

# Ladywell Woods

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

## Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

## 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](http://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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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                                       | 5  |
| 2. Site Description                                   | 6  |
| 3. Long Term Policy                                   | 8  |
| 4. Key Features                                       |    |
| 4.1 f1 Connecting People to Woods and Trees           | 9  |
| 4.2 f2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin | 12 |
| Site Compartment Map                                  | 15 |
| Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions                 | 16 |
| GLOSSARY  | 19 |

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Ladywell Woods

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Location:              | Livingston Grid reference: NT047684 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 65            |
| Area:                  | 8.28 hectares (20.46 acres)   |
| External Designations: | Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin, Tree Preservation Order |
| Internal Designations: | Tree For All Site   |

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Ladywell Woods form part of the Woodland Trust's holding in Livingston, West Lothian. There are 4 distinct woodland blocks totalling about eight hectares in Ladywell, north of Harrysmuir path and centred on Inveralmond High School. All of the blocks are adjacent to residential areas, roads or playing fields. The site is divided into 7 sub-compartments- this is illustrated on the compartment map provided on page 16 for reference.

The geology of the area comprises fine-grained basic igneous rock to the east and sedimentary rock from the Carboniferous period to the west. Soils are derived from a glacial till of carboniferous sedimentary sandstones and shale. They are generally brown forest soils with gleying, of the Rowanhill association and are characterised by slowly permeable clayey horizons at varying depths between 40 and 80cm. This results in seasonally waterlogged soils in the flattest areas. The area is largely flat with an altitude of 130 - 140m above sea level. The climate of Livingston is described (by MLURI) as moist lowland and foothill with moderate exposure and moderate winters.

The Woodland Trust acquired Ladywell wood in 1996 along with 12 other sites in Livingston. This was from the Livingston Development Corporation. The woodland belts are also an important part of the infrastructure of Livingston providing screening and an attractive backdrop to the various residential developments. The belts also function as windbreaks and provide some barrier to noise. The woodlands provide good opportunities for local recreation and contain a number of informal paths and desire lines accessed from entrance points which link to the tarmac complex of Livingston's paths and Greenways. A number of tarmac paths, including the Loan Path, also pass through or run along the edges of the various woodland blocks. There is no on-site parking but parking is available in adjacent streets.

The majority of the current woodland area is shown as woodland on the OS map of the 1860s. Therefore, these woods are classified as Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO) on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. However, most of the area appears to have been felled and regenerated at least once since then, with only a small proportion of the canopy trees existing from around the start of the 20th century. The current woods are generally mixed plantations, comprising mature mixed broadleaves and Scots pine. In most of the woods there are significant areas which have been under planted with conifers (Scots pine, lodgepole pine, sitka spruce and larch). Elsewhere, broadleaves are regenerating naturally where there is sufficient light. Regenerating species include beech, rowan, downy birch, goat willow, sycamore and ash.

Due to past management, including grazing as farm woodlands, many of these woods are not abundant with a great diversity of floral species typical of semi-natural woodland. Under dense conifers there is very little vegetation whilst in open glades brambles and grasses prevail. In areas of dappled light, ferns, such as broad buckler are common.

The conservation value of most of the woodland blocks is limited by their relatively small size and high edge effect, combined with the presence of a high proportion of recently established non-native species. The larger woodland blocks have greater potential for improvement when restored to natural broadleaf woodland. Unfortunately, parts of this suffer regularly from litter, vandalism and fires.

Despite disturbance and the visual impact of litter, the woodlands are still important for local biodiversity as they represent small reserves of more natural vegetation within the built environment. Whilst larger mammals such as

deer are rarely seen, regular visitors include grey squirrels, a range of birds, smaller mammals and invertebrates benefit from the woodland cover.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

The woods will be managed as a sustainable natural resource to safeguard their public amenity and biodiversity value and in line with the Woodland Trust's corporate objectives of improving and enhancing biodiversity, encouraging public access and enhancing people's enjoyment of woodlands.

The long-term intention is to maintain these woodlands as a diverse mix of species, gradually removing non-native conifers and replacing them with native broadleaves. This will be achieved through natural regeneration of species but also planting native broadleaves in gaps if needed to retain a suitable under storey. Along housing and roadside boundaries the intention is to slowly convert woodland edges through small scale felling and thinning and replace edge trees with smaller stature species that reduce the conflict with neighbouring land uses. An increase in native tree species will help and support healthy ground flora communities and the retention of more standing and fallen deadwood will further improve the habitat for biodiversity and its potential for wildlife observation and educational use.

Due to the woods location within the central belt, and close proximity to large populations, these woods are an important resource for raising awareness of the biodiversity, recreation and health benefits that woodlands provide.



## 4.1 f1 Connecting People to Woods and Trees

### Description

With a population of over 57,000 (according to 2018 census), the woodland is a significant asset for Livingston, providing a valuable outdoor resource for the thriving local population in a highly urbanised area. Ladywell woods have high levels of public use (defined as WT Access Category A). Whilst there is no designated on-site parking there is usually ample spaces available in adjacent streets. However, the majority of users live locally and are visiting on-foot. Situated between housing and local schools, families and individuals take access through the woodlands for essential services and amenity. The site is also well used by dog-walkers.

The site is accessed through 17 entrance points across the 3 larger compartments with entrance improvements being completed in 2020. Ladywell Wood has approximately 1.72km of internal paths, moving through all compartments except 22b. The majority of paths are unsurfaced with a short section of brick path that also include streetlights in 21b. The paths are generally straight through or cross routes that link directly onto the Greenway and pavement network of Livingston. These also provide access to long distance routes and provide for shorter circular routes using soft and surfaced paths.

Each compartment is surrounding by roads and housing as well as above and underground services. Most recently, additional housing development to the north of compartment 21c, Scott Brae, was completed in 2013, increasing the use of the woodland.

The largest woodland compartments are located next to Inveralmond Community High School. Harrysmuir primary and the local nursery are also situated within walking distance of the site. Inveralmond Community High School has a Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) group that also works to keeping the woodlands and surrounding area clean and tidy. In 2022, three sessions have been setup and organised in collaboration with the local West Lothian Litter Pickers group. Their work helps to keep the sites clear of rubbish as well as encouraging community engagement for the sites and reporting any issues of concern. They have also installed signs on lamp posts throughout the woodlands and surrounding area to discourage littering.

At the beginning of 2022 a free family event was held in the Woodlands with 'Rowanbank'. This was attended by over 90 people from the local area. The local schools also have regular sessions in the woodlands with Forest School leaders from 'Kids Gone Wild'. Recently (2022) The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) set up a new group in Ladywell and are creating sessions within the site to encourage local people to walk through the woodlands and gain confidence in using these areas.

There is one volunteer warden that covers Ladywell Woods; collecting litter, monitoring evidence of fires and flytipping and reporting any issues on the site to the management team. A Woodland Working Group (WWG) was also set up for the Woodland Trust sites in Livingston during late 2019. The aim of this group is to conduct practical conservation tasks across the 13 Woodland Trust sites in the area, including Ladywell Woods.

Litter, flytipping and fires are recurring issues at Ladywell Wood. There was 23 fires reported to and attended by Fire and Rescue between April and the end of July in 2022. Previous issues with fireworks and wheelie bins being dragged and burnt in the woods have also been noted.

As of 2022, Woodland Trust has been meeting regularly with West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (WLPARC) to discuss incidents and issues affecting woodland use and management with other local services and landowners. This has enabled open discussion to recognise trends and ability to streamline messaging and pool resources for the area.

### **Significance**

The woods provide enjoyable woodland walks within an urban setting and are used by the local community for walking and running. The site provides a chance to promote access to a safe natural environment close to where people live. It forms an essential part of the local access network and provides a varied and alternative route as well as linking to longer distance routes.

The woodland belts are also an important part of the infrastructure of Livingston providing screening and an attractive backdrop to the various residential developments. The belts also function as windbreaks and provide some barrier to noise.

The woodlands provide an important resource for local schools and community groups for outdoor education and informal recreation.

The site is believed to have some historical significance with the presence of Rose Well noted on the Ordinance Survey Map of 1853 situated on the western boundary of compartment 22a. However, information about history and archaeology of the area is currently limited.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

#### **Opportunities**

To further develop access facilities within the site responding to user demand.

To further promote and use the woodland as an educational resource

Potential for high levels of engagement for events due to proximity to schools and easy access due to flat terrain and location next to housing and infrastructure

Restructuring of the coniferous woodlands would reduce the areas of bare ground which are prone to fire-rising. This would provide opportunities for the local school children to see and learn about forestry operations as well as being a part of replanting these areas.

Opportunity to collaborate with the Museum of Scottish Shale Industry to discover the site's industrial history and remains on site- potential to link this with schools as projects

#### **Constraints**

Linear nature of site constrains potential for circular routes within the site.

Areas of the path are muddy throughout the year due to high use which can make them inaccessible for those with

mobility issues.

Fires, flytipping, litter and evidence of anti-social behaviour is common on site. This is a health and safety issue that damages the environment as well aesthetics of the woodland and discourages use by other members of the community.

Potential of vandalism to signs, posts, benches currently prevents investment into site infrastructure that could benefit the wider community.

Unauthorised motorised vehicle access through the woods is a risk to visitor safety and could damage any footpath upgrades.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Paths edges growing in, reducing visibility and potentially resulting in personal safety concerns by users

Increase of public use has resulted in higher levels of damage through litter, issues of anti-social behaviour and more demands on the path network.

Increased issues with flooding in eastern section of compartment 22a due to drainage has resulted in path remaining wet and muddy throughout the year- becoming impassable during autumn and winter during wet and icy weather.

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The site should be well used and appreciated by the local population. The site should be accessible and safe with management of infrastructure well maintained footpaths. Due to the location of the woods within the central belt and close proximity to large populations, the intention is to use the woods to improve and raise awareness, through education, of the biodiversity, recreation and health benefits woodlands provide.

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

During this plan period, the short-term objective is to continue to provide public access at Ladywell wood which is safe and welcoming. This will be achieved by:

- Two path cuts annually in all blocks where necessary (ongoing)
- Litter pick every month and pro-active fly tipping monitoring (ongoing)
- Collaborate in 'Ladywell Mini COP' with other organisations such as West Lothian Litter Pickers, the Council, Ladywell Regeneration Group and the Schools, Keeping Scotland Beautiful and SSPCA to raise awareness and encourage wider community management of the issue (2023)
- Forest school agreements should be reviewed each year and amended as required (annually)
- Engagement with High School regarding Environmental Careers considering different roles involved in the works being undertaken in Ladywell Woods
- Community tree planting with local schools and local community through regeneration group following felling in compartments 21c and 22a

- Inspection of fences/paths and internal structures and tree safety (as per site risk assessment)
- Street light pruning in blocks 21b, 21d, 21e and 22a every two years
- Path upgrades for 1.5km of paths present in 22a, 21c, 21d and 21e before the end of the plan period
- Continue to meet with the West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (WLCPARC) group to discuss antisocial issues on site- organise a collaborative event/session with members and the school (ongoing)
- Install no motorbike signs in areas (as required)
- Investigations with the Museum of Scottish Shale Industry regarding the wells and dykes on site- potential to link this with schools as projects (by end of plan period)

#### 4.2 f2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin

##### Description

Covering a total of 8.28ha of woodland across its 5 blocks, Ladywell Wood functions as a significant feature within the local urban landscape and an attractive backdrop and screening for the various housing developments in the area. The largest section of Ladywell Wood is also known as Newyearfield Wood and historically was part of a royal hunting estate. The woodland's Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO) status is confirmed by its existence on the 1860s OS. The majority of the canopy cover was planted in the 1960s as part of the LDC's land management for sheltering neighbouring residential areas.

The woods are generally mixed plantations, comprising mature mixed broadleaves and mixed conifers. Common species to be found at Ladywell include beech, sycamore, oak, ash, willow, birch, elm, rowan, holly and hawthorn. These broadleaves are also regenerating naturally where there is sufficient light. Scots pine is a significant feature throughout West Lothian. This is particularly prominent at Ladywell woods with mature species scattered throughout each compartment and higher densities located in compartment 21d. Occasional sitka spruce and larch are also sporadically interspersed within broadleaved-dominated woodlands. Nevertheless, there is a block of sitka spruce located in compartment 21c and a patch of larch is present to the west of 22a which have high levels of shading, restricting light vegetation growth in these areas. As a result, the areas with higher densities of conifers have experienced repeated fire-raising.

There is a Tree Preservation Order (known as TPO No. 2 (1965) Midlothian – Livingston New Town) covers compartments 22b and some of 22a. Therefore, any works on trees that were extant in 1965 in these areas must be approved by West Lothian Council prior to commencement.

Rhododendron ponticum is present in 22a. The initial treatment was undertaken in 2021 using the cut and paint method. This immediately removed the ground cover of the rhododendron to allow light to reach the woodland floor. Follow up monitoring will be required for at least the subsequent 7 years and spot-treating any regrowth as required to ensure eradication. Variegated yellow archangel has also been noted in compartment 22b and ivy is particularly dense in this compartment. This has contributed to the significant shading and limited biodiversity in this sub compartment. Laurel is also present in compartment 21e. However, this appears to be relatively contained within one area that acts as screening for neighbouring housing.

There are no dedicated areas of open ground maintained at Ladywell Woods. However, there will be temporary open space following the planned felling works for the site until the replanting is established. There is also open space neighbouring the site as Heatherbank recreation ground is situated to the west of compartment 21d.

Grey squirrels and small bird species including coal tits are regularly seen in the woodland. Foxes have also been spotted on site.

### **Significance**

The woodland is on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as LEPO and was present as woodland on OS maps from 1860. Compartment 22a and 22b are also covered by a Tree Preservation Order. This indicates a relatively high biodiversity potential. The wood is also a significant feature of the local landscape and provides screening and shelter between housing developments.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

#### **Opportunities**

To improve the biodiversity value of the woodland and ground flora by continuing to convert areas dominated by conifers to broadleaves. This will also help to reduce the levels of bare ground under conifers which will in-turn discourage fire raising.

Close proximity to other sites in Livingston allows for possible grouping of work activities to be more cost-effective.

#### **Constraints**

The conservation value of most of the woodland blocks is limited by their relatively small size and high edge effect.

The larger woodland blocks have greater potential for improvement when restored to natural broadleaf woodland. Unfortunately, parts of this suffer regularly from litter, vandalism and fires which threatens the success of restoration efforts.

Risk of fire restricts the allowance for significant deadwood levels on site.

Close proximity to housing, roads and services increases the demands on the site including safety works and makes operations, particularly harvesting works, more complex and expensive to run.

Lack of infrastructure on site, such as suitable stacking areas, restricts activity/makes operations more expensive.

Urban context of the site leaves site vulnerable to the spread of disease from other areas that visitors may be moving through.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Increased levels of fire damage has resulted in some areas requiring restructuring to reduce the presence of bare ground and remove fuel load from the site.

Senescing beech - The ongoing senescence of the large mature mainly beech trees which are such a feature in the West Lothian landscape and tend to be of a similar age. They are becoming increasingly vulnerable to storm damage and disease which is becoming a challenge to deal with, in terms of tree safety and also maintenance of the treed landscape and is expected to become even worse in coming years.

Poor drainage, particularly present in compartment 22a, potentially causing stress to trees in the area, specifically beech. High risk of contracting Phytophthora in these conditions.

Windblow - Most of the spruce and larch planted as part of Livingston Development Corporation (LDC) landscaping is reaching its terminal height at which it is vulnerable to windblow.

Ash die back (ADB) is present on site and throughout Livingston, including all the compartments of Ladywell Woods. This will increase the volume of standing deadwood in areas where it is suitable to retain declining individuals (i.e. away from roads and footpaths). Ash is a frequent species and is well suited to the clay soils of West Lothian, however, due to the prevalence of ADB, Ash will also not be included within restocking. Therefore, its density on the site overall is likely to decline in the long term.

Previously two Scottish Health Protection Network (SHPN) notices have been issued in the Livingston areas in 2018 for Phytophthora ramorum and it is believed that this is likely to spread and impact on other areas that have larch. This would be a particular issue for compartment 22a which has a block of larch located to the west.

Squirrels, rabbits and roe deer are all present and likely to prevent trees developing into healthy, mature trees.

#### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

To create and maintain a diverse, mixed age and mixed species woodland habitat in perpetuity. Species composition will be mostly native though a proportion of conifers and non-native broadleaves will be accepted. Improvements to the canopy should help towards supporting a variety of ground flora communities. Biodiversity will be safeguarded by controlling the spread of invasive non-native invasive species where practical.

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

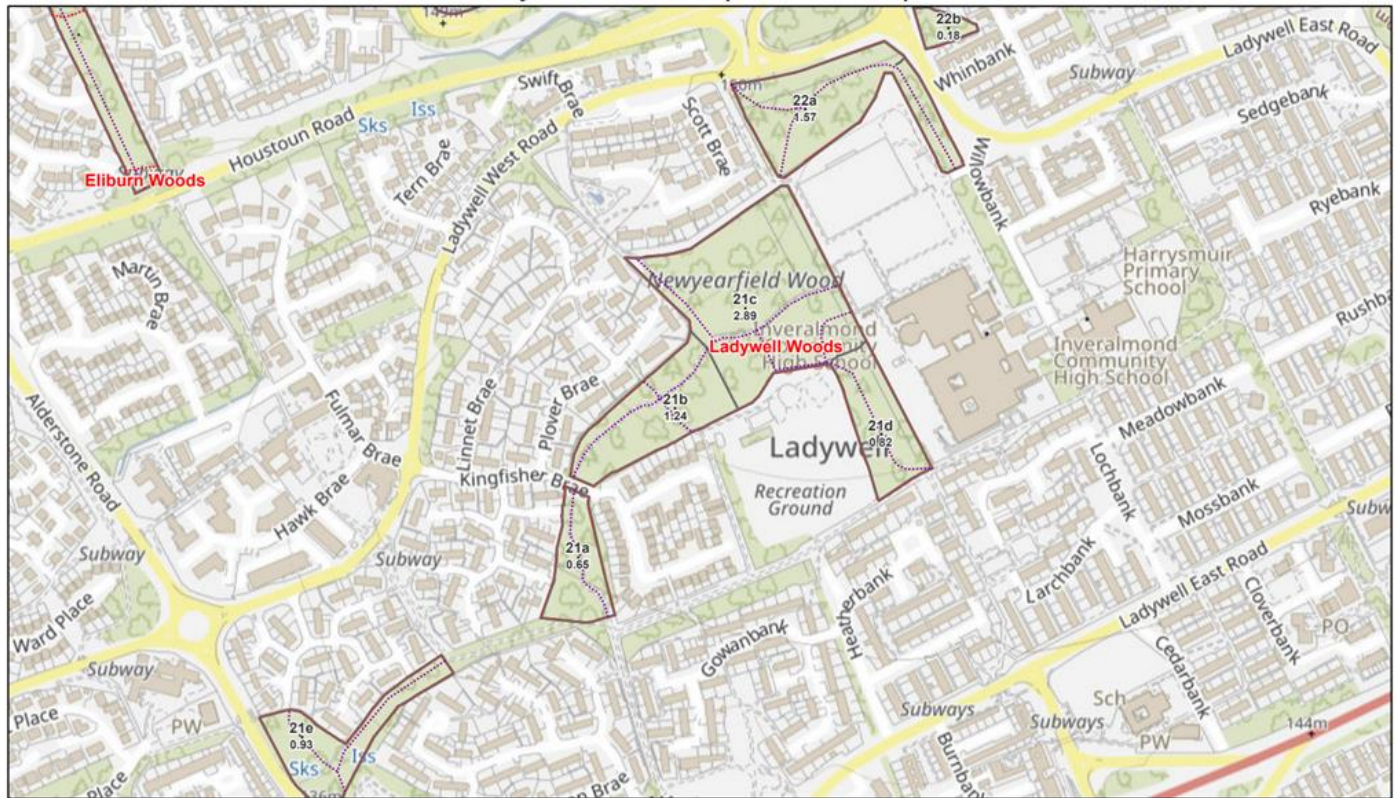
To maintain the varied composition and structural diversity of the woodland. This will be achieved by minimum intervention in the majority of the wood.

- Assess known areas of *Rhododendron ponticum* annually and record any additional patches found on site. Spot-spray *Rhododendron ponticum* regrowth annually as required. Assess vitality at the end of the planning period. If eradication has not been achieved by 2028, ensure that further follow-up treatments are scheduled in the following planning period.
- Trial removal of variegated archangel and ivy in compartment 22b through non-chemical means by the end of the planning period. Annually photo monitor the area following the treatment(s) to and review effectiveness at the end of management plan period.

- Clear fell in compartments 22b(0.1ha)/ 22a (0.3ha)/ 21c (0.5ha) focusing on ash, sitka spruce and larch (2023/2024)
- Restock with native broadleaves such as birch, rowan, holly, hawthorn and hazel through a community tree planting event potentially involving the school and local regeneration group (the planting season following harvesting). Due to high disturbance in the urban area, higher density planting rather than protection (fencing or tubes) will be used to ensure suitable restocking levels.
- Weeding areas that have been restocked for a minimum of 3 years following planting to ensure establishment.
- Beat-up restocking areas annually as required to replace any losses.

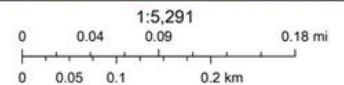
## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT MAP

Ladywell Sub-compartment Map



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Estate Path Network - Scotland Estate SubCompartments Estate SubComp Labels Hectares  
 Path Estate SubComp Labels Management Units  
 Right of Way



Woodland Trust  
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## APPENDIX 2 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No.   | Area (ha) | Main Species         | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints   | Designations                                   |
|---|-----------|----------------------|------|-------------------|--|--|
| 21a   | 0.65      | Beech                | 1900 | Min-intervention  | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves | Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin |
| <p>This woodland strip is closely bordered to east and west by housing. Mixed mature woodland dominated by Scots pine in the north and beech to the south. The understory comprises beech, rowan, Scots pine with occasional willow and ash to the south. Ground flora is dominated with brambles to the north.</p>   |           |                      |      |                   |  |  |
| 21b   | 1.24      | Scots pine           | 1970 | Min-intervention  | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site                       | Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin |
| <p>Sub-compartment 21b is Dominated by mature scots pine and oak with beech are the main understorey. The understorey has also been underplanted Sitka spruce and regenerating birch, beech and sycamore which is now starting to emerge through the mature canopy. Isolated patches of laurel are also present throughout this compartment. Ground flora of soft grasses, brambles and ferns. Deadwood in fallen trees and in the mature canopy. Motorbike activity has occurred in this compartment previously.</p>   |           |                      |      |                   |  |  |
| 21c   | 2.9       | Birch (downy/silver) | 1970 | High forest       | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves | Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin |
| <p>'Newyearfield Wood' is now bordered to the north by recent housing (2013) known as Scott Brae and to the east by Inveralmond High School's football pitches. Comprises of thicket stage downy birch with sitka spruce and lodgepole pine, sycamore, rowan, beech and goat willow and occasional scattered overmature Scots pine and occasional oaks and holly. Some of the birch appears to be of coppice origin. The ground flora is mixed with ferns, brambles and mosses. Fires, litter and flytipping are significant reoccurring issues in this compartment. A bridge is present on the south boundary of this compartment over a dry ditch to the recreation ground.</p> |           |                      |      |                   |  |  |
| 21d   | 0.82      | Scots pine           | 1900 | Min-intervention  | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent                               | Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin |



| Cpt No.  | Area (ha) | Main Species      | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints   | Designations  |
|--|-----------|-------------------|------|-------------------|--|---|
|  |           |                   |      |                   | to site, Services & wayleaves  |   |
| <p>'Newyearfield Wood' forming the south east leg this stand of mature Scots pine and mixed broadleaves acts as a shelterbelt between open playing fields to the west and Inveralmond school to the east, it also borders housing to the south. The mature broadleaves comprise sycamore, beech and oak. The understorey comprises of birch, rowan, willow, sycamore, beech, oak and ash. Occasional elder and holly are also present in this compartment. Ground flora is soft grasses and brambles where there is enough light. Fires are a regular occurrence to the south of this compartment.</p>   |           |                   |      |                   |  |   |
| 21e  | 0.92      | Beech             | 1900 | Min-intervention  | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site | Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin                          |
| <p>'Windmill Wood' Stand of mature trees, beech, Scots pine and oak. Sub-canopy of birch, willow, elder, ash, rowan, and Scots pine with occasional sitka spruce and oak. Natural regeneration is dominated by beech. Laurel and Privet have also been noted in this compartment. Ground flora is sparse under beech canopy but where there is sufficient light, ferns, brambles, nettles and soft grasses survive. The wood is bordered to the north by housing (Dunlin Brae &amp; Plover Brae), south east by housing (Falcon Brae) and open parkland, and to the west by Alderstone Road. Flytipping is a reoccurring issue in this compartment.</p>  |           |                   |      |                   |  |   |
| 22a  | 1.57      | Mixed broadleaves | 1950 | Min-intervention  | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site | Tree Preservation Order, Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin |
| <p>'Ladywell Wood' Situated to the northeast is an interestingly varied mature mixed woodland majority of which are broadleaves including beech, sycamore, ash, birch, elm, hawthorn and holly. Conifers are present in the compartment, represented by pockets of Larch (particularly to the west of the compartment) and with Scots pine and Sitka Spruce dispersed throughout. More recent planting has been conducted towards the northern boundary of this compartment with a focus on shrub species such as hawthorn. To the south are school playing fields with roads on the north and east boundary. The 2013 housing development (Scott Brae) lies to the west. The western boundary of the compartment includes a stone dyke thought to be linked with the historic 'Rose Well'. There is good natural regeneration of ash, beech, sycamore and rowan in occasional gaps. Rhododendron ponticum is located to the west of this compartment and is gradually being eradicated. The ground flora is bare under the larch and previous location of rhododendron. Ivy is present in localised areas to the west of the compartment. The ground vegetation across the rest of the compartment dominated by brambles, grasses and ferns. This compartment is used regularly by forest school groups. The terrain across the majority of the site is very flat, besides a small hollow located to the southwest of compartment 22a. To the northwest of the same compartment, there is a ditch present but this is</p> |           |                   |      |                   |  |   |

| Cpt No.  | Area (ha) | Main Species | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints   | Designations            |
|--|-----------|--------------|------|-------------------|--|-------------------------|
| typically dry within limited functionality. There are no water courses on site. To the east of the compartment there is recurring damp areas on the lower ground to the east of the compartment. Fires and flytipping are reoccurring issues for this compartment.   |           |              |      |                   |  |                         |
| 22b  | 0.18      | Sitka spruce | 1940 | High forest       | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site | Tree Preservation Order |
| Isolated small mixed woodland bounded by housing and roads, adjacent to the Moss Interchange. This area is the only are at Ladywell Wood that is not considered to be Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO) on the Ancient Woodland Inventory map. Mature canopy of sitka spruce, sycamore, ash and beech. Elm, rowan, oak and hawthorn are also present in this compartment however only in small numbers with no understorey. Ground flora is dominated by brambles and ivy with Cotoneaster and Privet also being noted as present on site. Flytipping has been a historic issue for this compartment. There are no footpaths present in this compartment due to its small size and location. |           |              |      |                   |  |                         |

### **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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