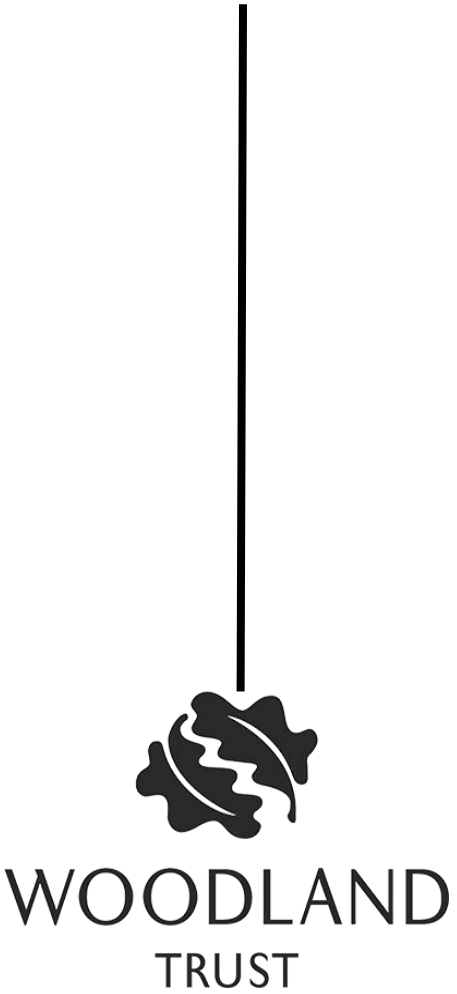
Philipshill Wood

(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

Philipshill Wood

Location:	Chorleywood Grid reference: TQ017954 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 176
Area:	31.43 hectares (77.67 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Philipshill Wood is a 31 hectare / 77 acre ancient woodland in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) approximately three quarters of a mile (1.1km) southwest of Chorleywood, and was purchased by the Woodland Trust in 1994. The geology is chalk, underlying typical brown earth soils, the terrain is steep in places with a maximum altitude of approximately 100 metres. The site is bordered to the east by a significant raised bank along Old Shire Lane, and the county boundary with Hertfordshire, and to the north by a path and to the south by a track. The site borders other woodland to the south, west and north and adjoins pastureland elsewhere.

'The extensively wooded and farmed Chilterns landscape is underlain by chalk bedrock that rises up from the London Basin to form a north-west facing escarpment offering long views over the adjacent vales. The countryside is a patchwork of mixed agriculture with woodland, set within hedged boundaries. Furthest from London, the natural and built features of the countryside are recognised as special and attractive in approximately half the National Character Area (NCA) by the designation of the Chilterns AONB. Outside the AONB there are major settlements that incorporate extensive urban fringe and growth areas, that including High Wycombe.' Natural England 2013, NCA Profile:110 Chilterns (NE406)

The woodland tree species include broadleaves of beech, silver birch, wild cherry, English oak, sallow, sycamore, hornbeam, ash, black poplar, rowan, Norway maple, southern beech, whitebeam and wild service. Planted conifers include; Scots pine, European & Japanese larch, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, Corsican pine and western hemlock. The woodland has been felled and replanted several times in its history with some of the oldest trees dating from the mid-1960s and the most recent planting taking place in 1991. Consequently, most of the trees are relatively young and almost half the woodland is comprised of beech, with the broadleaf/conifer component currently standing at around 65%/35% overall. Prior to this era the woodland was described as “pre 1901 beech with ash, oak and cherry”.

The woodland flora comprises a good range of ancient woodland indicator species including bluebell, common dog violet, common spotted orchid, wood speedwell as well as the uncommon green hellebore. Several other species of orchid grow on the woodland rides such as common spotted and twayblade, and white helleborine and birdsnest orchids have been identified growing in the shade of the young beech trees.

Phillipshill Wood has significant visible archaeological features, and evidence of previous use of the woodland include remains of two large earth-banked enclosures, quarries and sawpits. A prominent woodbank separates Old Shire Lane from the woodland, and at one location there is a sarsen stone, a glacial erratic placed on the county boundary and believed to have been worked between the 10th and 19th century.

The site is popular with many people who visit the woodland for quiet recreational activities on a daily basis and has some fine displays of bluebells in the spring. There is an active friends of Philipshill Wood volunteer group who have been involved since acquisition in 1994, and who have carried out important tasks such as path management, clearance of invasive species, guided walks, installation of nesting boxes and wildlife surveys. There is a site leaflet available showing a selection of walks available plus information on the site’s history and wildlife.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intentions for Philipshill Wood will seek to realise two of the Woodland Trust's three key aims:

- to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife
- to restore damaged ancient woodland

Ancient woodland is one of our most valuable terrestrial wildlife habitats, and in England is defined as woodland sites with evidence of continuous wooded cover since 1600 AD. Philipshill is a PAWS (a Planted Ancient Woodland Site), where in this case both conifers and broadleaves have been planted.

Restoration of PAWS provides the only opportunity to increase the area of ancient woodland with semi-natural characteristics. In general and in line with best restoration practice, the site will be gradually converted to predominantly native broadleaf woodland.

Practically this means that the conifer and broadleaf plantation component, where identified after assessment as a threat to diverse broadleaf regeneration and/or forming dense shade suppressing ground flora, will be gradually thinned. The aim is to achieve more semi-natural broadleaved conditions over time. In subsequent operations to thin stands to robust levels, (where the threat from plantation species to remnant features is minimal) the management will consider practice which may provide an economic return. A component of conifer of no more than 20% will be retained long-term to provide increased biodiversity and woodland resilience.

As the woodland matures, operational management will diversify the overall age and stand species structure. Some broadleaved trees will be left to reach old age and decline naturally. Deadwood, both standing and fallen will be maintained to provide important niche habitats within the wood, particularly for invertebrates and fungi, except if they pose a significant tree safety risk.

Observations will be carried out to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland. For example there should be no damaging invasive species present on the site, and the colonisation by ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) and other pests and diseases monitored and managed where necessary.

The public's enjoyment of the woodland will be enhanced by maintaining an accessible and safe network of paths and rides. Entrances, boundary fences, and benches will be maintained as necessary and the access provision will be monitored and provided.

The Woodland Trust will continue to support the significant contribution of the Woodland Working Group, and encourages and welcomes their continued support.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description
The woodland mostly comprises plantation beech with conifer 'nurse' crop, on an ancient woodland site. Felling and re-planting took place in nine stages across the whole site from 1965 to 1991. Past management has ensured progressive removal of the conifer species, however the second stage thinning has been delayed. Conifers are present in compartments 2a, 2b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b and 4c and are of a uniform age structure within the compartments between 40-60 years old with some boardleaf understory comprising of beech, hornbeam, ash, oak and birch It is likely that the woodland would previously have been a mixed lowland wood, with beech, hornbeam, ash, oak and birch as the major species. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) is unclear due to the abundant planted beech but is likely to be NVC type W8a ash – field maple – dog's mercury on the plateau and W12 beech - dogs mercury in the valley bottom, with varying overlaps and sub communities within both types. Compartment 2b is secondary woodland which used to be pasture and has a slightly different mix of ground flora. The geology is chalk, with soils neutral on the plateau to base-rich on the lower slopes. There is evidence of long term management of the woodland with various archaeological features throughout including dells, sawpits and two large earth-banked enclosures.
Significance
Buckinghamshire is a county where 45% of ancient semi natural woodland has been lost since the Second World War with only 4000 ha remaining. Philipshill sits within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) is irreplaceable, and the amount in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. ASNW is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites, and a key aim of the Woodland Trust is to prevent any further loss of ancient woodland.
Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
There are some steep slopes into the dry valley on the western edge which are a challenge to forestry operations

Woodland archaeology is abundant and damage must be avoided during any forestry operations

Access is currently poor for timber extraction and haulage due to the degraded surface of 'Old Shire Lane'

Tawny Owl boxes can be found on site, see map, erected as part of a long term survey with a third party agreement. A consideration when planning harvesting operations.

Opportunities:

To use the site to demonstrate the Trust's approach to woodland restoration and to influence neighbouring landowners and other key stakeholders

Buckinghamshire Council proposition to maintain the surface of 'Old Shire Lane' via Section 106 funding scheme

Factors Causing Change

Squirrel / deer damage - deer damage has been assessed as medium' by the Herbivore Impact Assessment (HIA) carried out in 2021

Death of ash due to colonisation by ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) affecting 5% of the canopy trees is not being helped by thin chalk soils

Other pests and diseases - Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) has been positively identified at Chorley Wood Common 1.5 miles from Philipshill Wood.

Climate Change including an increase in drought conditions have caused additional stress to trees

Visitor impact/ commercial dog walking and increase in visitor number and dogs on site will affect the biodiversity found at Philipshill

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In the long term the PAWS areas within Phillipshill Wood should all be predominantly broadleaved in character, with all other major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition, including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, and a diverse deadwood component that will support a healthy population, of saproxylic invertebrates and fungi.

The resulting mixed stands (beech, oak, cherry, sycamore, birch, rowan being the most common species) of high forest will be being managed on a continuous cover silvicultural system (i.e with no clear-felling) to produce uneven-aged, self-regenerating stands of high conservation and amenity value.

Woodland rides will be managed to provide valuable open space , for herb rich grassland to thrive that support an array of invertebrates

Deer damage to the broadleaf trees will be monitored and action taken if the damage threatens acceptable regeneration levels.

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 threatened PAWS stands (conifer and beech) will be thinned selectively over the 5-year management plan period to secure and bolster remaining ancient woodland components: native broadleaved trees; ground flora; decaying wood habitats; archaeological features. In addition there will be a programme of ride management and deer control.

- Thin conifers, beech and southern beech in Subcpts 2a, 4a, 4b, 4c. Operations planned for 2024. Total work area approx. 11.6ha.

- Thin beech in Subcpts 3a, 3b & 3d. Operation planned for 2025. Work area approx. 8.5 ha.

- Ride management along Cpts 2a, 2b,4a, 4b & 4C by felling and coppicing to create scallops. Operations planned for 2023 and 2026. Total length approx. 900m.

- Deer impacts will be reduced from 'medium' to 'low' by 2027 by a programme of culling with approx. 10 visits per year by a certified wildlife controller. A repeat Herbivore Impact Assessment will be carried out in 2026.

- Annual summer monitoring for OPM (and other pests and diseases) will be carried out by Observatree volunteers during the plan period.

- A full Woodland Condition Assessment and PAWs assessment will be carried out in 2026 to inform the next management plan review

4.2 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Philipshill Wood is a WT access category B site a 'moderate usage site', with regular use where 5-15 people are using one entrance each day.

Chorleywood is the closest town and its train station are 1.5 miles from Old Shire Lane and Philipshill Wood and can be easily accessed on foot

The M25 is 1 mile away and the local road network meets up with Old Shire Lane adjacent to the site, however parking is not allowed on Old Shire Lane due to its designation as a public bridle way

There is an extensive network of nearly 3 miles of paths running through the site connecting with local public rights of way including the bridle way Old Shire Lane

The site is in daily use by visitors and local dog-walkers, and people passing through the woodland on longer journeys.

An information board near the entrance from Old Shire Lane and a site leaflet help to describe the history, management and future plans to visitors.

A long established avid group of volunteers 'Woodland Working Group' carry out practical conservation, ecological surveys and have lead guided walks throughout the years

Significance

The site provides a quiet area for walking and recreation for many people living within walking distance of the woodland.

Philipshill Wood sits on the southern edge of Chilterns AONB

Public footpaths link neighbouring woodland and pasture, as well as Shortenills Environmental Centre and the Chiltern Open Air Museum nearby.

One of the Woodland Trust's main objectives is the promotion of public access to, and enjoyment of, woodlands.

The site has a variety of habitats and historic features that can be used to engage the public, including children, in appreciating the landscape on a wider scale.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
It is illegal to park along the section of Old Shire Lane that runs to the southeast of the wood due to it being a 'public bridle way'

The terrain is steep in places and some of the paths difficult to navigate, particularly in adverse weather conditions.

Opportunities :
The area behind the double metal access gates can be opened for vehicle parking and for special events when dry.

To provide formal and quiet access opportunities to an ancient woodland with associated (and some rare) flora.

Factors Causing Change

Changes in vegetation along rides.

Climate Change

Visitor impact

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The paths will be kept safe for quiet, recreational pedestrian access to the woodland.

The site should be accessible and safe but not over-managed with excessive infrastructure and signage.

There should be a range of resources and walks available for the site to guide and inform all visitors from the young to the knowledgeable. To include site interpretation panel with QR code of further interpretation e.g online leaflet, waymarked routes and informative seasonal guided walks lead by volunteers who will be the key to WT engaging with the public and members on this site.,

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

- During the plan period the site will be managed to maintain and improve visitor access by annual ride mowing, safety inspections, improvements to infrastructure, volunteer engagement and events.

- Annual ride/path and entrance maintenance by mowing and strimming. Total length approx. 700m.

- All site infrastructure will be inspected annually and any remedial work undertaken in the appropriate timescale.

- Biennial Zone B tree safety inspections along maintained access routes.

- Fencing and gates along the internal bridle way will be removed if vandalism continues to be a problem. Natural materials from thinning work will be used to inhibit desire lines, along with appropriate signage. Assessment to be made 2023

- Improvements to fencing along Old Shire Lane: remove old barbed wire and replace with post and rail fencing. 200m annually 2023-26 .

- Two events will be run over the course of the plan to engage with dog walkers and commercial dog walking companies, to educate and make visitors aware of the impact their dogs have on wildlife and other visitors to the wood

- The volunteer Woodland Working Group will continue to support the management of the site as directed by the Site Manager. They will also support the WT Communications and Engagement team with events as requested.

- In the first year of the plan WT will work closely with Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire Councils PROW teams to carry out minimal remedial works to the section of 'Old Shire Lane' that allows WT maintenance access to Philipshill Wood and come up with a sustainable parking solution for visitors. Plan to be agreed by 2023.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	December
2023	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.	August
2023	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	August
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2023	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	October
2023	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	October
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2024	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	August
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2024	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	October

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	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
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,	May
2024	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	August
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	October
2025	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
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
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,	September
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	October

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	December
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	October

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5.24	Beech	1991	High forest	Archaeological features, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
A widely-spaced plantation of broadleaves planted in 1991. Planted tree species are oak, ash, beech, cherry and rowan with natural regenerating trees of birch, ash, beech and hornbeam. There are scrub areas comprising of gorse, bramble, bracken and honeysuckle. Grass and rush spp. grow in some damper areas, whilst in drier areas there are foxglove, bluebell, red campion and common vetch present. Marbled white butterfly has been previously recorded in this compartment.						
2a	1.74	Beech	1982	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
This is an area of plantation trees consisting of Corsican pine, oak, beech and Southern beech (Nothofagus procera). The planting was on a traditional 3x3m row mixture and was thinned in 2005 to reduce the Corsican pine and Scots pine element. There is a small colony of green hellebore (Helleborus viridis) at the western end of the compartment. The Friends of Group have created glades throughout the compartment and scalloped the ride edges. Ground flora such as foxglove has grown back in these lighter areas.						
2b	1.06	Beech	1982	High forest	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location,	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site
Dense area of broadleaved regeneration growing through what appears to be a failed Corsican pine/beech mixture. The regenerating trees are mostly ash and sycamore. The woodland ride has some interesting species of plants, including white hellebore, common spotted orchid, twayblade, bugle, sanicle, primrose, wild arum, St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum), wood vetch and violet (Viola riviniana). There is a dense understorey comprising of hazel, dogwood, spindle and holly, with climbing plants like clematis, black byrony, and ivy. This area appears to have once been a field which became woodland through tree planting or natural regeneration because it is not shown as woodland on the early maps.						
3a	3.37	Beech	1965	High forest	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
This is a beech plantation which has had the conifer nurse completely removed. The area is 90% beech with some scattered oak, birch trees and holly. The ground flora consists of well-established drifts of bluebell with bramble around the plantation edge where there is more light. There is squirrel damage to the base of the beech trees. Birch is prominent along the plantation edge. Thinned in 2019, could require further thin to allow more light in as the canopy has closed up.						
3b	3.6	Beech	1966	High forest	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
This compartment was thinned in 2003 when the conifer nurse crop was 90% removed to create space for the beech to grow and develop. This was originally planted as a 3x3m row mixture. The ground flora is sparse and consists of mostly bluebell, holly and wood sorrel with abundant bramble in areas that have been thinned. There is significant squirrel damage to the base and in crowns of some of the beech trees.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
3c	1.6	Beech	1966	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
This area is a mix of broadleaves and conifers including beech, Norway maple, Scots pine and Norway Spruce. The ground flora is sparse due to the dense shading from conifers. Thinning took place in 2004 in the hardwoods and a proportion of the conifer was line thinned to open the canopy.						
3d	2.75	Beech	1970	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt
Mixture of beech and larch. Some of the larch were thinned in 2004 as a line thin. The larch now stands 50% taller than the beech, causing it to become unstable. The larch is good quality and could produce sawlogs when removed. The understorey is sparse and consists of wood sorrel and bluebell. The beech is of poor quality and has suffered from being suppressed by the larch and there is some squirrel damage.						
4a	3.71	Beech	1973	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Area of mostly western hemlock, with some Douglas fir on the west side of the plantation and some rows of beech. The western hemlock trees have grown well but have almost suppressed the hardwoods. 50% of the hemlock trees were removed in 2001. This has allowed more light to the woodland floor which has encouraged natural regeneration of birch and young western hemlock, as well as foxgloves and wood sorrel.						
4b	5.93	Scots pine	1975	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, Site structure, location,	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
The sub-compartment contains 3X3m row mixtures of Scots pine, oak and beech. Two rows of Scots pine have already been removed from over 60% of the compartment. The understorey consists of hawthorn and holly and bracken covering about 30% of the ground. There is some squirrel damage to the hardwoods.						
4c	2.42	Oak (pedunculate)	1979	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Young pole stage mixture of beech, oak, cherry and southern beech with conifer nurse of Scots pine. The broadleaves take up slightly more than 50% of the area. The ground cover consists of bluebell and holly. The southern beech is showing signs of regenerating in areas where light has penetrated the canopy. This area received a line thin to waste of 33% of the conifer in 2001 and another line thin in 2006/07.						

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.