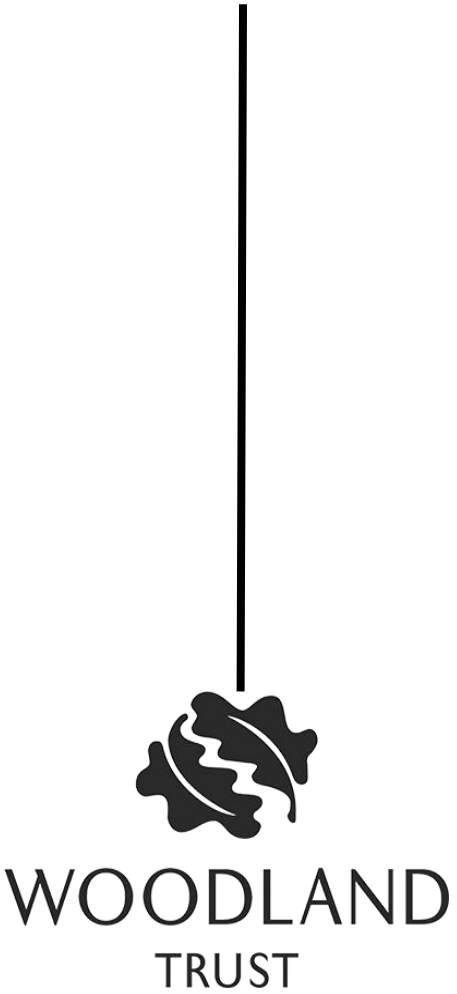
Guestling Wood

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



Management Plan Content Page

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

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

or contact the Woodland Trust

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

Guestling Wood

Location:	Water Mill Lane, Pett, East Sussex Grid reference: TQ862147 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 199
Area:	44.56 hectares (110.11 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Internal Designations:	Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Guestling Wood is situated near the village of Pett, near Hastings, in the East Sussex High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Character Area (NCA). The High Weald is characterised by its high percentage of woodland (26%) almost half of which is ancient. Agriculture is dominated by pasture (62%). The landscape pattern of woodland and predominately small fields across the High Weald represents one of the best preserved medieval landscapes in northern Europe.

The wood was acquired by the Trust in 3 stages. The northern section of the wood was bought in 1981, with the central part in 1987. The southern half was finally acquired in 2006 after a successful fund-raising campaign, greatly supported by local people. The total area of the site is now 44ha (110 acres).

The site is ancient semi-natural woodland dominated by sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards. There is also a significant area of oak coppice, a rare habitat in the south-east. The wood has spectacular displays of wood anemones and bluebells in the spring. The species-rich ground flora also contains a number of other ancient woodland indicator species such as yellow pimpernel, wood sorrel, dogs mercury and yellow archangel.

Most of the chestnut coppice is in rotation with significant areas having been cut since 2004 in a mixture of larger coupes and ride-side coppicing and glades. Some of the chestnut is affected by ink disease (Phytophthora cinnamomi and P. cambivora) which causes dieback and death of coppice stools. In addition the coppice is very slow growing and of generally poor quality, timber-wise. The previous owners of the southern part of the wood removed a number of oak standards creating large and small gaps some of which have been restocked with oak transplants and natural regeneration of species such as birch.

A small stream known as Lady Brook follows most of the western boundary, with its source being close to the southern boundary of the wood. Along the stream there is a different ground and tree flora with willow, alder, hazel and ash with dog's mercury, sedges and rushes.

The site has various archaeological features including woodbanks and ditches, hollow-ways, charcoal-hearths and various pits/ponds. Part of the site was previously used for quarrying followed by land-fill in the 1950's and 60's.

The wood is crossed by 4 public footpaths, including a section of the 1066 Country Walk, and has a good network of rides and paths which link to the surrounding countryside. There is a small car park at the main entrance to the wood, off Watermill Lane. The site is well-used by both local people and visitors from further afield.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In order to maintain the varied structure that a long history of coppicing creates in a wood, the management regime for Guestling Wood will continue with some active management but with coppicing restricted to ride edges and glades rather than larger coppice cants as have been done in the past. The poor form of the coppice and difficult access within and to the wood make larger scale coppicing impractical and often uneconomic.

Management of a wide-ride and glade network will help create a varied age structure across the wood and will link similar areas of habitat, benefiting invertebrates and birds as well as ground flora. Oak standards and some coppice will be retained to develop veteran tree characteristics, adding an older age class to the structural diversity which is currently absent in the wood.

Within stands of chestnut that are not coppiced there will continue to be a collapse of the canopy as over-mature and diseased stools die or are windblown. While this may look unsightly it will add to the structural diversity and increase the deadwood component of the site, an element which is often lacking in actively managed coppice. Gaps in the canopy formed in this way should regenerate with species such as birch, willow and oak but if significant areas are not regenerating they may be planted with species such as oak and hornbeam.

The presence of ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) will lead to a different species composition in the western edge of the wood as the large ash standards die or collapse. Subsequent gaps in the canopy are likely to be colonised by hazel, willow and alder as well as ash seedlings that may prove to be more tolerant of the disease in the long term.

Public access and enjoyment of the wood should continue at its current level and facilities such as information boards, paths, rides, footbridges will be maintained annually and the car park will be repaired and resurfaced as and when necessary.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
Guestling Wood is a typical example of a High Weald ancient semi-natural woodland with extensive sweet chestnut coppice and associated ancient woodland ground flora. In the central and southern sections of the wood there are also significant areas of oak coppice which is rare in the south-east of England. Overall the wood equates to National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W10b: oak/bracken/bramble woodland (wood anemone subcommunity). Underlying geology is a complex mix of sand and clay in faulted Cretaceous Hastings Beds. This gives rise to clay soils prone to waterlogging. From a high point of 53m at the car park the site slopes down to the west and south towards the Lady Brook stream. The wood has been actively managed in recent years by the Trust and previous owners, with most of the chestnut coppice being less than 40 years old. There are some oak standards in the wood, although many were removed by previous owners or windblown in the storm of 1987. There are some areas of oak restocking (P2006) in the Cpt 3, now supplemented with extensive birch regeneration. Ink disease is present in the chestnut throughout the wood. It currently affects less than 10% of the total canopy but it is increasing in extent year on year. There are good displays of woodland spring flowers such as bluebell and wood anemone along with other woodland species such as primrose, wood sorrel, dogs mercury, yellow archangel and yellow pimpernel. There is a small amount of Rhododendron ponticum, mainly in Cpt 2a which is being controlled manually. The lower, western part of the wood along the stream has a different character with a greater diversity of tree and ground flora species associated with wetter, more base-rich soils. Here, ash standards and hazel coppice replace the chestnut. Other species include alder, willow, field maple and birch. The ash are now beginning to show extensive dieback symptoms due to the fungal infection Hymenoscyphus fraxineus with mature trees beginning to lose large limbs and even collapse entirely. There are small areas of hornbeam coppice in the southern part of the wood. This is possibly the precursor species to the chestnut which was probably planted in the 18th/19th century for hop-poles. The wood contains some typical woodland archaeological features such as woodbanks, hollow-ways, charcoal hearths, pits, ponds and a saw-pit. The wood currently does not have any deer present.
Significance
The area of ancient woodland in the UK has been drastically reduced in the last 50 years and now covers less than 2% of the land. It is a very species-rich habitat due to its continuity, with many species being limited to this type of actively managed coppice woodland.

Guestling Wood is a large block of semi-natural woodland under a single ownership in an area with many small, fragmented woods, or larger areas converted to conifer plantations. The wood lies within the High Weald National Character Area and AONB, one of the most wooded landscapes in England (26%) which includes 7% of England's ancient woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: dieback of chestnut coppice; poor timber quality; road access and internal track network unsuitable for large machinery and lorries.

Opportunities: to continue a limited amount of coppicing while allowing a more natural woodland structure to develop.

Factors Causing Change

- Plant health: dieback of sweet chestnut coppice and ash standards due to disease.
- Deer: not present.
- Squirrels: impacts on chestnut coppice regrowth.
- Invasive species: low level Rhododendron Cpt 2a (under regular manual control).
- Economic: low value timber (currently increasing) and high working costs.
- Climate change: current lack of tree species diversity will be countered by natural regen of birch, willow, alder and hazel where chestnut and ash dies.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will begin to develop a more natural structure and composition as chestnut coppice stools die and collapse due to infection by ink disease and are replaced by natural regeneration of species such as willow, birch and alder. Structural and species diversity will be encouraged by some active management in the form of small-scale coppicing and may include replanting if natural regeneration is unsuccessful. Trees established by planting or regeneration in gaps will have self-thinned over time leaving one or 2 dominant trees in the canopy.

Existing mature oak standards will begin to develop veteran tree characteristics such as stag-heading and may fall to create larger gaps for natural regeneration and significant dead-wood habitats. In some areas where the chestnut coppice dies or where previous oak felling has taken place, small areas of semi-permanent open ground, dominated by bracken, may develop. The loss of mature ash in the west of the site may lead to species such as sycamore and alder becoming more common.

Management such as coppicing of ride edges will produce linear temporary open and scrub habitats with a more abundant ground flora and will deal with windblow issues that arise from the spread of tree diseases.

The wood will be free from the damaging effects of invasive exotics such as Rhododendron ponticum. Should deer begin to be present in the future their impacts will be monitored.

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

To create additional structural diversity through a programme of ride and glade management. Rides to be managed will be those currently subject to heavy shading or those with extensive dieback of chestnut coppice and frequent windblow. Additional re-coppicing of some rides managed in the previous plan period will also take place on a ~5 year

cycle.

- Up to 1100m of rides and paths will be widened up to 1.5x adjacent tree height over the next 5 years.
- The small areas of rhododendron (<1ha in Cpts 2/3) will continue to be monitored and controlled as necessary by cutting, uprooting or herbicide application (Glyphosate) until control is complete.
- Undertake formal woodland condition assessment to inform management plan review. Includes monitoring impacts of pests and diseases, invasive species, regeneration and extent of ground flora. Due spring 2026.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

The wood is crossed by 4 public footpaths (including part of the 1066 Country Walk) and has a good network of rides and paths (approx 7km in total) which link to the surrounding countryside. There is a small car park for 5-6 cars at the main entrance and two lay-bys providing limited parking at the other two entrances, all off Watermill Lane. The site is well-used by both local people and visitors from further afield (WT access category A: more than 15 - 20 people using one entrance every week day).

There are 8 entrances to the wood, 3 directly off Watermill Lane and 5 on public footpaths across neighbouring farmland. Entrance types include narrow and wide kissing gates, stiles and squeeze gaps to allow easy access on foot while preventing access by off-road motorcycles and keeping neighbouring livestock out of the site. Access for less-abled visitors is provided from the car park via a wide kissing gate which can be opened to allow wheelchair/buggy access with a RADAR key. This leads on to a section of public footpath that is relatively level and dry. There are information boards at 2 entrances off the lane. Away from the entrances paths are unsurfaced and can be muddy in parts after wet weather. There are some moderate to steep gradients. The size of the wood (44ha/110 acres) and the types of routes within it, do not allow for its use by horse-riders or off-road cyclists.

The site has good signage when approaching the car park from a southerly direction. The car park is easily viewed from the road due to the low hedgerow and feels secure. There are large WT welcome signs and information boards at the car park and one other entrance on Watermill Lane, with smaller WT signs at all other entrance points around the wood. The site benefited from an access infrastructure upgrade in 2014 with the car park re-surfaced and re-fenced and new signage and information boards installed.

Guestling Wood is located between the villages of Pett (pop 846, 0.5 miles away), Guestling (pop 1432, 1.5 miles) and Icklesham (pop 2751, 1.5 miles) and is near Hastings (pop 86,979, 6 miles). The site provides a valuable amenity for local people and visitors from further afield, to walk in attractive ancient woodland and to enjoy the displays of spring flowers. It is in an important tourist area and there is a caravan park opposite one of the main entrances. The majority of visitors are dog-walkers but others come to enjoy the natural history of the site.

The site lies within the High Weald AONB, one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe. The area has a very high level of woodland cover (27%) with much of it ancient. Ancient woodlands invariably include historic features related to their use by man over the centuries. These subtle indications provide another layer of interest to those who recognise them and within Guestling Wood there are sawpits, charcoal hearths, sunken trackways, pits/quarries and a significant woodbank. The wood provides a contrasting experience to other landscapes and habitats in the area such as Hastings Country Park (with cliffs and heathland), Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (wetland) and local beaches. The Woodland Trust's Brede High Woods is approximately 8 miles away.

The site provides some opportunities for conservation volunteering and benefits from a long association with local the local TCV group. At the time of acquiring the southern half of the site in 2006 there was a series of funded activities with local schools but this did not continue beyond the funding period. There are no forest schools currently operating at this site.

Significance

Guestling Wood is one of only a few local ancient woodlands fully open to the public. There are large Forestry Commission woods further afield (eg Battle) and smaller woods within Hastings. The site and its car park will remain free of charge unlike local authority parking in the Hastings BC and Rother DC areas.

These woods are known for their spring flowers and other wildlife but their historic aspect is also an attraction. The site lies within the High Weald AONB, one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe. Ancient woods such as Guestling provide a link to the past by nature of their long continuity in the landscape, their structure created by centuries of coppicing and their surviving features from their use by man (eg sawpits and charcoal hearths).

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:-
- Over-use by the public can threaten the nature conservation value of the wood, particularly the well-known spring flowers.
- Wet areas on paths can lead to excessive trampling of sensitive ground flora.
- There continues to be incidents of sheep-worrying in adjoining fields by dogs being exercised in the wood.
- Dog waste.
- Limited parking has led to conflict with neighbours and limits the use of the site for events.

Opportunities:-
- In addition to the information boards, on-site notices will also be provided about proposed management activities and other factors that visitors need to be aware of eg the presence of sheep adjoining the site.
- The wood and its wildlife can be promoted by external bodies/websites such as RX Wildlife, 1066 Country and the High Weald AONB Unit.
- The wood can host external volunteer groups on a request basis to undertake suitable small-scale works as appropriate.

Factors Causing Change

- Wear and tear of car park surface
- Anti-social behaviour problems: fly tipping/litter; vandalism; uncontrolled dogs.
- Increase in visitor numbers. This could be from development in local villages and a more mobile population in Hastings. Previously there was a significant increase in visitor numbers when a parking charge was introduced at Hastings Country Park.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will contain paths and rides with a variety of characteristics including internal views of spring flower displays and external views beyond the wood, created by coppicing. The wood will be used for short local walks and as part of longer circular/linear walks (eg 1066 Country Walk) as well as for experiencing a range of wildlife. It will continue to be

used by a wide variety of visitors from local dog walkers to tourists.

However a significant increase in visitor numbers would not be appropriate for the site and so infrastructure and interpretation will be continue to below-key but well-maintained and appropriate to the natural environment of the wood and its rural location in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The site will be valued by the local community, particularly, for its ease of use, its beauty and tranquility, its safety and well-kept appearance and the fact that it is in the hands of a well-respected conservation organisation with a local presence of the ground.

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

The path network, car park, information boards, poster frames, signage, access points and boundary fencing will be maintained appropriately to allow safe access across the whole site and present a welcoming aspect for all visitors to the wood.

This will include the following:-

- Biannual strimming ride edges along approx. 7km of rides (June/September).
- Regular car park maintenance (June to September): cut surrounding coppice to maintain visibility from the lane in order to discourage fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.
- Annual tree safety survey of Zone A (roadside boundary) and biennial tree safety survey of Zone B (along all maintained rides and paths) with prompt remedial work as necessary.
- Annual inspection of infrastructure including gates, signs, stiles, information boards and footbridges with prompt maintenance/replacement as necessary.
- Temporary notices at 3 entrances off Watermill Lane will be in place and appropriate eg dogs and sheep in lambing time etc.
- Repairs to car park surfacing using appropriate stone (ie MOT Type 1 not recycled material) + install bollards to stop parking on unsurfaced areas - 2022.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2021	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2021	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	October
2021	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
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,	May
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	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	July
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 - 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,	September
2022	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	June

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
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
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,	September
2023	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
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
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2024	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
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
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,	September
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	16.09	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	Diseases, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Northern section of the wood. Predominantly sweet chestnut coppice of various ages with occasional oak standards. The subcpt is level in the east then slopes to the west down to small stream (Lady Brook) which forms most of western boundary. Tree species change along lower slopes to ash standards over hazel coppice with willow and alder on stream banks. Ground flora is dominated by wood anemone and bluebell with bramble and bracken. Surrounding land use is permanent grass to the east and north and arable with buffer zone to the west. There is an adjoining area of wet woodland to the north.						
2a	16.53	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	Diseases	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Central section of the wood. To the north and east the cpt is predominantly sweet chestnut coppice with occasional oak standards. The roadside hedge also includes hazel, hornbeam and field maple. The central part of the subcpt includes abundant oak coppice with birch and occasional hornbeam. The western part slopes to the west and includes the stream. Pole-stage birch, willow and alder dominate this area with ash and hazel along the stream. Ground flora has abundant bluebell, wood anemone and other woodland species in places while some areas have bare ground. Some small amounts of rhododendron are present. To the west is arable/grassland. To the east is Watermill Lane.						
3a	11.94	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	Diseases, Services & wayleaves	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Southern section of the wood. Predominantly sweet chestnut and oak coppice with oak standards. Stream source near southern boundary. Birch and chestnut etc along stream valley. Alder, hazel and willow along eastern edge of cpt along small seasonal stream. Ground flora has abundant bluebell and wood anemone. The cpt is level apart from a small valley. To the east is woodland and housing (across the lane). To the south is pasture, to the west is Guestwell Scout Hut, grassland and a sewage works.						

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.

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