will be a well-maintained network of paths and rides with a variety of aspects - from narrow shaded paths to open, wide rides allowing safe access across the site.
Public access and anti-social behaviour will not threaten the site's designated features, intrinsic visual appeal, visitor safety or wildlife habitat.

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 Friezland Wood which is safe and enjoyable.
• Due to a large number of mature ash severely affected by ash dieback, a significant proportion of the paths on the upper slopes of the site require closure (approx 500m). Paths in this area will be closed by paling and post and wire fencing in early 2020 with the efficacy of fencing assessed during annual tree safety inspections. Well used unofficial paths along the neighbouring arable field may mean ingress from the field into the top part of the wood. Annual monitoring will determine if more fencing/hedge laying is needed.
• Annual cutting of the approx. 1.6km of maintained paths and rides (June).
• Annual tree safety & ash dieback surveys and remedial work
• Annual survey of site hazards and access infrastructure including, gates, signage, culverts and steps.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.48	Alder species	1950	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
Wet alder woodland (NVC W7a) on alluvial soils N and S of the river Grom. Other tree species include hazel, sallow, crack willow and occasional oak. Ground flora includes nettles, lesser celandine, yellow archangel, golden saxifrage, ramsons and sedges. Himalayan balsam is also present (strimmed annually). Bramble in drier areas.							
1b	4.88	Ash	1950	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Scheduled Ancient Monument
Ancient woodland (W8, W10) on a north facing slope. The sub compartment contains an over-mature hazel understorey with an oak and ash canopy. The ash shows extensive symptoms of ash die back and canker. Birch is frequent and generally of mature size. There are areas of alder on wetter ground. Yew and holly are also frequent particularly in the W of the cpt. Small areas have been coppiced by a conservation group. Bramble is prolific in these areas but regen is establishing. Ground flora includes bluebell, wood anemone, yellow archangel, wood sorrel, honeysuckle. Contains part of the High Rocks Camp SAM - earthworks in SW corner.							

1c	1.33	Yew	1800	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Scheduled Ancient Monument, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 1c forms part of the High Rocks SSSI. In addition to the geological interest these sandrock outcrops are an important habitat for lower plants (ferns, lichens, mosses and liverworts). There are a number of large trees such as yew and oak that grow on the edge of the vertical slopes. Holly, sycamore, beech, ash and birch are also present. Tunbridge filmy fern looked for in 1998 ecological survey but not found. This area is also part of High Rocks Camp Scheduled Ancient Monument.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2021	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.40	100	40
2025	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.40	50	20
2030	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.40	50	20
2035	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.40	50	20

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.