

# Largo Serpentine

(Plan period – 2022 to 2026)



WOODLAND  
TRUST SCOTLAND

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## Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

# Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, 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. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our 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 natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities 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 encourage our woods to be used for 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. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

## Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

# The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
  - 4.1 Connecting People with woods & trees
  - 4.2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

Compartment Map

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Largo Serpentine

Location:	Lower Largo Largo Grid reference: NO424026 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 59
Area:	1.25 hectares (3.09 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Largo Serpentine is situated beside the Largo burn to the south of the A915, and lies between the village of Upper Largo to the north and Lower Largo to the south. The wood generally faces south. Altitude ranges from 10m above sea level in the south-west of the wood to 30m a.s.l. on the road to the north. The solid geology of the area consists of Carboniferous grey mudstones and sandstone of deltaic origin. These are overlaid with glacial drift of a similar origin, although there is some minor outcropping in the gully of the Largo Burn. The soils are loams and clays of relatively high fertility. The MLURI climate map identifies the area as warm dry lowland, being exposed with extremely mild winters.

The 1855 (1st ed.) OS map shows trees as present in the gully of the Largo Burn (cpt 1b) and as an avenue along the northern part of the Walk (cpt 1a). No trees are shown on the Roy maps and area is not included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory (as it would probably have been below width or size threshold for inclusion).

Most of the original mature avenue trees have been lost from cpt 1a. However, following planting since its acquisition in 1988, there is now a well-established thicket of native shrub species (hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, elder, elm) dotted with juvenile and early-mature trees (ash, sycamore, cherry).

The gully (cpt 1b) currently has an open canopy of mature beech and some sycamore. The beeches in particular are in poor condition with thin crowns, having suffered the effects of exposure and salt-laden winds. This area contains an under storey of juvenile sycamore with some beech and ash, as well as native broadleaves planted in 2009 and 2012, which will ultimately form a new canopy.

The Selkirk ground (cpt 1c) was gifted to the Trust as an open field, and the northern part has been planted with mainly native trees and shrubs (wild cherry, sycamore, rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel, horse chestnut and aspen). This has now established and has closed canopy forming a dense thicket. The land to the south of the bench has been left mainly open for the view.

The ground flora throughout the site is dominated mainly by species of open ground or secondary woodland, such as grasses, nettles, cleavers, brambles, red campion and thistles. However there are occasional woodland specialists such as snowdrop and bluebell in some areas. Deadwood is frequent, both standing and fallen.

The site is not adjacent to other woodland, although it does link into semi-natural shrub and open habitats running east to west from Lower Largo along the coastal path.

### Other Habitats Description

The burn running through the wood provides an aquatic/ riparian habitat.

### Public access

The site takes its name and shape from the Serpentine Walk, which runs through the site from north to south, forking into two spurs at its southern end. There are 650m of paths, of which some sections are surfaced with hard-core and other sections which become seasonally muddy. There are three public entrances, and the route provides a key link between the communities of Upper and Lower Largo, and also connects into the Fife Coastal Path.

Overall the Serpentine Walk constitutes a very pleasant route with considerable visual and species diversity in an area otherwise arable landscape.

### Historic value

The Serpentine Walk and the Selkirk Ground both have local cultural and historic significance.

The Serpentine Walk is a route that has existed probably for at least 200 years, and possibly for much longer. The village of Upper Largo is recorded at least as far back as the 10th century and it seems likely that the path follows an ancient route linking it to the coastal village of Lower Largo for fishing and trade by sea (the 1861 Parochial directory refers to Lower Largo as the 'port' of Upper Largo and recalls trade with Holland and Norway) The name 'Serpentine Walk' is shown on the 1st edition OS map (1855) and suggest an origin in the early 18th century, when winding walks with this name were a common feature in gardens and parks. This ties in with the date of the building of Largo House (1750) and it seems likely that the walk was associated with the designed landscape of the Largo House estate (although possibly following an existing route). Local oral history has it that when the ladies at Largo House wanted to bathe in the sea, they and their bathing hut were drawn down the Serpentine Walk which is the nearest route to the sea. The 1855 map shows the walk extending on the north side of the main road and leading past the lodge (now a private house) through parkland towards Upper Largo before swinging west to Largo House itself. There is a stone built wall retaining the Largo Burn along most of the route that again suggests that this was more than a countryside path, and gives the path its other local name of the 'Wall Walk'.

In terms of trees and woodland, the 1855 map shows an avenue stretching down the northern part of the walk, and woodland in the gully of the Largo Burn. The woodland is therefore equivalent to a LEPO (Long-Established of Plantation Origin) in terms of antiquity and potential biodiversity. The older mature trees on site are likely to be the remnants of some of the original planting, and from their appearance are not inconsistent with a date around the late 18th century.

There is also local historical significance associated with the Selkirk Ground (cpt 1c), which was gifted to the Trust by the Selkirk family in 1988. Alexander Selkirk (1676 - 1723) was born in Lower Largo and was the inspiration for Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe. The Selkirk ground is shown on the 1855 map as one of a number of small feudal strip fields such as were common around Upper and Lower Largo at the time.

The southern part of the site adjoins an area intriguingly known as Temple (a name often given to early Knights Templar settlements following their flight from mainland Europe in the 14th century). There is evidence of prehistoric occupation of the area, with two gold Torcs (arm bracelets) found adjacent to the site in the 19th century, and a number of other burials and antiquities close to Lundin Links.

The site was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1988, made possible by a substantial donation raised by the local community, via North East Fife District Council.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

#### Woodland

The long-term vision is to maintain the continuity of woodland cover. Species will be a mixture of native and non-native broadleaves, with a varied understory of shrubs and ground flora, giving the site a semi-natural character. There will be frequent deadwood, both standing and fallen.

#### Public Access

The site will provide quiet informal recreation to mainly local users as well as providing a link between the villages of Upper and Lower Largo.



## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 Connecting People with woods & trees

#### Description

The site takes its name from the shape of the Serpentine Walk, which follows the winding burn. The path runs from north to south, passing through an avenue of trees and shrubs and past the wooded gully of the Largo Burn, where the path forks into two spurs. The route provides a key link between the communities of Upper and Lower Largo (population 2,524), and also links into the Fife Coastal Path. Access in the wood is used more of a link to get to the beach or the Coastal Path rather than a destination for a walk itself due to the small size. The path is part of the Core Path Network.

Some sections of 650 metres of path are surfaced and other sections of the path become seasonally muddy. The path is generally level with a slope at the southern end, finishing with a concrete ramp managed by Scottish Water. There is a bench in the Selkirk Ground with a fine view out to sea.

There are three public entrances, all with Woodland Trust small "welcome" and "enjoyed your visit?" signage. The north entrance, through a pedestrian gate, leads onto a pavement next to the A915, about 300m south of Upper Largo. The south-eastern entrance (with no access restrictions) leads onto the Fife Coastal path and into Lower Largo. The south-western entrance leads onto a narrow earth path with cross slope which can be muddy, before reaching the Fife Coastal Path.

The nearest available parking is 150m away at the Temple beach car park at the east end of Lower Largo. This is a free council owned car park with room for about 30 cars and a toilet.

Overall the Serpentine Walk constitutes a very pleasant route with a variety of visual and species diversity in an area otherwise dominated by large arable fields.

There are 2 primary schools within walking distance of the wood, these are Lundin Mill and Kirkton of Largo Primary Schools.

Two volunteer wardens help us to keep an eye on the wood.

#### Significance

The Serpentine Walk is very well used by local people. The current level of use is defined as WT Access Category B (moderate use). The route provides a key link between the communities of Upper and Lower Largo, and is part of the Core Path Network. It also links into the Fife Coastal Path. The Serpentine Walk has local cultural and historic significance, having once been part of the designed landscape of Largo House estate, and having been in use as a link

between the villages for at least 200 years. There is also local historical significance associated with the Selkirk ground, which was gifted by the Selkirk family, relations of Alexander Selkirk who was born in Lower Largo and was the inspiration for Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe.

The next nearest Woodland Trust site is Keil's Den about a mile away.

**Opportunities & Constraints**

Opportunity - Involve Lundin Mill and Kirkton of Largo Primary Schools if any suitable opportunity arises (which is not likely to be often).

Constraints - the wood is small with little opportunity for people engagement activities.

**Factors Causing Change**

There are new houses built on the west side of the walk, which will increase visitor numbers, putting more strain on the path (which is going to be surfaced).

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

The site will provide quiet informal recreation to mainly local users as well as a link between the villages of Upper and Lower Largo, and onto the Fife Coastal Path. The path will be maintained in keeping with WT access guidelines and site access coding (B).

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

1. Managed paths will be kept free from encroaching vegetation, overhanging branches (path cut twice a year); kept in a safe condition through regular tree safety inspections and maintenance of estate features (bridges, culverts, bench); and kept free of litter.
2. The view from the bench in the Selkirk Ground (cpt 1c) will be kept open by removal of woody growth (cut annually).
3. The muddy sections of path between the northern and southern entrances will be surfaced with stone to ensure a suitable path surface along the whole route between Upper and Lower Largo. (Approximately 300m long, 1.5m wide, surfaced by autumn 2022).

**4.2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin**

**Description**

The 1855 (1st ed.) OS map shows trees as present in the gully of the Largo Burn (cpt 1b) and as an avenue along the northern part of the Walk (cpt 1a). The woodland and trees are not however on the Roy Military map, although its questionable if such a small avenue/woodland would have been recorded.

Most of the original mature avenue trees have been lost from cpt 1a. However, following planting since its acquisition in 1988, there is now a well-established thicket of native shrub species (hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, elder, elm) dotted with juvenile and early-mature trees (ash, sycamore, cherry).

The gully (cpt 1b) currently has an open canopy of mature beech and some sycamore. The beeches in particular are in poor condition with thin crowns, having suffered the effects of exposure and salt-laden winds. This area contains an under storey of juvenile sycamore with some beech and ash, as well as native broadleaves planted in 2009 and 2012,

which will ultimately form a new canopy.

The Selkirk Ground (cpt 1c) was gifted to the Trust as an open field, and the northern part was planted in 1989 with mainly native trees and shrubs (wild cherry, sycamore, rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel, horse chestnut and aspen). This has now established and has closed canopy forming a dense thicket. The land to the south has been left mainly open for the view.

The ground flora throughout the site is dominated mainly by species of open ground or secondary woodland, such as grasses, nettles, cleavers, brambles, red campion and thistles. However there are occasional woodland specialists such as snowdrop and bluebell in some areas. Deadwood is frequent, both standing and fallen.

Chalara (ash dieback disease) is affecting the ash trees, with most ash suffering severe dieback. These trees will need to be felled for public safety where within falling distance of the path and houses. This will have a limited effect on the woodland as a whole as ash comprises only 10% of the canopy cover.

### **Significance**

Parts of the woodland are long established, probably having been planted as part of the designed landscape of the Largo House estate, which was built in 1750. They demonstrate only a minimal level of woodland specialist flora, although there is a varied open ground and secondary woodland flora which provide considerable diversity in an otherwise arable landscape. Both the original trees and more recent tree and shrub plantings also serve a useful role in terms of landscape and habitat. The site does not link into other woodland, although it does connect into semi-natural shrub and open habitats along the Fife Coastal Path.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

Constraint - there is a weak arch bridge limiting vehicular access over Largo burn.  
The woodland is narrow.

### **Factors Causing Change**

The older mature trees are gradually declining and suffering from decay fungi, and when in falling distance of the path will need to be felled for safety reasons.

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

The long-term vision is to maintain the continuity of woodland cover. Species will be a mixture of native and non-native broadleaves, and a varied understorey of shrubs, giving the site a semi-natural character.

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

There will be continued natural development of the existing tree and shrub species over the whole site. When gaps in the canopy appear (due to trees falling over or being felled for safety reasons), native trees and shrubs will be planted, if natural regeneration is not successful.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2022	AW - Management Access Capital	Works associated with installing new or replacement management access infrastructure. Such as management access gates, vehicle bridges, fencing and surfacing works.	August
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August

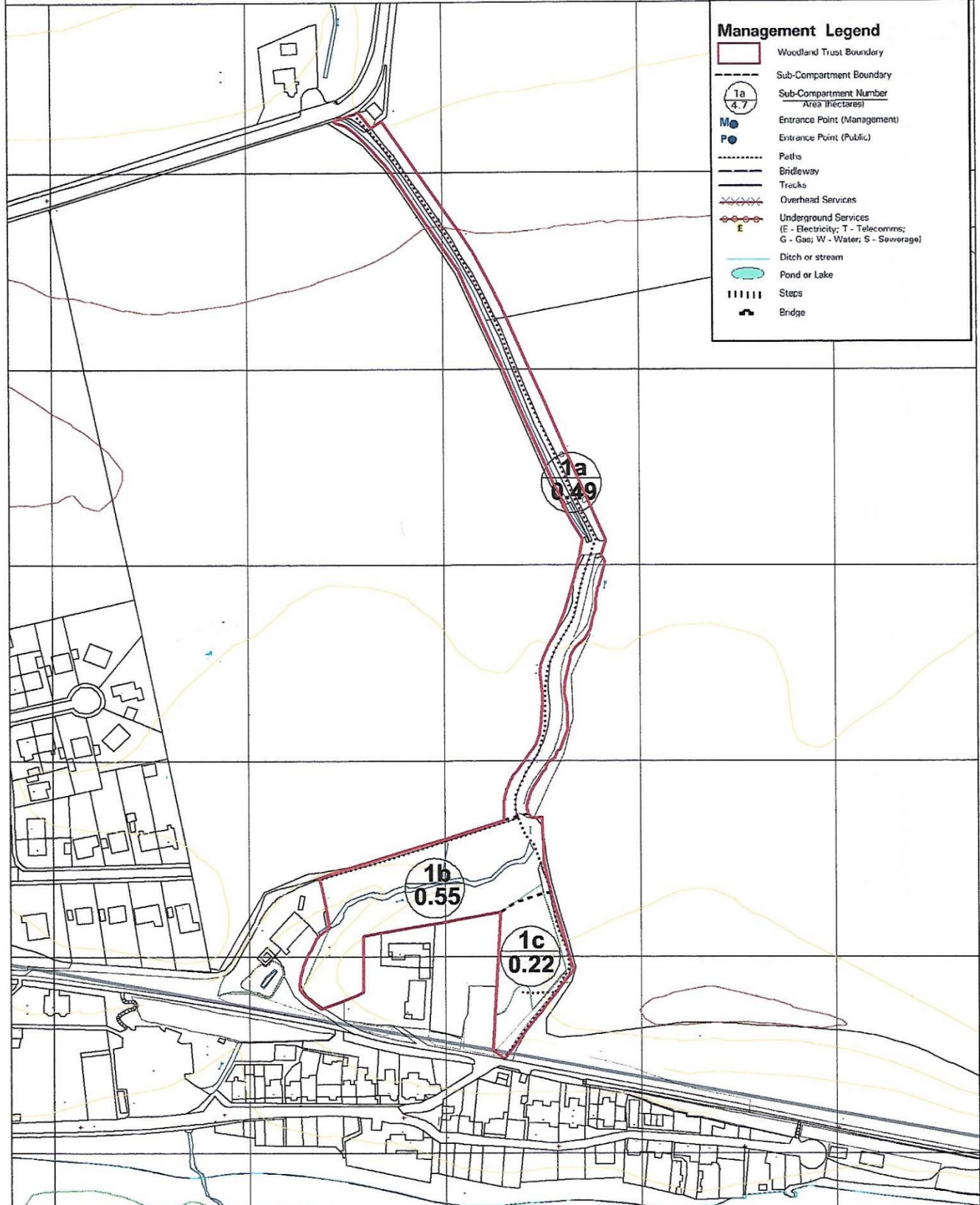
## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.5	Mixed broadleaves	1990	Min-intervention		
<p>This strip was once an avenue of mature trees lining the Serpentine Walk and the Largo Burn, most likely planted as part of the designed landscape of Largo House. Most of the original mature trees have been lost to old age and Dutch elm disease. While some mature trees and the remains of a hedge were present at acquisition in 1988, subsequent planting has resulted in a mature shrubby thicket studded with frequent juvenile to early-mature trees either side of the path. Within the thicket there is abundant hawthorn and blackthorn, with frequent hazel, elm and elder, and occasional rose. The trees consist of occasional mature beech and sycamore, frequent early-mature ash and sycamore, and rare oak and larch. There is frequent deadwood, both standing and fallen. The ground flora consists mainly of grasses, hogweed, cleavers &amp; cow-parsley, with occasional bramble, rosebay willowherb and butterbur. However, in spring there are also patches of bluebell and snowdrop. There are two 20m fenced stock watering points in the compartment, although these are overgrown as the adjacent fields are in arable use.</p>						
1b	0.5	Beech	1900	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	
<p>The steep-sided gully of the Largo Burn has an open canopy consisting of rather drawn trees whose crowns are thin due to exposure to salt-laden winds. The mature trees consist of abundant beech and frequent sycamore, and many are in poor condition. There are occasional dead trees (mainly elm) standing and fallen throughout. In the understory there are frequent juvenile sycamore and occasional ash and beech, and some mixed native broadleaves planted in 2009, 2012 and 2017 by local school. Although not dense, these are likely to be sufficient to form a new canopy in time. There are also frequent shrubs consisting of elm, elder and hawthorn. The ground is typical of secondary woodland and consists of abundant nettles, cleavers and grasses, with frequent docks, cow parsley, red campion and bramble. There is abundant butterbur close to the burn at the western end. The eastern path spur is bordered to the east by hawthorn and blackthorn and has a similar ground flora with the addition of occasional tansy, hogweed, creeping buttercup and bluebell. There are a few craggy outcrops south of the burn.</p>						
1c	0.3	Mixed broadleaves	1990	High forest		
<p>'The Selkirk Ground' was originally a field with some hawthorn and blackthorn scrub. Since acquisition in 1989, there has been addition planting in the northern part. This consists of frequent wild cherry, sycamore, rowan, hawthorn and blackthorn, and occasional field maple, hazel, horse chestnut and aspen. This is well established and has closed canopy forming a dense thicket. Dead wood is rare. There is a bench (installed by the Community Council in 2013) towards the south end of the compartment, and the land to the south has been left mainly open to maintain the view seawards. The ground flora is dominated by grasses, nettles, brambles, red campion and thistles.</p>						

# LARGO SERPENTINE



**WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND**



## Management Legend

- Woodland Trust Boundary
- Sub-Compartment Boundary
- Sub-Compartment Number  
Area (hectares)
- Entrance Point (Management)
- Entrance Point (Public)
- Paths
- Bridleway
- Tracks
- Overhead Services
- Underground Services  
(E - Electricity; T - Telecomms;  
G - Gas; W - Water; S - Sewerage)
- Ditch or stream
- Pond or Lake
- Steps
- Bridge



### **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.

### **Windblow/Windthrow**

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

### **Registered Office:**

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

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