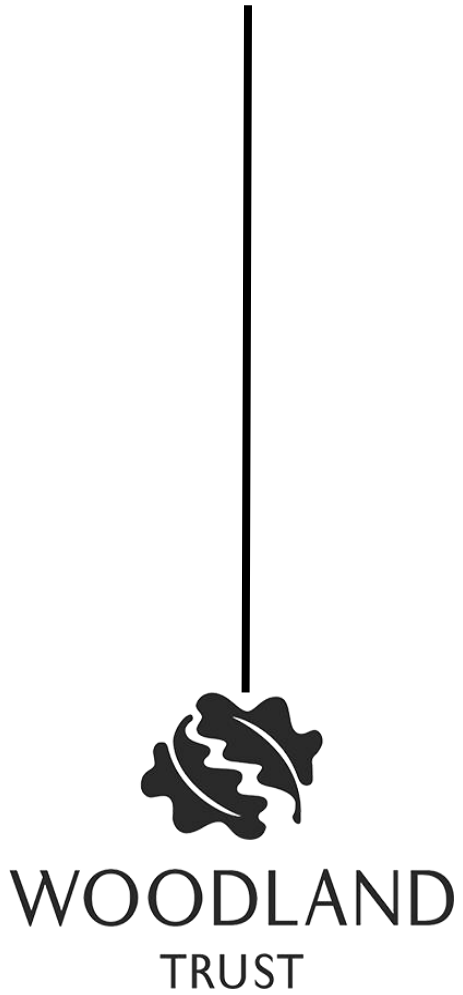
Beaulieu Wood

(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

Beaulieu Wood

Location:	Monmouth Grid reference: SO528128 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 162
Area:	16.63 hectares (41.09 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Beaulieu Wood occupies a prominent position within the Wye Valley AONB overlooking the River Wye and town of Monmouth to the west. It is situated immediately north of the National Trust property at 'The Kymin' which includes the prominent local landmarks of the Naval Temple and Round House. Historically, Beaulieu Grove, as it was known, played an important role as part of the designed landscape of the Kymin. The 'Wye Tour' became increasingly popular as the European Tour was curtailed by the Napoleonic Wars; the scenic nature of the Wye Valley provided tourists with an alternative destination.

The wood is one the Westernmost parts and directly connected to the Forest of Dean along its North East boundary. The area is a hot-spot for ancient woodlands many of which are now PAWS making restoration of Beaulieu a priority. To the South East is unimproved pasture as evidenced by the bluebell carpets in spring and to the North is bordered by arable land and improved pasture. To the South is the National Trust owned 'The Kymin' consisting of a naval monument and round tower folly within semi-formal grounds and to the South West there is the Kymin estate comprising mostly detached houses and gardens. To the North West the wood is connected indirectly to the nearby Woodland Trust site Priory Grove through Garth Wood. The latter together comprise the Fiddlers Elbow National Nature Reserve, Special Area of Conservation and SSSI. The A4136, Staunton Road, separates Beaulieu from Garth Wood.

It survived as managed broadleaved woodland, primarily coppice, until the late 1960's before the majority of the site was clear-felled and converted to conifer plantation. The land to the east outside of Trust ownership was cleared at the same time but converted to permanent pasture. These fields have not been agriculturally improved and are still dominated by bluebell carpets in spring. This provides a glimpse of what Beaulieu Wood may have looked like before the conifer was planted. The majority of the woodland was replanted in the 1950s and 1960s, primarily with single species conifer stands comprising Douglas fir, western hemlock, larch, pine with lesser areas of birch and beech. Along the ridge to the east of the site mature semi-natural woodland remains comprising mature beech and oak, much of which has arisen from large coppice stools (with one mature beech pollard). The canopy is generally closed resulting in few shrubs (scattered rowan and holly) and much bare ground. Where the canopy is more open (for example under areas of oak), bracken, broad-buckler fern, bramble and bilberry occur. Along the northern margin a fringe of more diverse semi-natural woodland remains comprising ash, sessile oak, wild cherry, silver birch, goat willow and hazel. Several southern wood-ant (a UK BAP priority species) nests are present.

Small areas of conifer were clear felled in the 1990's and planted with broadleaved trees; birch regeneration is now well established in these areas. Further areas of conifer were felled in 2005 and replanted with broadleaf trees in tubes and this re-stocking has largely been successful. Recent heavy thinning and gap creation combined with heavy deer browsing and wind-throw has encouraged heavy dominance by bramble and bracken which is suppressing the field layer and preventing natural regeneration.

The aim of management is to restore the ancient woodland to predominantly broadleaved tree species, with the retention of veteran and ancient trees.

The site is adjacent to the The Kymin National Trust property and the Offa's Dyke path and the ridge to the East is consequently well visited. If resources allow viewpoints looking West from the Ridge will be restored as they are important in highlighting the cultural history of the woodland.

The key features of the site are:

Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands
Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Informal Public Access

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The replanted ancient woodland will gradually be restored to native woodland comprising predominantly site-native trees and shrubs including some ancient or veteran trees. Natural broadleaf regeneration will establish in canopy gaps resulting from windthrow and previous heavy thinning.

Challenges to achieving this long term vision include: a lack of local natural seed sources, high deer numbers and dominance of the field layer by bramble as well as the persistence of areas of dense conifer. Areas of conifer plantation will be thinned successively favouring native species, with the frequency and intensity of interventions adjusted to match the ground flora and regeneration response. Areas of previous heavy thinning and open space created by clear-fell or wind-throw will be monitored for signs of natural regeneration. Intervention on the bramble may be required in these areas if broadleaved regeneration continues to be poor.

Deer will be managed to allow for the required level of natural regeneration. The small areas of inaccessible conifer on the ridge will be retained whilst the broadleaved plantation of birch may be thinned as part of the PAWS restoration works. Veteran and ancient trees will be mapped and released from competition if appropriate during planned thinning works.

Existing areas of broadleaved plantation (birch, beech) may be thinned at the same time for planed PAWS restoration with areas of minimal intervention retained. Areas of remaining ancient semi-natural woodland will be managed through low levels of intervention, retaining the mature beech and oak coppice stools and pollards. Veteran trees will be mapped and released from pressure during planned thinning works.

A series of rides and paths will be maintained throughout the site and access encouraged in liaison with the National Trust and Natural Resources Wales. Visitors will enjoy views of the Wye Valley from the path network.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
Comprising three areas; Compartment 1b which is dominated by mature beech and oak often of coppice origin, the canopy is dense with little in the way of ground-flora; others areas of 1b include conifer clear-fells re-stocked with broadleaved trees in the 1990's and in 2013. Compartment 1c - dominated by semi-mature birch and scattered mature beech. The field layer is dominated by dense bramble. Compartment 1e - A linear strip of woodland running along the Northern boundary, this is the most semi-natural area of ancient woodland on site, species diversity is highest with a good number of native canopy and understory species and patches of bluebell and wild garlic carpets.
Significance
Ancient semi-natural woodland comprising Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland and Lowland Mixed Woodlands - all priority habitat types in the UK BAP (subject to UK HAPs) and in a European context. The presence of many ancient coppice stools/pollards and archaeological features are valuable insights into the past use of the site. Southern wood-ant and dormouse are priority UK BAP species subject to a UK SAP.
Opportunities & Constraints
Compartment 1b - Situated on top of the mature beech and oak coppice in 1b is at risk of wind-blow and at present provides a buffer to North Easterly winds. The area is also of cultural appeal and lacks vehicle access. There is, however, the potential to re-instate viewpoints if resources allow by coppicing the young birch trees along parts of the Western boundary. Compartment 1c - This area could be thinned during planned PAWS Restoration works. The aim should be to thin out the birch as it matures to favour the mature beech and oak. Deer browsing and bramble dominance are likely to be significant constraints. Compartment 1a - This area has a small proportion of ash trees which are likely to require removal as die-back takes hold. Other than this natural processes should be allowed to occur especially as the area provides a broadleaved buffer from the South Westerly winds and provides a commuting corridor for bats.
Factors Causing Change
Deer browsing damage Feral pig damage Shade and canopy competition in compartment 1c Public pressure in Compartment 1b from high visitor numbers to the Kymin

Ash die-back
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Natural processes are allowed to occur over most of the areas resulting in high forest. Areas of younger growth will result from works to remove die-back infected ash. Compartment 1c will be thinned to diversify the stand and promote the mature beech and oak to veteran status,
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Monitor browsing damage and natural regeneration across all stands by commissioning Habitat Impact Assessments and Thermal Imaging Surveys. This information will form the basis of the population control. Mensuration of 1c for thinning from 2026 onwards Liaise with the Natural Trust to ensure visitor numbers do not adversely affect the ancient woodland along the ridge in compartment 1b. Explore the potential for involvement of NT volunteers in re-establishing viewpoints

4.2 f2 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description
These conifer stands are primarily dominated by Douglas fir with small pockets of larch and scots pine. A small number of semi mature and mature broadleaves pre-plantation trees are scattered throughout together with a few remnant hazel coppice and hawthorn. Heavy thinning and gap creation in 1a/1, 1a/3 and 1a/4 resulted in severe wind-blow most of which has been cleared but not in compartment 1a/4. Bramble dominance of the field layer is out of control in most areas and has almost totally engulfed the ancient woodland flora hotspots identified previously. Broadleaved trees planted in tubes in an attempt to control the bramble and re-stock the canopy have largely succumbed due to a combination of shade, lack of maintenance and bramble growth. Careful consideration should be given to further thinning as the lack of suitable local seed sources combined with deer browsing is preventing the natural regeneration of the canopy.
Significance
Beaulieu Wood forms a small part of a much larger congregation of ancient woodlands in this area. The site is part of the Forest of Dean much of which has suffered from coniferization in the twentieth Century. The restoration planted ancient woodlands like Beaulieu is of benefit to woodland ecology and biodiversity in this area.
Opportunities & Constraints
-Mature stands of douglas fir have commercial value and thus their gradual removal through carefully planned thinning should generate income for re-investment in the sites management. -Bramble and bracken dominate the field layer with natural regeneration virtually absent. -High populations of feral pig and deer are preventing what little natural regeneration is occurring from establishing. -Dormice are assumed present and their needs should be accommodated for during management. -The site is adjacent to Fiddler Elbow National Nature Reserve and SSSI - consideration when planning thinning and

felling should be given to horseshoe and other bat species.
-Presence of pine marten will be considered when planning management

Factors Causing Change

Shade from mature douglas fir canopies
Continued dominance of bramble/bracken on the field layer
Mammal browsing damage
Continued invasion of buddleja. The majority was cleared in 2019/2020 but the large areas of open space provide opportunity for this species

Long term Objective (50 years+)

All remnant ancient woodland components are secure and improving in condition. Woodland is restored / enhanced to native woodland dominated by a high diversity of predominantly native trees and shrubs and with typical field / ground flora and other ancient woodland characteristics. Natural processes predominate.

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

Continue programme of PAWS restoration in selected areas of 1a depending on the stands basal area and response to recent thinning.
Control the populations of browsing mammals to levels which allow for natural regeneration to occur.
Mechanical management of bracken/bramble - Areas of field layer will be flailed post-thinning along with areas currently open and dominated by bramble.
Control the spread of buddleja

4.3 f3 Informal Public Access

Description

The site is located adjacent to the well visited National Trust property of the Kymin within the Wye Valley. Historically, the upper part of the Woodland Trust's property called Beaulieu Grove was part of the designed landscape of the Kymin. It was part of the picturesque movement of the late 18th and early 19th century. Parts of the paths and walkways can be identified on the ground and remains of stone picnicking tables can be seen. A definitive public footpath runs along the northern boundary and the Offa's Dyke long distance path runs along the south-western boundary. Other permissive paths/tracks also cross the site, some of which were probably present in the 19th Century (Heath, 1800).

Significance

A valuable amenity adjacent to the Kymin with public rights of way and a network of paths, at least some of which are part of the designed landscape of the Kymin.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to work more closely with the National Trust with regard visitor pressure and signage.
Impacts on the forest from informal den building could be managed by the reinstatement of forest school activities and

by working with the National Trut Warden
There may also be opportunities to involve volunteers in the reinstatement of viewpoints from the ridge in compartment 1b.

Factors Causing Change

The site is not heavily used by mountain bikers at present but this should be monitored. Increased visitor numbers along the rdige in compartment 1b could adversely affect the visitor experience and impact upon the ancient woodland.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintenance of the current medium recreational usage of the woodland, encouraging access in liaison with the National Trust.

Consideration will be given to creating new links between the existing paths/tracks and the Offa's Dyke path and optimal ways to encourage/facilitate access from The Kymin (in liaison with The National Trust).

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

Paths and kissing gates will be maintained and improved as necessary.
Install marker posts along the path through compartment 1b to guide visitors.
Take interpretive and access enhancement opportunities in liaison with The National Trust as opportunities arise, taking into account the historical context of recreation at this site.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	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,	April
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	December
2022	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	February
2022	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	February
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,	April
2023	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	February
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,	April
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
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,	April
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

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	April
2026	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	8.63	Mixed conifers	1963	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Planted Ancient Woodland, stocked with conifers in the 1960s - primarily douglas fir with smaller areas of larch, spruce and western hemlock. Scattered mature pre-plantation trees are present including oak, beech and birch, mostly semi-mature but there are some mature and also veteran trees especially beech. Remnant hazel stools are also scattered in the understory. The area comprises five distinct areas separated from each other by the main track and/or broadleaf woodland. The roughly even sized 1a/1 and 1a/2 compromise the majority of the area and are separated from each other by a high quality stoned forest road.

1a/1 – 3.64 ha – East of the forest Road - Primarily douglas fir plantation now heavily thinned. There is a small block of mature larch on the Eastern boundary. This area has received the most amount of silvicultural intervention by the Trust. Ten small clearings (0.1 ha) were created in 2005 focusing on areas of remaining ancient woodland flora and remaining broadleaved trees. Natural regeneration here has been poor due to the dense canopy of mature conifers, bramble dominance, lack of suitable seed source and high deer browsing pressure. The entire area was matrix thinned and group plantings were enlarged in 2013. This resulted in extensive wind-throw further enlarging the already fairly large canopy gaps. The wind-throw was extracted and some of the canopy gaps were stocked with planted broadleaved trees in tubes, primarily oak, hazel and birch. Most trees have failed due to heavy browsing and bramble dominance . It was hoped that the creation of large glades would result in natural regeneration and canopy recruitment of broadleaved trees. This has not occurred as the rapid increase in light levels combined with heavy deer and wild pig browsing and the lack of suitable adjacent broadleaf seed sources meant an impenetrable bramble layer now dominates. Consider flailing all or patches of bramble prior to next thin so NR can be monitored in relation to increased wildlife control.. The narrow woodland margins comprise of mixed broadleaved woodland (often open and/or scrubby) with ash, goat willow, silver birch, sessile oak, beech, hazel (coppice) and elder with frequent common nettle, ivy, bramble, bracken and herb robert (W8/10). A high quality stoned forest road separates this compartment from 1a/2. There is scope to undertake some small-scale clear felling where this would re-open viewpoints from the ridge footpath.

1a/2 to the West.
1a/2 -3.37 – West of the Forest Road - The majority of the stand is douglas fir mono-culture with a very small number of scattered semi-mature oak, birch and beech pre-plantation trees. There is a large veteran beech tree along the South West Boundary. A small area of western red cedar to the far southern tip was cleared in 2018 making this area (0.2 ha) entirely broadleaved. The northern tip (0.1 ha) was cleared in 2005. Approximately half a

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
dozen small clearings (0.1 ha) were created in 2005 focusing on areas of remaining ancient woodland flora and remaining broadleaved trees. Natural regeneration here has been poor due to high browsing pressure and lack of local seed sources resulting in very dense bramble dominance. Some stocking with broadleaved trees in tubes in occurred in 2013 some of which survive. The entire area of conifer was thinned during winter 2018/2019 at approximately 25% intensity. Three scallops each of 15m by 50m were created along the western boundary with the forest road. Remnant broadleaf trees were halo released. Natural regeneration since 2018 is very poor for the same reasons already mentioned. Consider flailing all or patches of bramble prior to next thin so NR can be monitored in relation to increased wildlife control. 1a/3 – 0.89 ha – Douglas fir plantation very similar to 1a/1 in terms of composition and past management - Thinning in 2013 to the East was very intensive which resulted in extensive wind-throw damage which was cleared at the time. The Western half was not thinned as intensively. The forest road forms the northern boundary providing good access for future management. 1a/4 – 0.5 ha – Douglas fir plantation with larch - The area is separated from the other conifer by semi-natural broadleaf woodland with no obvious vehicle access. It was thinned in 2013 resulting in severe wind-throw which was not extracted at the time. The area has now become largely inaccessible because of the rapid dominance of bramble over the fallen trees. The Offa's Dyke Path forms the South West Boundary						
1b	5.07	Beech	1900	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Ancient semi-natural woodland mainly dominated by even aged mature beech and sessile oak and scattered silver birch and rowan. Many of the beech and oaks arise from coppice stools/stubs with several mature pollards. Beneath areas of dense beech there is little by way of shrub or field/ground layers though bluebell and ivy are locally abundant (W14). Beneath areas with a greater proportion of oak in the canopy there are often scattered holly and rowan with broad buckler-fern, bramble, greater wood-rush and bracken (W10/14). To the south the soils appear more acidic and support primarily sessile oak coppice over bracken with wavy hair-grass, bilberry, heath bedstraw and broad buckler-fern (W16). A small patch of mature douglas occurs to the south of the compartment with scattered larch. I More accessible areas along the Western and Northern boundary at the foot of the slopes were cleared of conifer mono-culture in the mid 1990's. They were restocked with broad leaved trees. The re-stocking has been very successful and these clearings totalling approximately 1.8 ha in area are now semi-natural broad leaved woodland. Species composition is very different from the mature oak and beech already mentioned with the areas dominated primarily by birch. They have been so successful that the viewpoints previously enjoyed form the top of the ridge are becoming obscured by the young canopy.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1c	1.76	Birch (downy/silver)	1950	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Ancient woodland replanted in the 1950s primarily with silver birch (some larch and sycamore). The stand now comprises mainly well-spaced, even aged silver birch, with occasional sycamore, rowan, larch, beech and sessile oak. The stand is not currently ready for thinning but could be thinned on a small scale for firewood at some point. The area was under-planted with broadleaves to increase the levels of shade in an attempt to suppress bramble growth but this largely failed due to the canopy shading. Shrubs are rare. Bramble is very dense throughout. Scattered (locally frequent) ivy, climbing corydalis, broad buckler-fern, bluebell and sycamore seedlings also occur. (W10).						
1d	0.49	Mixed conifers	1972	Min-intervention	Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Small areas of conifer planted in the early 1970s with pine and Douglas fir. Approximately 150 douglas fir with a smaller number of pine trees, amounting to around 150 m3 of material. The majority of the pine has either been felled or blown down in the wind post-thinning. There is little by way of shrub or field/ ground flora other than occasional (locally abundant) bracken, bramble and broad buckler-fern. Areas of ancient woodland flora are restricted to the edges of the compartment. The area has been thinned to waste on at least one occasion but there is too much volume remaining to continue this approach. Ideally the conifer would be felled and removed but access for vehicles is very difficult. The obvious approach from the North is too steep with massive boulders preventing access. Machines would either have to gain access from the neighbouring horse paddock or track through the grounds of the National Trust owned Kymin site to the South. The small volumes and damage likely to arise mean either option would be expensive even if permission was obtained. Until permission is agreed further PAWS restoration will be restricted to clear-up of wind blown stems and possible enhancement planting of broadleaves.						
1e	0.62	Ash	1900	Min-intervention		
Remnant ASNW - Separated from 1a/3 by the forest road and 1a/2 by a sunken trackway (PRoW). This narrow strip of woodland escaped plantation and represents one of the most semi-natural areas on site. Broadleaved species including mature oak, field maple, beech, wild cherry and ash dominate the canopy with an understory of hawthorn, hazel, holly and willow. The field layer includes several ancient woodland indicators including small areas of wild garlic carpet.						

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.