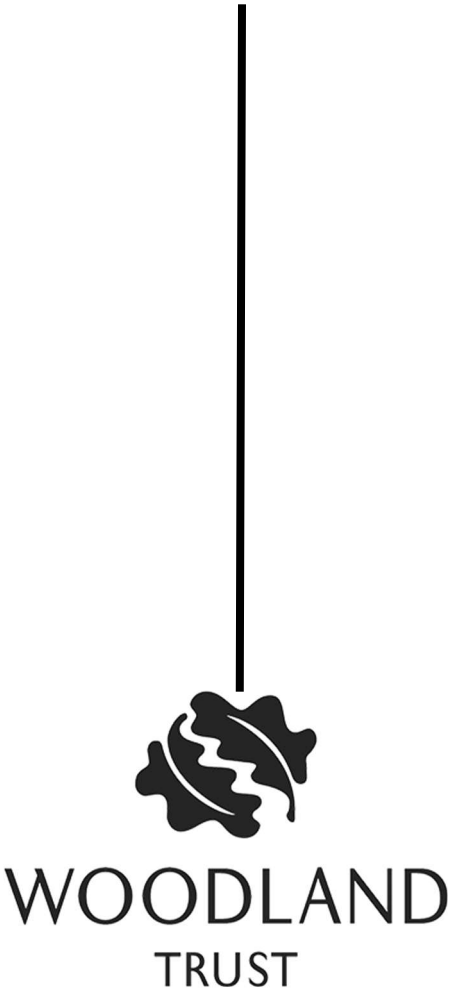
Longbeech North

(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

Longbeech North

Location:	Challock, Ashford, Kent Grid reference: TQ986511 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. N/A
Area:	103.84 hectares (256.59 acres)
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	Demonstration Site - Gold, Demonstration Site for Ancient Woodland Restoration, Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Longbeech North 103.84 hectares (256.48 acres) is located between the villages of Charing and Challock in Kent on the North Downs and within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Woodland Trust acquired the site in spring 2016. Longbeech North is the northern part of a larger woodland complex known as Longbeech Wood 342.06 hectares (844.88 acres) which is designated as a Local Wildlife Site supporting up to forty-five ancient woodland indicator species. Longbeech Wood is in multiple ownerships and it is also bisected by the A252 and Monkery Lane. The woodland is situated within an intensively farmed landscape with large hedge-bound fields and distinct woodland areas which is typical of the landscape in the North Downs National Character Area (NCA). Woodland cover as a percentage of land use on the North Downs is high at 23% of which 70% is ancient woodland.

Longbeech North is designated as ancient woodland and as a planted ancient woodland site (PAWS). This site was converted mostly to pure sweet chestnut coppice in the mid 19th century and then between 1950 and 1965 74% (76.8ha) of the sweet chestnut coppice was converted to mixed conifer plantations with the planting of Japanese larch, Douglas fir, Norway spruce and Corsican pine. Pure sweet chestnut coppice remains in two distinct blocks covering 26% (27.04ha) of the site. On 14th August 2012, an outbreak of Phytophthora ramorum (a notifiable disease) was detected within an area of Japanese larch and as a result a Statutory Plant Health Notice was issued to the previous owner requiring the compulsory clear felling of 28ha of larch. This was carried out during the winter of 2012/2013, followed by restocking in the winter of 2015/2016 using natural regeneration and coppice regrowth for some areas, and planting of broadleaves and Douglas fir in others.

In summary, the conifer-dominated areas now cover 46% (48.40ha), areas previously of PAWS but now being restored through the establishing mixed broadleaves cover 27% (28.40ha) and pure sweet chestnut covers 26% (27.04)ha.

There are no veteran trees present on site. The specialist ancient woodland ground flora is much depleted and is confined to ride edges for many of the conifer-rich areas, although bluebell is more widespread with bramble and bracken being the dominant ground flora plants. There are small areas of relict semi-natural ancient woodland dominated by hornbeam with some ash, field maple, dogwood and hazel.

The soils are predominately acidic clay with flints which are categorised as being slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. The solid geology beneath this is chalk which forms the North Downs.

Longbeech North has a good network of permissive paths, with a bridleway which crosses the site at the northeastern end. Public access is off Monkery Lane, with entry into the site managed by all-access kissing gates.

Longbeech North is one of a suite of Woodland Trust Demonstration sites around the UK, which aims to showcase through events and training opportunities the approach the Woodland Trust is taking to restore planted ancient woodland and improve resilience. A self-led waymarked trail, which has been available since autumn 2017, takes in a range of different stand types, to illustrate the different challenges presented by the restoration of planted ancient woodland and the various techniques and options available. Forestry restoration work started in autumn 2017 at Longbeech North to begin restoring conifer-rich areas back to native species, a process that will take many decades.

Longbeech North supports a number of notable bird species, 10 species on the UK Red List and 5 species on the UK Amber List. Similarly a high number of moth species are present including red data book rarities.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In fifty years' time, Longbeech North will be a resilient habitat retaining its relict semi-natural ancient woodland areas and with the majority of the PAWS areas now as restored ancient woodland. The wood will have a diverse structure providing a good range of different habitats typical of native broadleaved woodland in Kent. There will be a mosaic of actively coppiced areas of sweet chestnut, areas of stored sweet chestnut coppice being transformed to high forest through regular thinning, areas of restored coppice containing a mixture of sweet chestnut and native broadleaved species being managed as high forest, all alongside restored PAWS areas managed as high forest using continuous cover forestry (CCF) techniques plus areas of minimal intervention and a growing resource of decaying wood. Linking up the active coppice and restored high forest areas will be a wide ride habitat centred on some of the main tracks whose edges are coppiced on a short rotation. Retained and managed open space/open wooded habitats/glades will have been identified so that these can contribute towards the overall dynamism of the site linked to the wide ride habitat. A diverse suite of habitats will allow the opportunity for a diverse and abundant mix of species to be supported leading to a more resilient woodland habitat.

The restoration of over 73ha of planted ancient woodland (PAWS) will have seen these areas transformed as part of the woodland ecosystem recovery. Through their active management by variable density thinning and conversion to CCF, there will have been a shifting of the structure and composition of the canopy within each stand from even aged uniform stands to ones that are predominately of native species and with more structural complexity, whilst ensuring that the ancient woodland remnants and the wider ecological continuity are protected and enhanced. There will be no conifer-dominated areas which are “critical” in terms of their restoration management. Ongoing efforts to maximise ecological integrity within the PAWS and ancient woodland areas during the previous fifty years should now be showing some benefits as the woodland goes through the final third phase of restoration. This will have resulted in an increasing deadwood volume across the site, the creation of a small number of dead standing snags and a matrix of old-growth "legacy" groves of minimal intervention areas within more managed areas. The areas of PAWS will have a good range of tree ages, from young seedlings acquired through mainly natural regeneration and some introduced by planting, to maturing broadleaves and a limited number of conifers. Those non-native conifer species acquired through natural regeneration during the conversion to CCF will occupy only a small part of the canopy and the majority should be in the process of being removed prior to them generating seeds. Acceptance of some natural regeneration of non-native conifers during the restoration process provides habitat for invertebrates and other fauna which potentially can be a food source for certain bird species, as well as helping to retain levels of moisture, providing shelter and in the management of light levels required by other processes such as decomposition in the soil, or even encouraging desired regeneration. However in the absence of ancient and veteran broadleaves trees at this stage of the restored ancient woodland, the retention of a small percentage of non-native conifers left to senesce and grow into old trees can be beneficial as they will provide the deadwood habitats and also as nest sites for raptors.

Monitoring the transformation of PAWS areas to CCF stands should have yielded a lot of information to demonstrate how commercial stands can be managed in a way which increases their wildlife value. For example, using fixed-point mensuration sample plots should still be providing information on the yield of the remnant commercial conifers and developing broadleaves with the response by nature (ground flora, bird and invertebrate species).

There will be a significant number of trees selected as future veterans, which will have been opened up and will be starting to show veteran characteristics.

Through the active management of selected coppiced areas, habitat will have been provided for a range of invertebrate, bird and mammal species, including woodland specialist species which rely on temporary open space. Conversely, areas of previously managed coppiced areas left to minimal intervention will allow natural processes to occur, that in time will lead to diverse habitat structure as the trees will have got older and the accumulation of decaying wood will be helping to support a large range of invertebrates and fungi. In addition, as the trees senesce there will be an increasing prevalence of coppice stools and older single stemmed trees splitting and falling apart. This will not only help to generate further decaying wood but also allow the regeneration of an understory as older trees collapse and allow in more light.

There will also have been a shift away from Longbeech North growing monoculture stands of pure sweet chestnut managed on regular coppice rotations. At least 15ha of pure sweet chestnut coppice will have been converted to mixed broadleaves and being managed towards a high forest state. This will have been achieved through a combination of actively planting native mixed broadleaves plus the removal of a proportion of sweet chestnut in individual stands and the thinning of stored chestnut which will allow these stands to diversify through natural regeneration. Remaining areas of pure sweet chestnut coppice will continue to be coppiced and linked to the wide ride habitat network.

Invasive trees and shrubs such as rhododendron will be absent, or at a level that does not impact on the site. Deer will be present but their numbers will have been monitored and control exercised, such that their effect on the woodland habitat is low enough to allow natural regeneration to become established on a continual basis and to grow.

Although the site will have retained its tranquil character, it will be visited by a moderate number of visitors each year who appreciate and respect walking in a wooded landscape with diverse habitats and archaeological features, along a well-maintained network of paths.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description
The areas of planted ancient woodland (PAWS) at Longbeech North pre 2012 extended to 74% (76.8ha) of the site. Conifer dominated areas now cover 46% (48.40ha) are found in sub compartments 1a, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1g, 1h, 2a, 2d, 2e, 2f and part of 3b. Areas previously of PAWS but not fully restored and now under mixed broadleaves cover 24% (24.67ha) are found in sub compartments 2b, 2c, 2g and part of 3b. Sub compartment 2g is being managed by minimal intervention. See sub compartment details and accompanying maps for further details. Planting of non-native conifer species (Douglas fir, Japanese larch, Norway spruce, and Corsican pine) occurred between 1955 and 1965 whilst owned or leased to the Forestry Commission. Subsequent restocking with 2nd rotation conifer crops occurred in 1985, 2002 and 2015 whilst the woodland was in private ownership. All conifer areas were thinned prior to Woodland Trust ownership. The 1st rotation conifer species were planted into chestnut coppice which was partially eradicated through herbicide treatments, however, sweet chestnut and other broadleaves species often survived or re invaded these conifer plantations as the conifers became established. Commercial management of the conifer areas prior to Woodland Trust ownership encouraged the development of even aged stands which eventually would have been clearfelled and then re stocked. Since Woodland Trust ownership, management of the conifer areas is now through continuous cover forestry (CCF) techniques. In 2012, visual symptoms of Phytophthora ramorum including dieback, resinous bleeds and lesions were found within several locations amongst Japanese larch plantations in cpts 2g and 3b. A Plant Health Notice was issued to the owner at the time and 28.3ha of Japanese larch was clear felled in the winter of 2012/2013 from the central part of Longbeech North. Restocking occurred in 2015/16 with a combination of pure broadleaves, also in 3 separate deer fenced areas containing mixtures of Douglas fir with mixed native broadleaves as well as leaving areas to naturally regenerate. This was completed prior to the sale of the woodland to the Woodland Trust and with it a legacy to comply with the grant specification. The PAWS areas, like the whole site, are situated on acidic clay with flints and would normally support a ground flora vegetation community of NVC (National Vegetation Classification) W10; oak woodland with bramble and bracken. Instead, the ground flora is dominated by bramble with a scattering of bluebell plants under the conifers. A small area of W8, ash-field maple-dogs mercury woodland is present at the northeast end of the site where the soils are thinner on the shallow slopes of the dry valley. Ancient woodland flora appears seriously depleted from many of the PAWS areas, although bluebell is well represented under the mid rotation larch areas and occasional examples of herb paris, wood sorrel, yellow archangel and dogs mercury. Compartments in the north (1b, 1d, 1e, 1h) have partly retained a semi-natural ancient woodland component and support a mix of native trees and shrubs including hornbeam, field maple, ash, hazel and dogwood as well as invading sycamore and Norway maple. Compartment 3b supports a remnant heathland flora which presumably has germinated from buried seed during the 2013 clear fell process. Plants occurring here include ling, heath milkwort, lousewort and pill sedge.

Regular point count surveys started in 2016 to build up baseline information on ground flora, invertebrates and bird communities. Surveys of the 3 deer fenced enclosures (in parts of cpts.2d and 3b part) recorded 85 species of plants in spite of the harsh ground preparation each area was subjected to. Of these, eight are classed as ancient woodland indicator species: wild service tree, bluebell, creeping soft grass, slender St. Johns wort, field maple, hornbeam, greater burnet-saxifrage and yellow pimpernel. A total of 129 plant species were recorded across the wider site, with 15 ancient woodland indicators present, the most important being herb paris found in cpt.1d.

42 bird species have been recorded during surveys of PAWS areas since 2016. Of these 13 species are on the Red List of bird species of conservation concern: lesser spotted woodpecker, cuckoo, hawfinch, marsh tit, mistle thrush, song thrush, skylark, tree pipit, linnet, lesser redpoll, nightingale, turtle dove and yellowhammer; 6 species are on the amber list: nightjar, bullfinch, dunnock, house martin, tawny owl and willow warbler. BTO have established woodcock monitoring point in the central part of Longbeech North.

Permanent monitoring plots for mensuration and wildlife have been established in cpt.2e to enable a comparison with a similar PAWS management area at the Woodland Trusts Fingle Wood site in Devon. The results will provide data on the response by ground flora, birds and invertebrates to CCF conversion of a mid rotation commercial conifer (Douglas fir) plantation.

There are a number of significant rides adjacent to areas of PAWS which since 2017 have been managed as wide ride habitats, resulting in a ride network that is largely well lit.

4 deer exclusion structures were installed in 2020 in cpts.1c,1g and 2e to help monitor the impacts of deer browsing.

Significance

Given the site's prominence within a protected landscape and as a significant PAWS site in the SE of England, Longbeech North will be used to demonstrate best practice in our approach to Ancient Woodland Restoration (AWR) in the South East. Up until 2016, Longbeech North was a typical commercial PAWS site within the Kent Downs AONB with a range of different even aged conifer stands with a plan to restore to broadleaves through clear felling the conifers followed by replanting with mixed conifer/broadleaved stands. A significant approach at Longbeech North will be to demonstrate a more sympathetic and resilient method of restoration with measured outputs for financial and wildlife values which will be made publicly available.

Restoring PAWS by encouraging the increase in site native species is a key national objective for the Woodland Trust thereby increasing the area of native broadleaved ancient woodland.

Longbeech North is part of a significant and much larger predominately PAWS site called Longbeech Wood whose area extends to approximately 342.06ha. Longbeech North contains the most commercially managed PAWS plantations within this complex. The restoration process will therefore be a significant habitat gain for Longbeech Wood as a whole.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
- to use the varied PAWS compartments to demonstrate and monitor the process of restoring the ecological integrity of plantation ancient woodland through the transformation of even-aged stands to continuous cover forestry.
- to show that woodlands or systems with greater genetic, species and structural diversity are likely to be more resilient.
- as a Demonstration site Longbeech North will help convey the principles of PAWS restoration to the Forest Industry and landowners in the southeast.
- to demonstrate how even aged commercial stands can increase their ecological resilience by following the principles set out in the Woodland Trusts Ancient Woodland Restoration (AWR) Module guides 4 and 5 and to measure the response of wildlife during the conversion process to Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) through monitoring and surveying in particular using the permanent sample plots in cpt.2e. This will provide a gap in our knowledge of how wildlife (birds, invertebrates and ground flora) react to the silvicultural interventions in a measured way.
- to provide in the long term a number of permanent open space/open wooded habitats/glades to add to the dynamism of the site particularly as many of the current restock areas mature and grow up and the site becomes "darker".

Constraints:
- the clay soils which become especially wet in winter make extraction and harvesting of timber problematic and make some of the taller and denser conifer stands more prone to windblow.
- the European Protected Species status of dormouse, which are assumed to be present (but presence will be established) and breeding Schedule 1 birds could further restrict the seasons in which active management work can be accomplished.

Factors Causing Change

Deer browsing: a 5-yearly herbivore impact assessments and interim deer impact assessments will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the annual culling programme.
Ash dieback: Ash dieback fungus identified on site since 2016 will have a long term effect on the wood through killing ash trees, although ash forms a very minor component within the canopy.
Other potential tree diseases eg sweet chestnut blight, ink disease (Phytophthora spp), oak decline: monitoring of tree diseases through the woodland condition assessment and PAWS assessment.
Grey squirrel damage: damage to potential timber trees particularly broadleaves will seriously reduce the commercial value of individual trees should damage become wide spread and endemic. Damage to be monitored during the plan period to gauge whether any action is required.
Ips typographus: potential threat in the SE England for this bark beetle to colonise Norway spruce which is a notifiable pest.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To secure and enhance the ancient woodland components of the site; aim to achieve a resilient woodland with structural diversity containing the following distinct and well represented areas (using the Module 4 and 5 AWR guides):
- All PAWS areas are restored so that the canopy of each PAWS area is predominately native broadleaves and all ancient woodland remnants are secure and expanding in area;
- Conversion of all PAWS areas to CCF stands are stable and continue to develop greater structural complexity without compromising remnant features. Use of selective and variable density thinning techniques will have helped to create structural complexity across the woodland which will benefit the ecosystem recovery.
- A managed wide ride network.

- Once stands of PAWS have been restored, a matrix of denser groves or areas to be left to develop through natural processes amongst more managed areas so that the conditions and processes associated with lower light levels and higher humidity are allowed to exist.
- To demonstrate how even aged commercial stands can increase their ecological resilience and to measure the response of wildlife during the conversion process to CCF by monitoring and surveying. This will provide a gap in our knowledge of how wildlife (birds, invertebrates and ground flora) react to the silvicultural interventions in a measured way.
- To demonstrate how to set in place processes and operations which will lead to features which maximise ecological integrity.
- To provide permanent open space/open wooded habitats/glades to add to the dynamism of the site particularly as many of the current restock areas mature and grow up and the site becomes “darker”.

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

This section should be read in conjunction with the PAWS assessment and strategy maps.

All mid rotation aged conifer areas totaling 30.95ha in cpts.1a, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1g, 1h, 2a, 2e and 2f are selectively thinned as part of the conversion to a continuous cover system on a 3-5 year cycle. Interventions planned for 2024, 2025, 2027, see work programme for details. “Critical” PAWS area identified in 2021 PAWS assessment in cpt.1a to be incorporated into the restoration thinning. Between the planned thinning interventions the removal of windblown/storm damaged Norway spruce to occur annually to prevent the build up of any potential material suitable for ips typographus.

Encouraging the increase in site-native broadleaved species in conifer-dominated stands through regular thinning operations to allow natural regeneration to become established in the understorey. In order to increase the range of native broadleaved species present, underplanting of species of tree and woody shrubs not present along with any associated maintenance will occur under the gaps in the canopy. Species to be planted following a thinning intervention include small leaved lime, hornbeam, field maple, wild cherry, hazel and oak as follows: cpts.2e 2023; cpt.2f in 2024, cpts.1a, 1g and 2f in 2025.

To maintain restocked areas in cpts.2c, 2e and 3b by removing competing vegetation from around planted trees in 2023 and 2024; replacing dead trees in restock areas in cpt.2c and 2e during 2023.

To start creating features to maximise ecological integrity:
- create dead standing timber by ring barking Japanese larch in approximately 0.4ha in cpt.1c as part of the conversion to a continuous cover system during the interventions planned in 2024 and 2027; ring barking DF in northeast part of cpt.1a in 2023.
- in 2023, to select for retention and permanent retention "legacy" trees of broadleaved species in cpts.1a, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2e, 2f at up to 5 trees per hectare if present in sufficient quantities. Selected trees to be marked and mapped and halo thinned around during conifer thinning works.
- to leave to become deadwood in whole tree lengths approximately 1 in 20 felled Douglas fir in cpts.1d, 2e, 2f and Japanese larch in cpts.1e and 2a during each thinning intervention.
- to create in 2024 a permanent open glade in cpt. 3b to the east of the main track extending back up to 30 metres from the track (subject to felling licence approval) by felling trees and understorey. To maintain as an open glade through cut and collect operations in 2025, 2026, 2027.

Using 2no. fixed point positions to monitor the changes in ground flora, bird and invertebrate communities within 2e. Surveys to occur 3 yearly with the next survey due in 2025.

Use 16no. fixed point photography points to monitor the changes to the PAWS stands. Photos to be taken 3 yearly with 2 sets taken per year, one in spring and one in autumn. Next series of photos to be taken in 2025.

25no. fixed-point mensuration sample plots in cpt.2e: to survey 3 yearly with the next survey due in 2025.

To monitor deer impacts through 5-yearly herbivore impact assessments.

Repeat PAWS assessment in 2027.

4.2 f2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

The areas of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) at Longbeech North extend to 29% (30.75ha) of the site and are contained within cpts.1b, 1f and 3a. These are the areas which were not converted to conifer plantations in the 20th century but had been converted to sweet chestnut in the mid19th century possibly between 1855 and 1860. Prior to this date the ASNW contained mixed broadleaves which most likely would have been hornbeam, ash, oak and hazel and had been managed by coppicing since the early medieval period.

Since the conversion of the ASNW areas to sweet chestnut, it has continued to be managed for its coppice products on regular rotations.
The ASNW areas, like the whole site, are situated on acidic clay with flints over chalk and would normally support a ground flora vegetation community of NVC (National Vegetation Community) W10, oak woodland with bramble and bracken. In reality, the ground flora is dominated by bluebell and bramble under the chestnut with little in the way of specialist plant communities, except for the presence of greater stitchwort, lords and ladies and wood sorrel along ride edges.

There are a number of significant rides which pass through the blocks of sweet chestnut coppice and since 2017 their edges have been managed as part of a wide ride habitat as short rotation coppice.

Throughout the ASNW there are relic historical features such as chalk pits, shallow quarrying sites and ancient boundaries or woodbanks including what is thought to be a Saxon aged boundary through part of cpt.1f.

Significance

Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) is a dwindling and irreplaceable habitat and as such all remnants of ancient woodland needs to be protected from further loss. On the North Downs the ASNW areas are predominantly within an intensive farmed (arable) landscape, with little habitat connectivity.
Protection of ASNW is a key objective of the Woodland Trust.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
To restore a proportion of the monoculture sweet chestnut into mixed broadleaved stands so that their resilience in combating disease threatening sweet chestnut is improved.

Factors Causing Change

Deer browsing: a 5-yearly herbivore impact assessments and interim deer impact assessments will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the annual culling programme.

Ash dieback: Ash dieback fungus identified on site since 2016 will have a long term effect on the wood through killing ash trees, although ash forms a very minor component within the canopy.

Other potential tree diseases eg sweet chestnut blight, ink disease (Phytophthora spp), oak decline: monitoring of tree diseases through the woodland condition assessment and PAWS assessment.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term objective is to achieve a resilient habitat and structural diversity. There will be a mosaic of actively coppiced areas of sweet chestnut containing oak and stored sweet chestnut stems as standards which will eventually become veteran trees. Over at least 15ha there will be areas of stored sweet chestnut coppice being thinned to a high forest structure. Linking up the active coppice and restored high forest areas will be a wide ride habitat centred on some of the main tracks whose edges are coppiced on a short rotation. Minimal intervention areas will also be left to develop by natural processes (legacy groves).

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

The short term objective is to contribute towards the creation/ maintenance of structurally diverse woodland within a resilient habitat and to set up a demonstration study of diversifying areas of pure sweet chestnut.
This will be achieved by:

- Coppicing
Approximately 4.99 ha of sweet chestnut coppice is to be felled in cpts.1f during 2023 with successful regrowth of cut stools.

- Diversifying monoculture sweet chestnut
To begin the trial conversion to high forest of approximately 2.0ha of sweet chestnut in cpt.1f by a selective thinning operation in 2025 and a long term reduction of sweet chestnut from within the trial area with underplanting of native mixed broadleaves in 2025.
Within the conversion area and a control area, set up 3-yearly transect monitoring of bird, vegetation and invertebrates to see how the different structures and compositions influences biodiversity. Surveys to start in 2026.

- Ride edge management (for whole site)
Maintain the 3 zone wide ride habitat along approximately 5.0km of selected rides through cyclical cutting with zone 1 areas cut annually, zone 2 areas cut on a rotation of 3-5 years, and zone 3 areas cut on a rotation of 10-12 years, and all cut in a piecemeal fashion.

- To monitor deer impacts through 5-yearly herbivore impact assessments.

- Repeat Woodland Trust woodland conditional assessment in 2027 to inform next management plan review.

4.3 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Longbeech North is classified by The Woodland Trust as a category A site, where we are expecting a high level of public access (15-20 visitors using one entrance every day). As a Demonstration Site, Longbeech North will also be important for demonstrating our planted ancient woodland restoration techniques and chestnut diversification study to landowners, foresters and to other professional members of the timber industry.
Longbeech North has a mainly flat topography with a small dry valley running north east through the site. The paths could become muddy with high use during the wet winter months although parts of the path network have a rough stone surface. The main views through the site from Monkery Lane are of conifer plantations and sweet chestnut coppice, with long straight tracks leading off into the wood. Other neighbouring parts of Longbeech Wood are privately owned with much of it lotted up.

Public Engagement
The public has access to the wood from 4 main formal access points off Monkery Lane, 2 access points on the bridleway way at the north end of the site and 1 access point from the Wagon and Horses pub. The main Woodland Trust parking area is at the westernmost gate off Monkery Lane where there is our standard welcome panel. Public access infrastructure was installed in autumn 2017 along with an improved parking area in 2018. All the entrances lead the visitor onto an extensive path network through Longbeech North totaling approximately 6.4km (4.0 miles). Each entrance has a small standard freestanding wooden welcome sign giving visitors the confidence that they are in the right place. Longbeech North is a well-used site by visitors from the surrounding villages of Charing (pop 2,766) and Challock (pop 920) which are within 3.2km (2 miles) of the site and from other villages further afield.

Forest Industry engagement
As an aid to providing information to Forest Industry personnel, we have developed a self-guided route to demonstrate the management intervention approach we are implementing. The Restoration Route (2.4km) has eight examples of the restoration work taking place at the site and starts from the main Woodland Trust car park. The route is featured on the Woodland Trust website with an interactive map giving further details about the eight stops which is updated following any changes to the descriptions. There will be further developments during this plan period of how information is shared with the public. Once on site, visitors will be able to see the extent of the conifers planted on this ancient woodland site and how these areas are being restored.

Events
As a Demonstration Site Longbeech North is available to host events relating to ancient woodland restoration when required.

Volunteers
Opportunities for engaging volunteers to help monitor the site will continue.

Other Woodland Trust sites in the area are: Park Wood near Chilham 7.4km (4.6 miles) and Dering Wood 12 km (7.5 miles) from Longbeech North.

Significance

Public access to this woodland helps fulfil some of the Woodland Trust's corporate objectives such as to 'connect with urban audiences, engaging with potential supporters and protecting ancient woodland and restoring whole landscapes'. Public access enables the visitors to see an important planted ancient woodland site which is also a Woodland Trust Demonstration site and gives an opportunity for the Woodland Trust to promote the message of ancient woodland habitats and the importance of its protection and restoration. A significant part of the Longbeech Wood complex is privately owned and lotted into small areas and these contain similar tree species and conditions as Longbeech North. There will be opportunities to engage and provide advice and help with woodland management within the neighbouring woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
This is a large woodland site with the potential to attract a wide group of visitors but the two main groups are those who visit to learn about demonstration and the local community.

The facilities offered by the Wagon and Horses pub adjacent to the site are a great asset for Longbeech North and through advertising events at the pub will widen the audience who learn about the Woodland Trust and what the Woodland Trust can offer.

Constraints:
- The clay with flint soil tends to make winter walking muddy and slippery on well used paths.
- Some parts of the permissive path network contain slopes down into and out of the dry valley.
- A small section of the permissive paths has a rough stone surface which makes wider wheel chair access difficult.
- Monkery Lane is a single track lane from which access to the wood is gained. A high volume of cars at peak times of the year or events could be a problem with limited passing spaces along the lane.
- Ashford Borough Council placed an Article 4 Order on this site in 2006 to prevent the site being easily lotted and similarly to inhibit subsequent development. Planning permission was therefore required from Ashford Borough Council (and received in July 2017) to install all public access infrastructure, signs and all site entranceway improvements referred to in this document. Any additional requirements which may be needed in future years will also be subject to planning permission approval.

Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping - Monkery Lane is a quiet secluded lane and has attracted fly tipping in the past in gateways into the wood.
Anti-social behaviour - such as motorbikes and quads could try to gain access to the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A well established and safe network of paths for informal public access throughout Longbeech North where responsible visitors can appreciate and respect this wood with its different habitats, archaeology and wildlife interest. Its key role as a Demonstration Site will remain like this for many decades as the restoration process takes place.

The visitor numbers to be in line with its category A status with provision for parking on site in a small parking area. The provision of way marked routes, interpretation structures, and information boards to be available on site if required.

The site will still contain many more large trees and active coppicing and forest management will be regularly taking place, helping to engage visitors with active woodland management.

The large open areas created by the 2012 sanitation felling will have established mixed woodland habitats, showing visitors how woodland habitats change over time.

Volunteering opportunities will still be relevant and important in helping to monitor the changes through the restoration process.

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

During this plan period, the short term objective is to provide public access at Longbeech North which is safe and enjoyable and also to provide site based information accessible to Forest Industry professionals. How this will be achieved:

- Path mowing
All rides and paths within the site 6.4km (4.0 miles) will be maintained annually through an appropriate cutting regime. For the plan period two cuts, in June and September, are proposed with the September cut including ride verges.

- Public access entrance furniture and facilities
To provide and maintain secure site entrances which are accessible to the public via all access infrastructure next to metal lockable vehicle barriers at the 4 formal access point off Monkery Lane. An annual maintenance programme of cutting back vegetation at each of these 4 entrances will occur.
All site infrastructure and signs will be inspected annually and any remedial work undertaken in the appropriate timescale.
To provide safe parking off Monkery Lane at the westernmost gateway for approximately 5-6 cars by maintaining the area of hard standing as a parking area. An annual maintenance programme will include vegetation control and litter clearance as necessary coinciding with the path cuts. The need for any surfacing repairs will be assessed annually.

- Tree safety
Annual Zone A tree safety inspection. A fungal survey is to be carried out once in every 24 month period in the autumn with a summer survey in between to check trees' crowns.
Zone B tree safety inspections are to be carried out biennially. Arboriculture work to be carried out when necessary.
Coppicing and felling of ash rich field/woodland boundary in cpts.1a,1b and 2e to remove dead and dying trees with work planned in 2023 and follow up in 2024 and 2025 if required.

- Site boundary management
Woodland vegetation to be cut annually along the edge of Monkey Lane to achieve a minimum height clearance above the full width of the highway to 5.1m.

- Demonstration events
To host one on-site training event a year relating to ancient woodland restoration.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	4.13	Norway spruce	1985	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 3 and 4 NS/CP/DF plantation, (NS and CP P'85 and DF P'2002) with high broadleaved content of mostly birch, hornbeam and sweet chestnut. hazel and goad willow. Main conifer dominated areas were thinned in 2018 and 2021. Where light levels permit ancient woodland ground flora is very sparse with bluebell the most obvious plant present plus bramble. Very little tree regeneration present.						
1b	3.74	Hornbeam	1900	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Previously PAWS and now a restored ANSW of a mix of hornbeam and birch containing some which have been coppiced plus single stem trees originating through natural regeneration. Rich ground flora with dog's mercury, wood anemones and bluebells present. This sub compartment contains a plateau position with deeper soils and a valley side position where the chalk is more exposed and allows a slightly different ground flora mix. A large historic quarry/hole is situated in the northeast corner of this sub compartment.						
1c	4.64	Japanese larch	1965	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 8 P'65 JL plantation, well stocked and line thinned as well as selectively thinned in 2018 and 2021,(earmarked for clear felling by previous owner). There is a significant broadleaved content in the southern part of this zone but mostly in the sub canopy and mainly birch and hornbeam. Some hazel found in the understorey but no evidence of tree regeneration. Bluebell present and covers most of the zone thinly along with some moss and fern species; bramble almost absent in southern part but dominant with bracken in the northern part of the PAWS zone. Along the track edge on the north western side there are more ground flora species like wood sage, fern and yellow archangel although rare. Deer tracks are very evident through this zone. There is a wood bank along southeast boundary. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has a slope down to the northwest.						
1d	3.42	Douglas fir	1950	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 9 P''50 DF plantation with substantial broadleaved sub canopy dominated by hornbeam and birch but with sycamore, Norway maple, ash, wild cherry and field maple and the occasional spindle tree present. On the north side of the valley the broadleaves have been left to grow and are in the sub canopy; on the south side of the valley the broadleaves have been coppiced or felled in 2012/13 and are less obvious. DF is well spaced but forms the dominant canopy. A respacing of the well stocked DF areas were thinned in 2021. This zone is situated on the north and south sides of a shallow valley with a short steep slope. Ground flora is rich (compared to elsewhere at Longbeech North) with common dog-violet, wood sorrel and wood anemone present in isolated places with moss. Dogs mercury and bluebell are well represented but scattered through this zone, but less obvious on the south side of the valley. A consequence of the broadleaves being felled on the south side are that light levels are higher and therefore bramble dominates the ground flora being knee high. Wood sage, Wood sorrel and fern species are found towards the valley						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
bottom. Bramble is present but rare in the valley bottom. No tree regeneration present. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has a short and steep slope up to the north.						
1e	3.13	Japanese larch	1960	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 10 P''60 JL plantation with sweet chestnut coppice understorey with the occasional hornbeam and hazel coppice stool and single stem birch, beech and Norway maple. Previously thinned pre WT ownership and thinned last in 2021. Ground flora of bramble with bluebell existing under it, with bracken appearing under gaps in the canopy. Fern species and wood sage appears along the east side of zone. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has a slight slope down on its eastern side.						
1f	17.72	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Sweet chestnut coppice with scattered oak and sweet chestnut standards. Large even aged cants of sweet chestnut all in rotation and approximately 3-22 years old. Approximately 1.4ha was felled in 2019. Retained standards of oak are rare and are not of significant size of age; sweet chestnut standards where present are recruits from previous coppice rotation so are 35-40 years old and most of them are situated in the north of this sub compartment. Bramble is the main ground flora with bluebell. A wood bank runs along the western side of this sub compartment parallel to the boundary with cpt.1c. A probable saw pit location has been identified near the south west boundary opposite cpt.2g.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1g	4.24	Norway spruce	1965	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 12, 13a and 13b. The main part contains P'65 NS plantation which is well stocked and line and selectively thinned in the past, and nearing maturity (due to be clear felled in 2017 by previous owner). Broadleaves almost absent within the central and southern parts. In the north and western parts of this zone birch and sweet chestnut coppice and singled stems make up the canopy with the occasional NS. Bramble is dominant across this zone although no more than knee high with bracken appearing under gaps in the canopy. Bluebell is occasionally seen but critical under the bramble; some fern species and moss occur too. Tree regeneration not widespread and very localised. Deer tracks can be seen through this sub compartment and along neighbouring rides. A small area of P'65 JL (0.4ha) plantation with a sub canopy of sweet chestnut, birch and hornbeam but dominated by sweet chestnut is located in the extreme north east of this sub compartment. Bramble is knee high across the zone with bluebell present under the bramble but threatened. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has a no slope.						
1h	4.1	Norway spruce	1965	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 11. Poorly stocked P'65 NS plantation south of bridleway path. This zone is situated in a shallow valley running north-south, and the NS has probably suffered wind blow damage in the past. This zone contains areas where the canopy is dominated by NS (last thinned in 2021), but the majority of the zone is an open matrix of small open areas dominated by bramble/bracken with birch regenerating within them, alongside areas of older hornbeam and birch coppice with the occasional singled stem of sweet chestnut. Under the thicker broadleaved areas bluebell and wood						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
sage are dominant and fern species appear; yellow archangel appearing on the edge of the bridleway. Open glades are dominated by bramble with some bracken, willow herb and elder. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has a slight slope up from the valley both to the northwest and northeast. A large historic quarry/hole is situated in the northeast corner of this sub compartment, as is a chalk hole just beyond our woodland boundary.						
2a	2.2	Japanese larch	1985	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 5. P'85 JL plantation which is well stocked and has been lined thinned 1 in 5 and selectively thinned at least once pre WT ownership and recently thinned in 2018 and 2021. Also contains significant amount of broadleaves - birch and sweet chestnut with some hazel and hornbeam as a sub canopy with the occasional sweet chestnut in the canopy. Extraction racks are knee high in bramble with some fern and foxglove present. Between the racks bramble is less dominant and bluebell and wood sage are present. No young tree regeneration seen. Strip of approx.10m wide along the edge of Monkery Lane contains the original broadleaved coppice stand type of sweet chestnut, birch and hornbeam. A small shallow quarry or hollow is situated on the north eastern edge which contains 100% mixed broadleaved coppice of hornbeam, birch and sweet chestnut. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has no slope to it.						
2b	5.36	Sweet chestnut	2013	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 6. Previously a P'85 JL plantation with chestnut coppice, but clear felled in 2013. Very scattered sweet chestnut						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
standards have been left of P'85 origin. Stand now consists of regenerating coppice stools of sweet chestnut with occasional hornbeam, hazel and sycamore. Between these stools is a mass of seedlings of birch, larch, goat willow but birch is the dominant species. Bramble was the dominate vegetation pre canopy closure but has largely been shaded out since 2018/19. Other ground vegetation is now becoming shaded too such as common rush, broom, fox glove, wood sage, fern and bluebell which is "rare". Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has no slope to it.						
2c	4.24	Silver birch	1985	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 7. Remnant of plantation crop type; previously a P'85 JL/DF plantation with an extensive broadleaved component of similar age, but all conifer removed in 2013 (apart from one small area). Broadleaves were retained with mature coppice stems forming > 75% of the canopy with sweet chestnut mainly and some hornbeam, and singled stems of sweet chestnut, oak and birch. Under stocked areas between the coppice stools are knee high or less with bramble. Bluebell remains under the bramble with some fern, and fox glove along the track edge. 3no significant large open areas remain which are dominated by bracken, bramble and willow herb with scarce tree cover. Within these open areas you will find some young hazel coppice and birch regeneration, and bluebells hanging on under this dense weed growth. Approximately 1.0ha of mainly sweet chestnut with some birch and oak was coppiced in 2021 and gapped up with mixed broadleaved species. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has no slope to it.						
2d	3.99	Pedunculate/common oak	2016	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
PAWS Zone: 19. Larch clear felled in 2013; ground preparation pre re stocking carried out by previous owner consisted of mulching lop and top and all stumps. Following mulching area was deer fenced and then planted in Dec'15/Jan'16 with 50% DF and 50% oak and sweet chestnut. In winter of 16/17, beating up operation reduced the percentage of sweet chestnut by replacing with hornbeam, pedunculate oak, yew, rowan and small leaved lime.						
2e	5.35	Douglas fir	1985	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 2. P'85 DF plantation is well stocked and split either side of main track through the middle. 1 in 5 line and selectively thinned pre WT ownership and last thinned in 2018 and 2021. SE of the track there is the occasional birch, hazel and chestnut stem which is in the sub canopy. Seedling tree regeneration of birch, hornbeam and DF are present but rare and mostly on the edge of the racks. NW of the track the amount of broadleaves in the sub canopy and within the canopy with DF is much greater although most of the broadleaves are similar in age. Bramble is the dominant species present. Other species present in the ground flora are: foxglove, wood sage and broom is found along the south eastern edge too. Under the bramble is a well-developed grass sward. Between the racks under the DF light conditions are poor and as a result there is little ground flora present apart from some bramble and moss and isolated patches of bluebell under areas of broadleaves in the sub canopy. NW of the track the ground flora, takes on a more ancient woodland appearance to the flora with no grass present, a substantial moss layer, bluebells, fern species and wood-sorrel. The track edge of this plantation in the valley bottom on the south eastern side has suffered small pockets of wind blow extending up to 20m in places into the plantation. The resulting increase in light has caused a similar ground flora to develop as within the plantation racks. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has a moderate slope down towards the south east. Underplanting with hazel, hornbeam, small leaved lime and oak occurred in 2021 and 2023.						
2f	7.14	Douglas fir	1965	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 1. P'65 DF plantation, thinned multiple times pre WT ownership and last thinned in 2021 and also contains singled coppice stems of sweet chestnut and a few oak. These broadleaved stems are scattered through the sub compartment with a greater concentration of them in the centre where the DF has been completely removed by thinning. In the gaps under the canopy following tree removals there is a developing understorey of mixed broadleaved tree regeneration showing a range of heights and DF regeneration which is all mostly of a similar height (less than 2m). Tree regeneration is scattered through this zone, although there are areas where there is no regeneration. Bramble is knee deep across most of this zone. Bluebell is present under the bramble, but no other ancient woodland remnant seen. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has a moderate slope down towards the north west. In 2020 pre thinning the standing volume of conifer was 210m3; for broadleaves (sweet chestnut) was 120m3. Basal area for conifer was 16.12m2; for broadleaves (sweet chestnut) was 12.77m2. Average tree volume for conifer (Douglas fir) 3.1m3; yield class 18.						
2g	6.68	Birch (downy/silver)	1985	Min-intervention		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zone: 20a and 21a. Larch removed during 2013 to leave the remnant mixed broadleaves consisting mainly of sweet chestnut, birch and some hazel. North west side of this sub compartment contains less broadleaves and a higher amount of bracken infested open areas with regenerating birch; the south east side contains a predominately closed canopy woodland of birch, sweet chestnut and some oak with a bramble and bluebell ground flora. Soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. This zone has a moderate slope down towards the north west. A wood bank cuts through the north east corner of this sub compartment - the same feature as seen in cpt.1f. PAWS restoration was carried out by previous owner through a combination of clear felling areas and removal by						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
thinning of Japanese larch due to phytophthora ramorum. This removed the threat of conifers from this area but created the developing high forest and open areas as a misguided PAWS restoration technique. Future management to be through minimal intervention.						
3a	8.99	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Sweet chestnut coppice with scattered oak standards and newly recruited sweet chestnut stems. Large even aged cants of sweet chestnut all in rotation and approximately 1-5 years old. Retained standards of oak are rare and are not of significant size of age. Bramble is the main ground flora with bluebell.						
3b	14.79	Silver birch	2016	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
PAWS Zones: 15, 16, 17, 18. A large restock area following the clear felling of phytopthora infected larch in 2013. Ground preparation and re stocking was carried out by the previous owner as follows: East of main track: 2.6ha at the northern tip was felled, and stumps of sweet chestnut allowed to regenerate along with natural regeneration of birch, willow and some hornbeam; Remainder of area east of track had lop and top raked and burnt plus stumps mulched; 4.11 ha area on the eastern edge was deer fenced and then planted in Dec'15/Jan'16 with 50% DF and 50% oak and sweet chestnut. In winter of 16/17, beating up operation reduced the percentage of sweet chestnut by replacing with hornbeam, pedunculate oak, yew, rowan and small leaved lime. 1.92 ha area was restocked with mixed broadleaves in 1.5m high tree shelters at 3m x 3m spacing. Mixed broadleaves consisted of sweet chestnut, rowan, wild service, wild cherry, small leaved lime, birch and oak. West of main track: 2.46 ha area where the broadleaved stumps were allowed to re coppice following clear felling.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
This was then gapped up with mixed broadleaves in 1.5m high tree shelters at 3m x 3m spacing. Mixed broadleaves consisted of sweet chestnut, rowan, wild service, wild cherry, small leaved lime, birch and oak. 1.82 ha had the chipwood, lop and top and stumps all mulched to leave a thick layer of mulch prior to restocking. This was deer fenced and then planted in Dec'15/Jan'16 with 50% DF and 50% oak and sweet chestnut. In winter of 16/17, beating up operation reduced the percentage of sweet chestnut by replacing with hornbeam, pedunculate oak, yew, rowan and small leaved lime.						

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.

Registered Office:
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