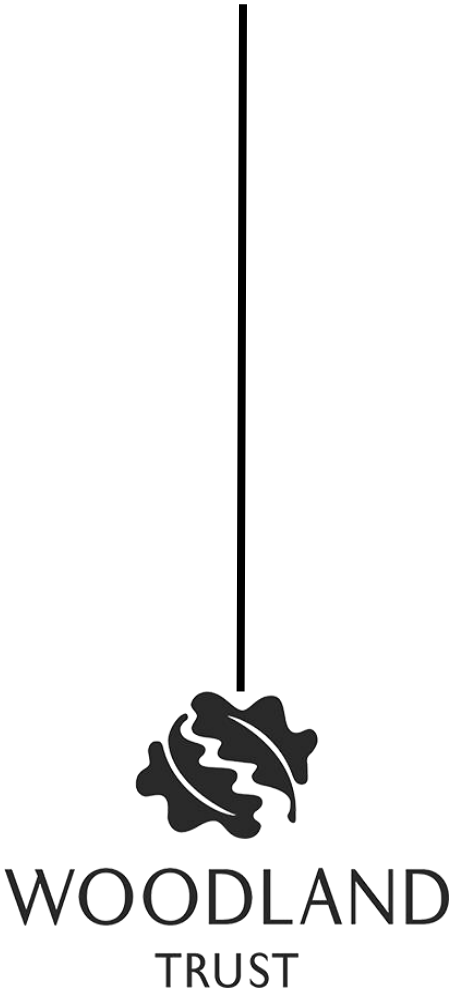
Worms Wood

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



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

Worms Wood

Location:	Middleton on Sea Grid reference: SU969010 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 197
Area:	13.28 hectares (32.82 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	Welcoming Sites Programme, Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Worms Wood is a 13 hectare (32 acre) native broadleaf woodland, created in early 2000 as part of the Trust's Woods on Your Doorstep (WOYD) Millennium Project. It is situated on the northern edge of Middleton-on-Sea, within the South Coast Plain National Character Area (NCA).

The South Coast Plain NCA is a narrow strip of land running along the Hampshire and Sussex coast, from the edge of Southampton in the west to Brighton and Hove in the east. It incorporates the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Pagham Harbour, The Solent and Southampton Water and Portsmouth Harbour. Tree cover within the NCA is limited to isolated wind-sculpted woodlands and shelterbelts, with farmland between developed areas, often with large arable fields defined by low hedges or ditches, with isolated remnants of coastal heath in the west.

Worms Wood is cut off from direct connectivity to the wider landscape and coast by the A259 on the north boundary and the large conurbation of Pagham, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, Felpham and Elmer to the south. However, it is immediately adjoined by arable farmland to the east and Arun District Council's 'Larks Field' recreation ground to the south. The nearest significant mature woodland is Binsted Wood, approximately 5.5km to the north.

The wood was designed and named after public consultation involving local communities and in conjunction with Felpham and Middleton-on-Sea Parish Councils and Arun District Council, from whom the Trust leases the site.

The site was formerly Grade One arable farmland, subsequently over-planted with a mixture of native broadleaves and shrubs including oak, ash, field maple, birch, wild cherry and small-leaved lime. Swathes of open grassland have also been created, along with excavated scrapes and ponds close to existing seasonal 'rife' watercourses. The spoil from the excavations was used to create two bunds which were partially planted and provide variety in an otherwise flat site.

Being close to Bognor Regis and the large residential area of Middleton-on-Sea, Worms Wood provides an important amenity in an area with very little accessible woodland. A network of approximately 2.5km of maintained rides and paths allows public access throughout the wood and provides circular walks of varying lengths.

The Trust also co-ordinate a small group of local volunteers who carry out conservation activities to help manage the wood.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In 50 years' time Worms Wood will have a predominantly high forest structure comprised mainly of mixed native broadleaf trees and shrubs. The canopy will consist of oak and birch, supplemented with small-leaved lime stands and sycamore throughout, with alder, willow and poplars in the wetter areas, The understory will comprise of a variety of smaller tree and shrub species, such as field maple, hawthorn, dogwood, and wild cherry, with hazel featuring prominently.

The wood will include actively managed areas with ride-side coppicing and thinning carried out where appropriate, supplemented with non-intervention areas that develop naturally. Thinning will be carried out in approximately 40% of the wood where tree stands are largely homogenous at pole stage to accelerate the development and quality of the habitat in an area where woodland is scarce. The woods relative isolation and lack of significant threats at pole stage (e.g. an absence of squirrels and non-detrimental rabbit population) increases the likelihood of a diverse woodland structure developing, including stands with dense shrub and understorey layers, regenerating coppice and thickets. Tree age classes will also be diverse, from mature trees to regenerating saplings and everything in between. Some of the mature trees, particularly those around the perimeter, will be starting to develop veteran characteristics.

Dead wood will be retained on the ground or left standing where it does not pose a safety risk and will be plentiful following the natural aging of trees, disease (e.g. ash dieback) and some tree works operations which allow the retention of dead hedging and habitat piles.

A minimum of 10% open space will be maintained as a level sufficient to sustain diversity within the wood itself, with open space well-catered for in the surrounding farm and coastal landscape. A significant proportion of this open space will constitute rides and paths, managed to facilitate access with annual mowing, ride-side coppicing and tree safety work, with larger glades and intersections with flower and scrub-rich margins and occasional open grown trees. A proportion of rides through more shaded areas of closed canopy and wetter areas will provide a contrast of visitor experience and habitat.

Pests and diseases will be monitored and management undertaken where essential to prevent detrimental impact to the overall condition of the site. The site's diverse habitats and structure will provide resilience, particularly to single species threats such as ash dieback disease (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus).

Watercourses (e.g. ponds and rifes) will include thriving aquatic habitats providing damp and shady conditions, standing water and non-intervention areas for a variety of flora and fauna. Water quality will be unaltered due to the absence of chemical inputs (e.g. herbicides, pesticides).

This will remain a safe and accessible site for the high number of local visitors via signed entrances and a network of maintained rides and paths. There is no car park associated with the wood, however, roadside parking is available to cater for visitors from further afield.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

Description
The majority of the planted trees are through the establishment period and are thriving, reaching a height of five metres or more, and the site now has a wooded aesthetic and atmosphere even at this relatively early stage in its development. Approximately 50% of the site comprises stands with a significant diversity of structure due to the diverse planting composition. This includes more understorey and shrub species than other stands and a greater concentration of ash. Ash has diminished due to ash dieback disease and has created canopy gaps resulting in increased flora, scrub and understorey development. Ash dieback is an ongoing influence on the wood and will remain so over the coming plan period. The outcome is likely to result in ash no longer featuring as a canopy tree species, as was originally intended at the time of planting. Conversely, the original composition and quantity of planted trees has also been supplemented with natural colonisation of birch, oak, alder, goat willow and poplars from the surrounding area. In fact some trees, both naturally regenerating and planted, are doing so well, that some of the narrower rides are beginning to close over in some areas, meaning that management is necessary to keep these valuable wildlife corridors and access routes open. Approximately 40% of the site comprises stands of even aged oak and mixed broadleaves with little understorey or flora development. Some boundary trees pre-date the planting and include mature oak, goat willow and hawthorn. Mature trees on adjacent field margins also supplement the site. Open space is at approximately 10% with glades constituting approximately 0.76ha with a wide main ride and additional paths with some coppiced and scalloped sections making up the remainder. Swathes of rough grass, wildflowers and herb and scrub margins are well-established on the periphery of stands and the perimeter of the site. Rabbits continue to browse, however, as the majority of trees are through the establishment period this has an inconsequential impact on the main structure of the developing woodland. Their impact is most evident along the main rides where the grass is kept close-cropped by their browsing in addition to the mowing that the Trust carries out. Certain plant species such as nettle and bramble require management as they can of reduce open space and dominate other plant species, no doubt fuelled by the nitrification of the soil prior to the Trust taking over the site. The two ponds are ephemeral and largely overgrown with self-sown goat willow and alder. The boundary rifes and ditches are largely flanked by thorny scrub and self-sown willow.
Significance

It is a main objective of the Trust to plant woods and trees to combat climate change, build a greener future for the UK and create havens for wildlife. In addition, one of the South Coast Plain NCA Statement of Environmental Opportunities (SEO) is to "develop a comprehensive framework of green infrastructure throughout the NCA and the creation/improvement of other green spaces that link into the heart of urban areas and contribute to urban greening."

The creation of Worms Wood is in-keeping with this SEO, providing a haven for wildlife in an area with little tree cover and few woodlands. Established native woodland has the potential to hold the highest diversity of any terrestrial habitat in the UK and the site provides another link in the fragmented green infrastructure of the wider landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
Poor access, egress and timber extraction availability. Management access is via residential roads and across Arun DC Larks Field recreation ground. Vehicle access point is approximately 300m from the main site entrance.
Due to the limitations for timber extraction and the low timber volumes, silvicultural works will be divided into small-scale annual operations which allow the retention of arisings on site without the need to extract.
Coastal location and exposure to maritime winds may limit tree growth and development.

Opportunities:
There is local fundraising activity to support improvements to the sites ponds.

Factors Causing Change

Woodland establishment: The rate of growth and establishment is yet to stabilise as the wood is still developing towards maturity.

Ash dieback: This disease is affecting the ash present within the wood, creating open areas where ash diminishes, giving opportunity for other species to establish in their place. There is likely to be an increase in dead wood as a result of the disease and this will be retained on site where possible, in places where it does not present a hazard to visitors to the wood.

Rabbits are present and browse the open grassland areas.

Watercourses and soil: Watercourses around the periphery of the site are connected to adjacent farmland and road network. There is potential for pollution from run-off to enter the site via these sources into the watercourses and soil within the wood.

Climate change: Wetter winters may result in significant changes to the water table, saturation of soil in the wood. Conversely longer drought periods and increased temperatures are also anticipated through spring and summer. This increases the likelihood of knock-on effects such as drying or waterlogging of soils, increased vulnerability to tree diseases and changes in species composition to those that are best adapted to the changing conditions. Even-aged and single species dominated stands are vulnerable to the effects of climate change and tree diseases due to their lack of diversity.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish mature mixed native broadleaved woodland with a high forest structure, including a diverse understorey, through a combination of silvicultural intervention (e.g. thinning) and natural processes (e.g. natural regeneration of trees and shrubs). Thinning will take place in the densest stands which occupy approximately 40% of the site.
A minimum of 10% open ground in the form of rides and glades will be maintained with annual mowing and coppicing. Rough grassland, flower and scrub rich margins and intersections with occasional open grown trees will provide transitional habitat and ecotone to blend the habitats.
Dead wood will increase following natural senescence as the woodland matures and through retention following operations and will be left standing or fallen where safe to do so.
Pests and diseases will not be affecting the overall condition of the site and there will be no non-native invasive species present.
The main pond will be actively managed with interventions where required to sustain established aquatic habitat. Additional watercourses (e.g. secondary pond and rifes) will provide ephemeral habitat, damp and shady conditions and non-intervention areas for a variety of flora and fauna. Water quality will be unaltered due to the absence of chemical inputs (e.g. herbicides, pesticides).

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

To enhance the structural and ecological diversity of the woodland. This will be achieved in the plan period with the following:

- Thinning of 30% of trees within approximately 5ha (37% of the site) within the plan period.
- Annual ride-side coppicing of trees on plantation block edges along approximately 500m (100m per year) of the main path network.
- Retention of cut material on site to increase dead wood habitat.
- Removal of remaining redundant tree shelters by the end of the plan period.
- Pond restoration works in 2022/2023 to establish aquatic habitats with a maximum of 60% aquatic flora species and a minimum of 30% open water including ephemeral and permanent standing water and associated fauna.
- Completion of a woodland condition assessment to inform the next management plan review in 2025.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Worms Wood is a Woodland Trust category A access site (high usage, regularly used at all times of the year, with more than approximately 15-20 visitors using one entrance every day). It is also part of the Welcoming Sites Programme (WSP), a Woodland Trust initiative which aims to improve recreation and access provision at our key sites. The WSP will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that will improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to this site. An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths will further encourage the appreciation of the woodland, both on the site and in the locality. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of the WSP and will provide a clear welcome: well-maintained entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions where appropriate. Improved access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors. An engagement plan will set out a plan for engagement activities, further enhancing public visits to the site.

Worms Wood is located on the north edge of Middleton-on-Sea, between the A259 'Worms Lane' on the north boundary (which runs along the south coast from Folkestone, Kent in the east, to Emsworth, Hampshire in the west) and Larks Field recreation ground on the south boundary.

Middleton-on-Sea is a large village with a population of approximately five thousand residents with one primary school and two public houses situated within 1km of the wood. The village itself has few amenities but is a short distance from Bognor Regis.

Public access to the wood is via three pedestrian entrances. The main entrance is a kissing gate with RADAR key facility on the south boundary adjoining Larks Field recreation ground. An additional kissing gate is available on the south boundary approximately 200m to the west of the main entrance, via a public footpath. A further entrance with wooden steps and metal handrail is available in the north west corner, adjacent to Worms Lane.

There are paths and rides around the perimeter of the site, and a wide 'central' ride that crosses the site, intersecting a large grassy glade with a bench. Additional path sections through the planted tree stands provide circular routes of varying distances to cater for short or long visits.

The site has a high footfall from local residents from the surrounding residential area who enjoy dog-walking and the woodland and its wildlife. In addition, the Trusts volunteer Woodland Working Group hold weekly work parties in autumn and winter to deliver works set out in the Trusts management plan for the wood and throughout the year the registered volunteer Warden also carries out regular patrols and litter picks.

Significance

It has been proven that access to woodland provides an improved quality of life with benefits to both mental and physical health. Increasing public enjoyment of woodland is one of the main aims of the Trust and allowing free, year-round access is crucial to this. In addition, one of the South Coast Plain NCA Statement of Environmental Opportunities (SEO) is to: "Plan for the creation of a strong landscape framework within and around major settlements and identified growth areas, while managing and enhancing existing greenspace and access, and balancing the needs of agriculture, communities and the natural environment".

There is little other woodland in the area, with or without public access, so the creation of Worms Wood was the preferred option of the local population. The site also provides the public with the opportunity to observe the establishment and development of a new woodland and a deep personal connection with the wood exists for those people who choose to volunteer there.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
There is no car park for the site. Parking is limited to nearby residential roads.
Access for all abilities is available via the main entrance, however, this is approximately 300m from the nearest roadside access point.
Footpaths are largely natural and unsurfaced, meaning that many of the paths are muddy during the winter or prolonged periods of rainfall.

Opportunities:
Forest schools are welcome by arrangement with the Site Manager to provide educational activities.

Factors Causing Change

Further housing development in the area is likely to increase visitor numbers. This increases the likelihood of positive and negative effects including anti-social behaviour, littering, dog fouling, fires, cycling, new desire lines and trampling of ground flora, volunteering and local support for the wood and the Trust.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The site will provide a safe and enjoyable woodland experience for visitors, with a well-maintained network of accessible footpaths, entrances, infrastructure and signage, in line with the site's Welcoming Site Programme designation and WT access category A designation.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
To maintain access and infrastructure to support the high level of use, the following will be carried out in the plan period: • Path cuts and entrance maintenance a minimum of twice a year. • Installation of two new benches in 2022/2023 • Annual infrastructure inspections and maintenance. • Annual tree safety inspections and remedial works as required in line with the Trusts Tree Risk Management Policy. • An assessment of access infrastructure and signs in 2025 as part of the whole site woodland condition assessment and Welcoming Sites Programme objectives.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
2022	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	March
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 Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	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	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,	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 - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	October

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
2023	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
2023	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	March
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2023	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and	October

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	
2023	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
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,	May
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
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2024	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	October
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	May

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
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
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2025	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	October
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
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,	May
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,	July

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APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	13.28	Pedunculate/common oak	2000	High forest	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access to the site	
P2000 mixed native broadleaves: approx 25,000 trees at 2m x 2m spacing protected with 0.6m shelters. Mainly oak (pedunculate, sessile, Turkey), ash, birch, small-leaved lime, field maple, rowan, wild cherry, and understorey shrubs including hazel, hawthorn, dogwood, spindle, blackthorn, holly. Poplar, aspen, alder, goat willow and sycamore are also present on site and have self-sown from the surrounding area.						

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.