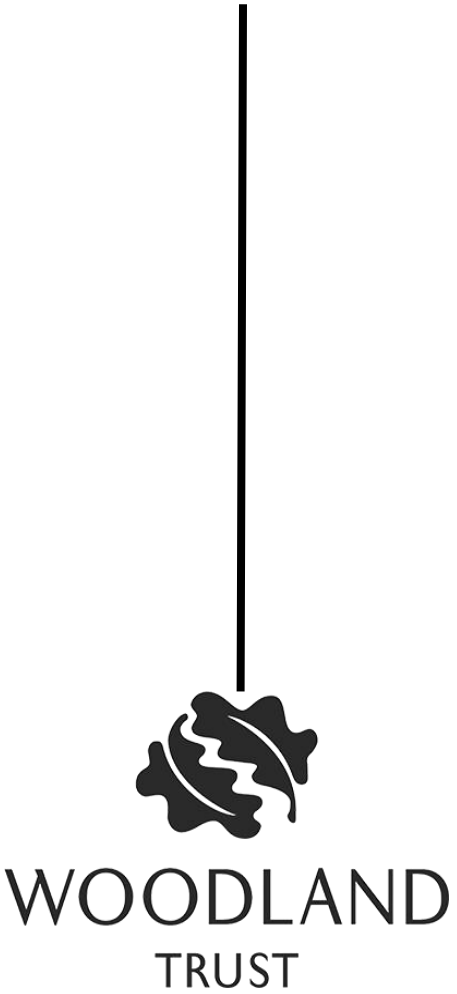
Brede High Woods

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



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

Brede High Woods

Location:	Cripps Corner, near Battle, East Sussex. Grid reference: TQ793201
Area:	261.89 hectares (647.14 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland; Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project; Demonstration Site - Silver

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Brede High Woods was acquired by the Woodland Trust in December 2007 after a very successful national and local fundraising campaign. At 262ha (648 acres) it is one of the largest Woodland Trust sites in England. It was previously part of the Great Sanders Estate which included Powdermill Reservoir and was owned by Southern Water. It lies within the High Weald Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Character Area (NCA) in East Sussex, approximately six miles due north of Hastings. The NCA is characterised by east-west sandstone ridges and valleys covered by a mixture of fields, small woodlands and farmsteads connected by historic routeways. Woodland accounts for 26% of the NCA with the majority being ancient (defined as existing since at least 1600AD).

The site is a complex of ancient semi-natural woodland, planted ancient woodland (PAWS), secondary plantation woodland (conifer and broadleaved) and open ground, to the north and east of Powdermill Reservoir. The site contains nine named ancient woods, some of which retain their original broadleaved character with extensive areas of hornbeam and sweet chestnut coppice. Others have been replanted with conifers such as pine, larch and spruce. The farmland between the woods was planted with trees, including larch, pine, beech and sycamore, from the 1930's onwards following the construction of the reservoir when the whole estate became the property of Hastings Corporation. Underlying these plantations are the remains of a typical High Weald landscape of woods and small fields, connected by shaws and hedges. Features of this landscape can be found throughout the woods in the form of banks, ditches and sunken tracks. Other past uses of the woods can be seen in the extensive earthworks from the excavation of iron ore that underpinned the historic Wealden iron industry.

The woods contain a great variety of habitats including open heathland, overstood and in-rotation coppice, gill woodland, wet woodland, sphagnum beds, small ponds, springs, streams and acid grassland. Important species include 55 ancient woodland plants and trees including common species such as bluebell, wood anemone, pignut and primrose and rarer species such as green hellebore and wild service tree. Important bird species include spotted fly-catcher, hobby, woodcock, marsh tit, cuckoo and nightingale. The site is well known for its invertebrate interest. It is the only known UK location for the leaf beetle Longitarsus longiseta previously thought to be extinct. The acid grassland also has a population of glow worm (Lampyris noctiluca) a Sussex priority species. Other important species include great crested newt, brook lamprey, dormouse, badger, fallow deer and wild boar.

A full description of the site and its habitats can be found in 'An Ecological Assessment of Brede High Woods' by Dr Patrick Roper (2008) and 'Brede High Wood Ecological Assessment 2019' (Allison, 2019). 'Brede High Woods archaeological and historic landscape assessment' by Dr Nicola Bannister (2009) details the rich cultural heritage of the site.

Like many other woods, Brede is being affected by various tree diseases with some such as ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) and ink disease in sweet chestnut having a significant impact. Other species affected by disease include oak, Corsican pine and Sitka spruce.

Brede is a flagship site for the Trust and is well used by the public. There are 2 car parks on the B2089 and approximately 17km of maintained rides and paths including 3 public footpaths. The site has its own volunteer group and is a destination for many naturalists who record its varied and often rare wildlife.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

It is useful to breakdown the proposals into broad habitat types as per the site's key features.

Ancient woodland.
This includes semi-natural broadleaved woodland dominated by coppice with standards and planted ancient woodland (PAWS) which was planted with conifers during the 20th century. Ancient Woodland Restoration (AWR) is one of the Trust's major objectives for its own sites as well as those in other ownerships. Our approach is to restore the canopy to native broadleaved trees over the long term to avoid the sudden change in conditions that comes from clear-felling. This will take the form of an ongoing programme of thinning the conifers, on a 5-10 year cycle. Rather than maximising timber production the thinning will favour existing broadleaved trees, ground flora hotspots that still survive and other ecological and archaeological features that are being damaged by the shade from the conifer canopy. The adoption of a continuous cover silvicultural system will avoid the need for clear-felling and should ensure a successor broadleaved canopy is developed, using natural regeneration wherever possible. Some planting of successor species may be necessary in the long term due to a limited variety of seed sources and disease. Some mature conifer will be retained where it poses no threat and where it can provide an ecological niche for certain species (eg raptors) and for aesthetic reasons. This approach should encourage a more resilient woodland capable of better withstanding pressures from climate change, pests and diseases.

Much of the coppice has not been managed for decades, particularly the mixed species and hornbeam dominated stands. These areas will largely be left to develop by natural processes with tree death and windblow providing gaps in the canopy over time. This approach will also lead to an accumulation of deadwood which is often missing from coppice woodland.

Significant areas of sweet chestnut coppice were managed by the previous owners from c2002-2005. In order to maintain a succession of temporary open and dense scrub habitats that managed coppice provides, a coppice regime will be implemented across the site, concentrating on the more productive and easily accessible stands. Evidence from the site suggests that maintaining an active coppice cycle will benefit a suite of species including ground flora, invertebrates, birds and reptiles. The impacts of disease on sweet chestnut in particular will lead to a more varied composition of some stands in the future.

Additional early successional habitat will be maintained on the site by short-rotational cutting (3-5 years) of rideside trees and management of the powerline wayleave. This will also provide linking habitat for the open areas across the site.

Secondary woodland
This habitat varies from scrub to semi-mature broadleaved and conifer plantations and will receive a suitably diverse range of management. Some areas of conifer plantation were felled in 2009 and are now managed as open/scrub habitats, the largest area known a Sedlescombe Heath.

The remaining wooded areas will be managed, where necessary, to improve biodiversity and resilience in the face of climate change and disease. Areas dominated by conifer plantations will be managed in a similar manner to the PAWS stands (see ancient woodland section above), with a gradual change to a predominantly broadleaved canopy achieved by ongoing thinning and the adoption of a continuous cover silvicultural system. However some older

stands of Scots pine will be retained for their aesthetic value. Occasionally small clear-fells of conifer may be necessary to deal with disease issues and also where stands are difficult to access or prone to windblow.

Some areas of broadleaved secondary woodland will be left to develop by natural processes. Other areas will be managed by thinning or coppicing where it is beneficial to diversify the structure of maturing plantations to ensure a successor canopy in the long term. Stands with a significant proportion of ash affected by disease (Hymenoscuphus fraxineus) will be managed by targeted thinning to reduce tree safety risks along roads and major rides.

Open ground habitats

Open areas across the site include lowland heath and acid grassland, both of which are UK and Sussex priority habitats. These were much more extensive across the site (and the wider landscape) prior to afforestation during the 20th century. Previous management from 2008-2022 has greatly increased the amount of open ground with subsequent increases in biodiversity.

Long term management of the larger open areas will be by low-intensity grazing using horses, ponies or cattle. The need for supplementary mechanical management, such as scrub and bracken control, will be assessed and carried out on an ongoing basis. Other areas of temporary open habitat, such as wide rides and the powerline wayleave, will be managed by short-rotation coppicing (3-5 years) or by periodic mowing. These linear habitats should be selected and managed to link larger areas of open ground across the site to provide a habitat network.

Connecting people with woods and trees

The site’s extensive network of rides and paths will be suitably managed to encourage safe, enjoyable access wherever possible. Infrastructure such as signs, bridges and steps will be kept to a minimum to maintain the rural nature of the site.

The two car parks will be maintained at their present capacity. Future interpretation will rely on digital resources as much as on-site works to minimise the intrusion into the natural setting. Managing a connecting series of wide rides will benefit both visitors and certain types of wildlife.

The site will continue to provide opportunities for public events, education, volunteering and to demonstrate the Trust's approach to management, particularly ancient woodland restoration, to a professional audience.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

The ancient woodland areas include semi-natural stands of coppice with standards as well as planted ancient woodland (PAWS) with conifers planted over former coppice stands during the 20th century. There are 9 named woods which are all ancient or very long established: Thorp's; Greenden, Streetfield; Holman; Brede High; Coneyburrow; Twist; Pond; Rafters.

Sweet chestnut coppice is more common on the sandy soils with hornbeam-dominated mixed coppice on the wetter soils. Ground flora reflects the differing soil types, with heather being common in areas with the more acidic soils and ancient woodland plants such as wood anemone and bluebell more common on less acidic soils. Changes in ground flora can also reflect past management which may have included grazing in the more heathy areas of the wood.

The PAWS areas of Streetfield, Brede High and Coneyburrow Woods appear to be on areas that were previously chestnut coppice. They now have stands of thinned, mid-rotation crops of Scots and Corsican pine and Japanese larch (P79/81). Remaining ground flora in the PAWS areas also reflects the soil types and includes very heathy areas of woodland.

There are 55 ancient woodland indicator species recorded across the site, including wild service tree, green hellebore and early purple orchid, as well as the commoner species. There was previously extensive invasion of Rhododendron ponticum in Streetfield and Brede High Woods but this has largely been removed. Within the ancient woodland areas there are numerous streams which all feed Powdermill reservoir. These streams have associated features such as springs, seepages, flushes, pools, gills, sphagnum beds and areas of wet woodland (see Roper [2008] for full description).

Archaeological features present include a Romano-British iron-smelting bloomery site, saw-pits, charcoal hearths, woodbanks, extraction pits and trackways (see Bannister [2009] for full listing).

Significance

The ancient woodland areas on the site represent the full range of stand types found in the High Weald, the biggest concentration of ancient woodland in England. Restoration of the PAWS areas is the only way of increasing the area of ancient semi-natural woodland as it cannot be re-created. The wooded heath areas are an under-studied stand type that will benefit from further research.
Ancient woodland contains many rare and threatened species and often represents the most natural habitat present in the landscape. As well as species associated with woodland it can also contain important relics of more open habitats that are often missing from the wider, modern farmed landscape. Continuing with an active coppice regime will add to the habitat network currently present within this well-wooded landscape where adjoining and nearby woods are still

coppiced regularly. The temporary open ground and subsequent scrubby habitat will benefit a range of wildlife including key species such as nightingale.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
Some parts of the site have difficult access and ground conditions.
Protected species present on the site impose strict conditions on working practices and timing of operations.

Opportunities
To restore all PAWS areas within the site using best practice and use it as a demonstration site.
To monitor minimum intervention areas to study changes over a long time scale.
To continue with a coppice regime to ensure the site has a significant element of early successional habitat.
To use the site to demonstrate the Trust's approach to woodland management and to influence neighbouring landowners and other key stakeholders.

Factors Causing Change

Increasing shade and loss of coppice structure in minimum intervention stands.
Change in species composition due to natural regeneration of birch, hornbeam, Scots pine, aspen etc
Invasive rhododendron.
Mammal damage (deer, wild boar)
Gaps in the canopy due to windblow and disease/dieback (eg Chronic Oak Decline; Phytophthora in sweet chestnut; Hymenoscyphus fraxineus in ash; Dothistroma needle blight in Corsican pine).

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In the long term (50 years+) the PAWS areas within the Brede High Woods complex should all be predominantly broadleaved in character, with all major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition. These include ground flora, archaeological features, deadwood, streams and other wetland features. Rhododendron should have been eliminated or reduced to a rare component of all woodland areas. The resulting mixed stands of high forest will be being managed on a continuous cover silvicultural system to produce uneven-aged, self-regenerating stands of high conservation and amenity value.

The semi-natural woodland areas managed by minimum intervention will be developing by natural processes with some canopy collapse followed by natural regeneration. There should be an increasing volume of coarse woody debris (standing and fallen) throughout the site including in watercourses.

There will be an active coppice regime in place, focussed on accessible and productive stands. This will provide a significant element of temporary open ground and early successional habitat to complement the minimum intervention stands.
Deer and wild boar populations will be at a level that do not threaten components of the woodlands or their regeneration.

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

During the plan period 2023-28 management will continue to focus on: AWR by targeted thinning; felling coppice; managing a wide-ride network; controlling remaining rhododendron; continuing with a deer management programme.

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

- Rhododendron control predominantly by pulling of seedlings will be continued annually on less than 1ha in total, scattered across the site, until control achieved.

- All threatened PAWS stands will be thinned selectively on an approx. 5 to 10 year cycle to secure and bolster remaining ancient woodland components (broadleaved trees, ground flora, decaying wood habitats and archaeological features). Total area to thin (including some secondary conifer stands): approx 35ha (Subcpts 3a, 5d, 5f, 6a, 9b). Operations planned for 2023 and 2027.

- Up to 10ha of coppice will have been cut over the 5 year period with successful regrowth of cut stools, supplemented with natural regeneration of trees to maintain a full stocking density where coppice stools have died. Operations planned for 2025, 2026, 2028 in Subcpts 1a, 7a and 10a (between 0.5 and 2ha in size).

- Deer and wild boar impacts will be monitored biennially. An annual cull will take place targeting fallow does. The deer population should not be impacting on coppice regrowth, natural regeneration or ground flora as determined by a Herbivore Impact Assessment. A full HIA is next due in 2025.

- 5-yearly formal woodland condition/PAWS assessment to be undertaken in 2028 to inform the next management plan review. Assessments will cover cover the range of threats outlined in factors causing change above.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

This includes all areas afforested on former farmland from the 1930's onwards, following the construction of Powdermill Reservoir. These areas were previously orchards, hop gardens, pasture and meadow. In addition there are also areas that are classed as secondary woodland but have a much longer history under tree cover, some showing on maps from 1800. This includes the northern part of Brede High Wood (currently under conifer and sweet chestnut coppice) and the eastern part of Greenden Wood (under sweet chestnut coppice).

Planted conifer species include Scots and Corsican pine, Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Japanese larch. Broadleaved plantations include oak, beech, sycamore and ash. In addition there are areas that have naturally regenerated since the storm of 1987 with species such as birch, sallow and sycamore. The original, often heavily thinned, plantations date from the 1930's to the 1960's. There are also a lot of younger conifer plantations that were replanted followed the clearance of windblow after the storm of 1987. These were first thinned in 2011. Some of the conifer plantations were cleared of planted trees to create the open habitats of Sedlescombe and Brede High Heaths in 2009.

The plantations often obscure old field and woodland boundaries particularly in Cpts 6 and 8. Under the tree cover it is often possible to find the banks, ditches, hedges, shaws and other flora that show where these features were prior to afforestation. There are also the remains of three farmsteads and other cottages and buildings under these plantations, some with very long histories. They were all demolished in the early1930's following the reservoir construction.

Significance

The plantations have to some extent preserved relics of a pre-industrial farming landscape that would have been seriously degraded by modern intensive agriculture. Areas of ancient woodland have been buffered and extended by the secondary woodland. The long established secondary woodland areas can be almost as important as ancient woodland in term of biodiversity. The broadleaved plantations managed as high forest are an uncommon stand-type in SE England.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:-
Poor access, wet ground conditions and low grade timber make management of some of these areas uneconomic.
Increasing shade is threatening other habitats and rare species.

Opportunities:-
To restore secondary conifer plantation to native broadleaved woodland (treat as PAWS stands).
To manage some stands currently dominated by birch as new coppice.

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to mature high forest.
Change in species composition due to targeted intervention (thinning/coppicing/ride management) and tree diseases eg ash dieback and Dothistroma needle blight.
Mammal damage: deer; wild boar (rooting).

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The secondary woodland should be predominantly broadleaved in character with a few stands of open-canopied, mature Scots pine retained for their wildlife value and aesthetic appeal. There will be a range of age-classes from scrub to maturing high forest. All areas should be developing some natural characteristics with structural and species diversity having lost most of their original plantation characteristics. The deadwood component should have increased significantly, including large diameter pieces.

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

During the plan period 2023-28 management will help move secondary conifer stands towards a more broadleaved character by targeted thinning (in conjunction with the AWS stands). The thinning will favour any broadleaves within the crops and will remove conifers from stream-sides, old field boundaries and ride edges to bolster ecological hotspots for ground flora and protect archaeological features. Some of the semi-mature broadleaved plantations will be thinned to remove badly diseased ash and to diversify their structure. Some areas of younger birch-dominated stands will be coppiced.

- Thin approx 21.5ha mature mixed broadleaves in Subcpts 2b, 2c, 5c, 6b, 6c, 7a (part) and 7b. Operation planned for 2024.

- Thin approx 13.5ha mature Scots pine in Subcpts 2e, 2g and 4f. Operation planned for 2025

- Thin approx 9ha mixed conifers in Subcpts 6d, 6e, 6f, 6h, 7d, 8a, 8b, 8d and 9b. Western hemlock in Subcpt 6h and larch and Douglas fir in Subcpt 7d could be removed in one operation due to constraints around access and windblow. Operation planned for 2026.

- Thin approx 5ha P89 larch in Subcpts 2a, 2d. Combine with Subcpt 3a (PAWS). Operation planned for 2027.

- Initial felling of birch to create approx 5ha of new coppice stands in Subcpts 2a, 6d and 6g. Operations planned for 2023-28.

- Deer and wild boar impacts will be monitored biennially. An annual cull will take place targeting fallow does. The deer population should not be impacting on coppice regrowth, natural regeneration or ground flora as determined by a Herbivore Impact Assessment. A full HIA is next due in 2025.

- 5-yearly formal woodland condition/PAWS assessment to be undertaken in 2028 to inform the next management plan review. Assessments will cover cover the range of threats outlined in factors causing change above.

4.3 f3 Open Ground Habitat

Description

The most important open habitats present on the site are lowland heathland and dry acid grassland. This reflects the strongly acidic underlying Ashdown Beds which give rise to acid soils, occasionally podzolised. The small areas that were cleared prior to the Trust's ownership were substantially expanded in 2009 by clear-felling approximately 11ha of conifer plantations.

Sedlescombe Heath (the majority of Subcpts 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 5a) now comprises approx. 12 ha of heath/grassland and mixed woodland. The area was fenced in 2011 and has subsequently been extensively grazed by cattle, horses and ponies. Heather has regenerated in some areas while others have a more grassy appearance. Common and bell heather are present along with cross-leaved heath. Also plants such as dwarf gorse, lousewort, greater broomrape and dodder have benefitted from the clearance works. Subcpt 4g (known as Holman Wood Field) has a particularly rich flora and fauna including heath dog violet (Viola canina), dwarf gorse, (Ulex minor), glow worm (Lampyris noctiluca) and the leaf beetle Longitarus longiseta (its only known UK site).

Brede High Heath (Subcpts 5g and 5h) was also substantially extended in 2009 with the clear-felling of a young pine plantation that has led to the regeneration of heather, grasses and bracken. The southern half of the heath (cleared in 2002) continues to scrub over but also has extensive heather cover.

In addition there is the linear open/scrub habitat under the powerlines that extend for approx 1400m across the eastern part of the site. This line cuts through ancient and secondary woodland and a range of soil types. It is cleared of regenerating trees and coppice on a regular cycle, producing a mixed habitat of scrub and open ground with water features.

A network of wide rides also provides additional linear open habitat although not always continuous. A programme of ride management has been in place since 2008 which has added substantially to the open and early successional habitats present on the site.

A full prescription for the management of Sedlescombe and Brede High Heaths formed part of the Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England (2012-2022). This gives a full picture of the management objectives over the 10 year period.

Significance

These habitats are of local, national and international importance. Acid grassland and lowland heathland are both UKBAP and Sussex BAP Priority Habitats. Both are reducing at a national and local level. The High Weald is a UK stronghold for acid grassland where it may be under-recorded as it often occurs within heathland. Both habitats have important suites of flora and fauna associated with them which are threatened by the increase in shade from encroaching and planted trees.
The ecotones between these open habitats and the surrounding woodland and water are some of the most biodiverse areas within the site. The heathland at this site provides a link between the heaths on the coast at Fairlight to the south-east and the extensive areas around Tunbridge Wells, Ashdown Forest and Chailey Common to the north-west.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:-
Maintaining open habitats requires regular management inputs.
Only larger areas are suitable for conservation grazing.

Opportunities:-
To maintain and improve the existing open habitat network.
To continue with 'naturalistic management' of Sedlescombe Heath by extensive grazing.

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to scrub and woodland.
Invasive bracken.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In the long term up to 20% of the site should be semi-natural open habitat. This will include larger areas of heathland, acid grassland and rush pasture with some groves of scrub and trees. These will be linked by a network of wide rides and glades managed by short-rotation coppicing. Where appropriate, open areas should be managed by a low-intensity grazing regime with suitable breeds of cattle, horses or ponies. The open habitats should continue to support a full range of flora and fauna associated with this type of habitat including the rare species currently present.

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

Maintain up to 20% of the site as open habitat in the form of heathland, grassland, wide rides, glades and the powerline wayleave through various types of management.

- Continue with a low-intensity grazing regime of Sedlescombe Heath (12ha) using appropriate breeds of cattle, horses or ponies at a stocking rate of less than 1 livestock unit (LU) per ha.

- Annual scrub/tree control by coppicing/mowing/pulling will be undertaken on Sedlescombe Heath to maintain the balance of grass/heather cover to tree cover of approx. 50:50.

- Management of Brede High Heath (Subcpts 5g and 5h) will be reduced to maintaining an approx. 10m swathe along the rides by annual mowing.

- A programme of ride management throughout the site will link existing open areas and also create graded edges between open habitats and woodland. Annual operations from 2023-28. Approx. 500m of rideside trees/coppice to be cut annually. Regrowth to be re-cut on approx. 5-year cycle. Areas to cut will be assessed in previous year.

- An annual mowing regime under the powerlines in Cpt 8 (approx 500m in length) will create a mix of species-rich sward and bramble/scrub (approx 80:20) along the public footpath.

4.4 f4 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Brede High Woods is a flagship site for the Woodland Trust providing a high quality experience for a wide range of visitors. An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths encourages the appreciation of the woodland although conditions can deteriorate in wet weather. The site provides a clear welcome with well-maintained entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure appropriate to its rural setting.

Brede High Woods lies between the small villages of Brede (2.6 miles), Broad Oak (1.5 miles), Sedlescombe (3.3 miles) and Cripps Corner (1.2 miles) in the High Weald AONB. It is approximately 10 miles from the centre of Hastings (pop: 90,254) and 6 miles from Battle (pop: 6171). The site provides a large area of ancient and secondary woodland, heathland and grassland with a long and fascinating history and a wealth of wildlife.

The site is well used by the public for informal recreation (WT access category A: more than 20 visitors per day using one entrance). The majority of visitors are local dog-walkers, some of whom are daily visitors. The site also attracts tourists, naturalists, ramblers and those with an interest in local and landscape history. Visits can be less than an hour in length or up to half a day.

There are two car parks off the B2089 with a total capacity of 30+ cars. Both car parks have orientation boards with maps. From the eastern car park there is a waymarked history trail with an interpretation board. As well as the car park entrances there are 14 other access points along the B2089 and Goatham, Reservoir and Brede Lanes. All have squeeze gap entrances and small WT signs. In addition there are two access points on public footpaths from land to the south of the wood.

There are three public footpaths within the site. One runs from the old woodyard on the B2089, south to Hurst Lane. From near the southern end of its route through the wood, another footpath heads east and then south-east alongside Powdermill Stream before leaving WT land and heading south-east, 100m or so from the reservoir edge. Another runs from the entrance next to the eastern car park, via Coneyburrow Wood to Reservoir Lane. There are no public bridleways on the site. Some of the permissive paths cross onto Southern Water's land along the northern shore of the reservoir. Only 3 of the main rides are surfaced for a short length and most routes can be very wet and muddy after rain, at any time of the year. There are some footbridges and steps within the site.

The Trust has run many events on the site since taking ownership in 2008. These have included half-day walks looking at wildlife and history, activities aimed at families and children, schools weeks and from 2011-2014 a community archaeology project (The Big Dig). The site has its own dedicated volunteer group who meet on the last Sunday of each month and also hosts regular volunteer work parties from TCV.

In the locality there are other woodlands open to the public including Guestling Wood (WT), Vinehall Forest and Beckley Woods (FC), Flatropers Wood (Sussex Wildlife Trust) and Fore Wood (RSPB). Other important wildlife sites nearby include Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (SxWT) and Hastings Country Park (Hastings BC).

Significance

The site provides extensive access to a wooded area of great variety and interest, both for wildlife and history. Other woods open to the public in the area are often owned by the Forestry Commission and managed for timber production

rather than nature conservation and public access.

Although in a rural area, there are over 180,000 people living within a 10 mile radius of the site. It is also in a popular tourist area with other natural attractions close by, such as Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, RSPB Dungeness and Hastings Country Park (Fairlight). The site has a great variety of habitats and historic features that can be used to engage the public, including children, in appreciating the landscape on a wider scale. The site is also very important to the local population in surrounding villages, some of who visit the site on a daily basis.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:-
- To improve drainage and surfacing at key point of the path network.
- To provide maps and other information to visitors via the internet to enable better use of the site and to improve visitor confidence in using the site.
- To continue to engage the public with the opportunity to participate via the site-based volunteer group or external groups such as TCV and specialist volunteering such as monitoring grazing animals.

Constraints:-
- Terrain and ground conditions will always be a limiting factor to access within the wood. Some improvements can be made but extensive surfacing works are not suitable for most of the site.
- The site is mainly visited by people with cars as it is not within walking distance of most local residents or close to good public transport links.
- In order to maintain the rural, unspoilt nature of the site it is not suitable for more extensive, permanent visitor facilities.

Factors Causing Change

Increases in visitor numbers due to better promotion (positive and negative effects).
Changes in various aspects of the site due to management and natural processes.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site should be well used and appreciated by both the local population and visitors from further afield. It should be known for its wildlife interest, varied landscape, history and habitats. The site will be accessible and safe but not over-managed ie without excessive infrastructure and signage.

There will be a range of resources available for the site to guide and inform all visitors from the very young to the very knowledgeable. The site will be a valuable educational resource to a wide range of children and adults. Opportunities for engagement through events and volunteering will continue as long as there is a need and funding.

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

Over the next 5 years we will improve and maintain the site for the visiting public and continue to offer opportunities for volunteering.

- Upgrade both car parks including re-surfacing, replacing edging and repairing drainage. Planned for 2024.

- All rides and paths within the site (approx. 17km) 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.

- The two car parks will have a regular maintenance programme in place for May-October which includes vegetation control and litter clearance. The need for any surfacing repairs will be assessed biennially.

- All site infrastructure such as footbridges, culverts and steps will be inspected annually and any remedial work undertaken in an appropriate timescale.

- A walk-over tree safety survey will be undertaken along maintained paths and rides every 2 years with any remedial work undertaken in the appropriate timescale.

- The site-based volunteer group will continue to undertake a monthly task-day as directed by the Site Manager. TCV will continue with ad hoc tasks undertaking work identified by the Site Manager from the management plan.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	July
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,	August
2023	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	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	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	September
2023	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	October
2023	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October
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,	October
2023	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2023	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.	November
2023	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	November

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2023	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2023	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	December
2023	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	December
2023	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	December
2024	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	January
2024	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	February
2024	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	March
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2024	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2024	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.	July
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,	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	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	September
2024	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance 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,	October
2024	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	October
2024	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2024	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2024	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	November

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2024	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	December
2024	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	December
2024	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	December
2025	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	January
2025	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	February
2025	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	March
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2025	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.	May
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	August

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2025	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	September
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,	October
2025	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October
2025	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	October
2025	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2025	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	November
2025	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	November
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	December
2025	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	December
2026	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	January
2026	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	February
2026	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	March
2026	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
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	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	September
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	October
2026	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	November
2026	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2026	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	November
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2026	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	December
2026	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	December
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	January
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	February
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	August
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	September
2027	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
2027	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	October
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	November
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2027	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2027	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.	November

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	December
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	December
2028	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	January
2028	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	February
2028	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	9.33	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Greenden Wood. The western section is ASNW with mixed coppice and oak standards. There is a small stand of mature Scots pine in the northern section. The wood contains the upper reaches of the Powdermill Stream along its SW edge and other wetland habitats. Some SCH coppice cants were cut in 2004 and some oaks standards felled. The eastern section is more recent woodland (19th Century) and is predominantly sweet chestnut coppice. Other tree species include: ash; holly; hazel; hornbeam; birch; alder; beech. Ground flora includes AW species such as bluebell, wood anemone and wood sorrel as well as various fern species, sedges, rushes and other wetland species. There are woodbanks around much of the boundary (to W and N).						
1b	12.08	Sweet chestnut	1900	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Thorp's Wood. ASNW. Mixed coppice (including sweet chestnut) with oak standards. The south of the compartment supports primarily a closed canopy of mature hornbeam and sweet chestnut coppice with little or no shrub layer. There are scattered oak standards throughout. Collapsed coppice stools provide copious fallen dead wood. A small central area has seen more recent coppicing (mid 2000's) and is now a thicket of birch, with hazel, hornbeam and chestnut regrowth, plus aspen suckers. Alder carr is found in the extreme north-west tip. Streams provide the border on the east and south sides, and wet flushes are scattered throughout. There is an important extensive bog area dominated by remote sedge but including the local wood club-rush.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Other ground flora species include: bluebell; wood anemone; dog's mercury; wood sorrel; ferns, sedges. There are no rides or paths.						
2a	9.81	Birch (downy/silver)	1989	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Some semi-mature beech from original planting (1930s). Windblown and cleared in 1987. Subsequently replanted with Japanese larch (P89) which has failed in the western half and been replaced with natural regeneration of birch. Planted/regenerated broadleaved fringe to E along surfaced forestry track. JL line thinned in 2011 and thinned again 2015 and 2020. Approx 1.5ha of birch at the W end of the subcpt was coppiced in 2018. A small stream is found in the western section, running south into Subcpt 1a, and supports a relic semi-natural ancient woodland flora. Other ground flora includes bracken, bramble, ferns and grasses.						
2b	4.1	Beech	1950	High forest	Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly known as Beech Field. P50 beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut high forest. Thinned in c2002. Ground flora dominated by bramble and pendulous sedge. There is a more diverse stand in the western section, with vegetation akin to ASNW						
2c	0.94	Oak (pedunculate)	1989	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. P89 oak. Established at 2250/ha.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
2d	4.79	Mixed native broadleaves	1984	High forest	Archaeological features, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Part formerly known as Boggy Field. P84 Japanese larch with mixed broadleaves in the northern half. Thinned in 2011 and 2021. A large bank with double ditches crosses the subcpt NW/SE on the line of the parish boundary. To the south of this feature the JL was clear-felled in 2021 following extensive windblow. Dominant tree species now alder and birch. Powdermill Stream forms SW boundary. Ditches form E and W boundaries. There are wet flushes along the stream side. Ground flora includes; ferns, sedges, mosses.						
2e	5.61	Scots pine	1939	High forest	Archaeological features	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. P39 Scots pine. Open-canopied stand with well-developed, heathy ground flora with some broadleaved and pine regen. Historically this area was woodland (1800 OS draft map) but was shown as open ground by 1880 OS First Edition and known as Birchwood Field. Bounded by banks and ditches to N, E, W and SW and Powdermill Stream to S. Crossed by NW/SE grassy ride. Other tree species include: oak, sweet chestnut; hazel; holly; hornbeam; hawthorn. Ground flora includes; bracken; bramble; bluebell (along stream).						
2f	2.5	Mixed native broadleaves	1989	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. P89 Sitka spruce. Line thinned in 2011 and second-thinned 2015. SS extensively windblown in February 2022 and subsequently all cleared, mulched and left to naturally regenerate (2023). Powdermill stream to S in gill with oak, ash, birch, hornbeam, field maple, hazel. willow and alder and AW ground flora including dog's mercury, pendulous sedge, golden saxifrage, ladysmock, lesser celandine, moschatel and cuckoopint. Site of Austford Farm cottages to E of subcpt (demolished c1930). Formerly known as River Field. Woodbank to N (boundary of Streetfield Wood).						
2g	2.16	Scots pine	1949	High forest	Archaeological features	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. P49 Scots pine with small area of poorly-stocked P89 oak in NW corner and occasional mature Sitka spruce. Open-canopied stand with broadleaved scrub/regen and bramble/bracken dominated ground flora. Formerly known as Precious Field. N section was part of the grounds of Austford (demolished c1930). Bounded to W and N by woodbank and ditch (boundary of Streetfield Wood) and to the E by forest track.						
3a	17.31	Corsican pine	1981	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Streetfield Wood. PAWS. Condition: threatened (as at 2023). P81 Corsican pine, heavily thinned c2002/3 and selectively thinned 2012 and 2020. Broadleaved remnants include rare oak standards and occasional chestnut coppice stools as well as other broadleaves including birch, alder and goat willow. Ground flora includes patches of bluebells; heather; ferns; sedges; rushes; bracken; bramble. 3 minor streams converge and flow south across the eastern part of the subcpt. Some parts of the streams flow through gills and through marshy areas with alder coppice and sphagnum beds. There is a strip of coppice along the western edge. Heavy rhododendron infestation along the eastern edge, was removed in 2008. The subcpt is largely bounded by woodbanks with coppiced oak, hazel and holly. Other archaeological features						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
include drainage ditches and an old trackway. In the SE corner of the subcpt is the site of Austford House where the remains of an outbuilding still survive.						
3b	5.31	Sweet chestnut	1990	Coppice	Archaeological features, Diseases, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Streetfield Wood. ASNW. Predominantly sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards. Other tree species include hornbeam, ash, hazel, holly and birch. Ground flora includes carpets of bluebells with ferns, bracken and bramble mosses. The subcpt contains the upper sections of 2 of the streams within the wood including important gill habitats. The subcpt includes a strip of woodland between Austford Drive and the public footpath. This is predominantly sweet chestnut coppice with birch and holly. The heavy rhododendron infestation was removed in 2008-9. A public footpath runs along a significant hollow-way along the E boundary of the subcpt. Adjoining coppice cants were cut in 2013 and 2016/17. The chestnut is badly affected by ink disease with many dead, dying and windblown stools.						
3c	0.41	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Former woodyard. Includes 1 remaining derelict wooden buildings, surfaced track and turning area.						
4a	2.61	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Management factors (eg grazing etc), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Open heath/grassland habitat. Historically known as Hoathes and was rough grazing land. Previously secondary plantation woodland with P89 Japanese larch which was clear-felled and the stumps removed in 2009. The area was fenced in 2011 as part of a larger grazing block and has had intermittent cattle and pony grazing since then. W edge is open-canopied P49 Scots pine (continuation of Subcpt 2g). Since clearance the area has quickly developed a						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
complete ground flora/shrub layer which includes many heathland plants such as common and bell heather, gorse, broom, heath bedstraw, dwarf gorse (Ulex minor), dodder and greater broomrape. Along the southern edge of the subcpt is a very significant bank with hornbeam and oak. There is a hollow-way through the pine to the W, parallel to the public footpath. In the SW corner there are other earthworks from an historic trackway and activities associated with the nearby site of Austford Farm (demolished in c1930). The subcpt contains animal handling and watering facilities in the N.						
4b	4.3	Birch (downy/silver)	2010	Wood pasture	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Birch regen and coppice regrowth (felled 2021) with sallow and occasional oak and Scots pine. Previously secondary plantation woodland with P81 Japanese larch and P89 oak which was clear-felled and the stumps removed in 2009. The area was fenced in 2011 as part of a larger grazing block and has had intermittent pony and cattle grazing since then. This subcpt contains the area identified by Roper (2002) as Sedlescombe Heath. In addition to the species listed for Subcpt 4a this area also has rare species such as lousewort, common dodder and greater broomrape, a species of conservation concern, listed as 'nationally scarce'. The E-W ride is associated with wet flushes and patches of common and bell heather and grasses. The boundary bank/trackway noted in Subcpt 4a continues along the S boundary of this subcpt. The E boundary is a gully with a temporary stream.						
4c	0.89	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Open heath/grassland habitat. Previously secondary plantation woodland with P92 Norway spruce which was clear-felled and the stumps removed in 2009. The area was fenced in 2011 as part of a larger grazing block and has had intermittent pony and cattle grazing since then. Species include: Yorkshire fog, common bent, bird's-foot trefoil, soft rush, sheep's sorrel, grey sallow regen, marsh thistle, common mouse-ear, ragwort, lesser spearwort, lesser stitchwort, common centaury, self- heal, trailing/hybrid tormentil, white clover, smooth tare.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Prior to afforestation it was part of an orchard. The N boundary with an existing orchard is a ditch and high bank. To the E and W are ditches.						
4d	1.24	Open ground	1992	Non-wood habitat	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Open ground with P92 oak and naturally regenerated broadleaves to the E. The open area was previously P49 Norway spruce which was clear-felled in late 2006. Prior to afforestation it was part of an orchard. There is a lynchet/bank forming the S boundary with the remnants of a hedge including mature oak. Part of a wider fenced area grazed intermittently with ponies, horse and cattle since 2011. Ground flora includes: bluebell; bracken; wood sage; common centaury; bramble; bird's-foot trefoil; common bent; sheep's sorrel; Yorkshire fog; self-heal.						
4e	2.99	Mixed native broadleaves	1989	High forest	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly the site of Austford Farm and adjoining House Field. The house platform is still visble. Previously P89/49 Sitka spruce thinned in 2011, 2015 and 2021 and then clear-felled in 2022 following extensive windblow. Broadleaved fringes along streams to the N/NE and SE boundaries and woodbank along SW boundary. Tree species include: alder; birch; hazel; field maple; oak; ash; willow; elder. Ground flora species include: primrose, nettle, dog's mercury, pendulous sedge, golden saxifrage, bluebell, lesser celandine, arum lily, moschatel, cuckoo flower, red campion, soft shield fern, male fern.						
4f	8.92	Scots pine	1949	High forest	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly rough pasture and arable known as White House Field, Great Brook Wood and Brook Hop Garden. Predominantly P49 Scots pine with some Sitka spruce. Thinned 2001/02, 2010 and 2016. Open canopy with broadleaved scrub, regen and some semi-mature trees. In the SE corner there is an area of seasonally flooded wet woodland with alder and various willow spp adjoining the Powdermill Stream which forms the southern boundary. The subcpt is divided by a small stream flowing S in a gully into the Powdermill Stream. Broadleaved species include: oak; sweet chestnut; ash; alder buckthorn; hawthorn; birch; hazel. The field layer contains much bramble and bramble but also relict acid grassland/heathland flora including wood sage, tormentil, water pepper, heather, self-heal, creeping buttercup, corn mint, trailing/hybrid tormentil, lesser spearwort on ride. The subcpt was part of the larger grazing block to the north and was grazed intermittently but is now separated by a fence.						
4g	1.04	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Open ground now known as Holman Wood Field. Formerly an arable field known as Little Brook Wood. Birch scrub around the margins was cleared 2008-10, revealing significant hollow-way to N and E. This is a continuation of the trackway across Subcpts 4a and 4b and is also the parish boundary between Sedlescombe and Ewhurst. The subcpt is an important area of wet and dry acid grassland with heather and dwarf gorse. Planted ash and naturally regenerated birch were cleared in 2001. Previously there's appears to have been a plantation of Douglas Fir in this area. The subcpt has been managed predominantly by mechanical and manual scrub control since 2008 and has also had some pony grazing. Birch and willow scrub can predominate if not managed. The field is extremely rich in wildlife, particularly invertebrates (see Roper, 2002). It is the only known UK location for the flea beetle Longitarsus longiseta (listed as extinct in the Red data Book). Ground flora species include: heath dog violet; lousewort; trailing/hybrid tormentil, white clover, bramble, jointed rush, wood sage, common centaury, bird's-foot trefoil, common bent, heath woodrush, Yorkshire fog, pendulous sedge, self-heal, heath speedwell, marsh thistle, common dog-violet. Note: the southern half of the open area is not in WT ownership (S of ride).						
5a	3.61	Open ground		Wood pasture	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Open lowland wet heath habitat with wet birch/Molinia woodland to NE. Formerly know as Toll Heath Field. Previously a conifer plantation with Scots pine and Douglas fir which was clear-felled and stumps removed in 2009. Map and survey evidence suggest the area was wooded from late 19th century with the conifers planted mid 20th century. Tree species include: birch; oak; alder buckthorn; Scots pine; grey willow Ground flora includes common and bell heather, cross-leaved heath, dodder, purple moor-grass, bramble, common bent, bracken, broad buckler fern, tormentil, pendulous sedge, male fern, honeysuckle, wood sage, bulbous rush, hard fern, sphagnum spp. Boundary to S is continuation of bank and trackway that borders Subcpts 4a and 4b. E section of this bank is parish boundary (Sedlescombe/Ewhurst). Stream/gully to W with broadleaved trees. Grazed intermittently since 2011 with ponies and cattle.						
5b	22.66	Hornbeam	1900	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Brede High Wood/Holman Wood/Dallox Shaw. ASNW. NW section is mixed coppice (sweet chestnut, birch, hazel, hornbeam, alder) with oak standards. Occasional yew. 3 streams running SE and S towards reservoir, originating from springs and wet flushes. Stream on E edge of subcpt has extensive sphagnum beds with alder, sallow, star sedge and marsh bedstraw. SE section is predominantly hornbeam coppice with oak standards. A wide swathe was coppiced in 2002 from E of subcpt 4g, running to the SE end of the subcpt. This has re-grown successfully with much regeneration of hornbeam, birch and aspen. Ground flora in this subcpt includes extensive carpets of bluebells in uncoppiced area and a much more mixed flora with grasses in open areas. Other important species include: early purple orchid; wood anemone; moschatel; wood sorrel; yellow archangel; dog's mercury; fern spp; sedge spp; rush spp. There are woodbanks around parts of the subcpt in the SE area and to the N. To the S where the subcpt adjoins Southern Water's land, there are extensive pits from historic iron ore extraction. The SE end (Dallox Shaw) is bounded by an historic hollow way and an earthen cliff from clay extraction from the reservoir construction.						
5c	1.92	Oak (pedunculate)	1949	High forest	Diseases	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly known as Hollywood Field. P49 mixed broadleaves (oak, ash, hornbeam). Minimal intervention since 2008 (some dead/dying ash felled). Ground flora dominated by brambles. Extensive broadleaved regen, particularly hornbeam. To the S and E is a woodbank and ditch marking the edge of Brede High Wood. New car park constructed 2011. Ash dieback present.						
5d	1.6	Scots pine	1959	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Previously listed as PAWS but now known to be long established secondary woodland. Formerly part of Hollywood. P59 Scots pine. Partly thinned 2012. Understorey of predominantly sweet chestnut coppice with birch, grey willow and holly. E end was clear-felled in 2006 and partly re-stocked with oak in 2009. Area of naturally regenerated pine and birch with much heather between mature pine and restock area. Ground flora includes heather, wood sage, bracken and bramble.						
5e	0.99	Sweet chestnut	2005	Coppice	Archaeological features, Diseases	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Long established secondary woodland. Formerly part of Broomy Field (shown as woodland on the c1840 tithe map). Sweet chestnut coppice last cut in c2004. Occasional oak standards. Ground flora includes heather, wood sage and bracken. To the E and W are prominent banks.						
5f	22.67	Corsican pine	1979	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Nature Conservation Importance
Brede High Wood. Southern section is PAWS. Northern section is long established secondary woodland. P79 Japanese larch, Scots and Corsican pine. Heavily thinned c2002 with subsequent windblow. W section thinned in 2012, E section in 2013. Broadleaved remnants include sweet chestnut and hornbeam coppice and c100 year old oak standards. Previous rhododendron infestation in the NW section of the subcpt cleared 2008. The N section under JL and SP has little woodland flora and few broadleaves (no oak). Ground flora includes heather, cross-leaved heath, wood sage, grasses and rushes with occasional clumps of bluebells and much birch regeneration. There is a gill with broadleaves and sphagnum beds in the SW section. The E section (CP) has extensive AW remnants along the stream which flows from a spring-fed pool and also along the woodbank to the E. Along the wide ride running SW/NE there is extensive heather and dwarf gorse. As well as the boundary banks there are other archaeological features including an extensive 'braided holloway' either side if the SW/NE ride.						
5g	3.06	Open ground		Non-wood habitat		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Predominantly open ground now known as Brede High Heath. Formerly part of a field known as Thirteen Acres. Previously secondary woodland with P89 (?) Scots pine and naturally regenerated birch. Clearfelled and stumps ground in 2009 leaving a birch dominated fringe along the N boundary and in occasional clumps, some of which was coppiced in 2021. Other tree species includes chestnut coppice, goat willow and oak. Ground flora includes dominant bracken + heather and bramble. Map evidence suggests this subcpt has had a intermittent history of woodland. Historic trackway to E.						
5h	1.89	Open ground		Non-wood habitat		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Predominantly open ground now known as Brede High Heath. Formerly part of a field known as Thirteen Acres. Cleared of conifer crop in c2002. Subsequent growth of extensive heather with broom, gorse and birch/oak scrub. History as per subcpt 5g. The southern subcpt boundary changed in 2023 to reflect the ancient woodland inventory data. The S third which has extensive bluebell is now included in Subcpt 5f.						
5i	6.16	Sweet chestnut	1990	Coppice	Archaeological features, Diseases	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Predominantly sweet chestnut coppice last cut in c1990 except for approx 2ha in the NW cut in 2021. The chestnut is badly affected by ink disease (Phytophthora spp) with many dead, dying and windblown stools. Like Subcpts 5g and 5h this area appears to have had an intermittent history as woodland but seems to have been wooded continuously since the late 19th century. Part shown as pasture called Barn Field and woodland known as Seven Acres on tithe map c1840. Some areas, particularly to the S have some ancient woodland ground flora such as bluebell and primrose. Other areas are dominated by hard fern. The S boundary is a significant bank with coppiced hornbeam, oak and holly. There is a smaller bank along the W boundary with similar tree species and common and bell heather. A track running N-S across the middle of the subcpt has mature holly along some of its length. In the SW corner is the former site of Keeper's Cottage, demolished in c1930. The site is now covered with trees including privet from the former garden.						
5j	0.85	Sweet chestnut	1900	High forest	Archaeological features, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Long established secondary woodland. As Subcpt 5i, formerly part of area known as Seven Acres but shown as woodland on tithe map c1840. Chestnut coppice approx 30 years old and oak standards. Includes small surfaced car park created in c2002 and upgraded in 2008. Ground flora includes bluebell, wood anemone, wood sorrel, primrose and bramble. The bank to the S is a continuation of that in Subcpt 5i. To the E is the historic sunken trackway to the site of Brede High farm and beyond. The powerlines form the boundary to the W.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
6a	2.18	Scots pine	1979	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. P79 Scots pine (with minor percentage of Corsican pine), last thinned in 2013. Crop trees and previous management are the same as for Subcpt 5f but this area is former pasture known as Foxglove Field. Includes naturally regenerated and canopy broadleaves including sycamore, sallow, birch, ash, alder and hazel. Ground flora includes bramble, sedges, rushes, ferns and bracken. Bounded to the SE by the head of a small stream and to the W and N by banks and ditches. The area to the N has been cleared of conifers to create a wide ride with a coppiced broadleaved edge.						
6b	2.57	Beech	1950	High forest	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin and open ground. Formerly an arable field known as Sawpit Field. Mixed broadleaves/mixed conifer of various ages. S part is predominantly P50 beech in rows with some Japanese larch from previous nurse crop. N section of subcpt is largely open ground to the S of the historic bank and trackway that runs E-W, with remnants of P60 Scots pine and Sitka spruce . Ground flora largely absent under the beech. Open ground contains: bracken; pendulous sedge; nettle; marsh thistle; Yorkshire fog; lesser stitchwort; greater bird's-foot trefoil; corn mint; creeping buttercup; white clover; self-heal; common bent; creeping thistle; wood sage; bramble; rosebay willowherb; nipplewort; cleavers; perennial rye-grass; musk mallow. Crossed by high-voltage powerlines with 10m wayleave cut regularly. E/SE boundary is historic trackway to Brede High Farm with banks up 1.5m high.						
6c	11.44	Beech	1960	High forest	Archaeological features, Diseases, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly arable fields know as Sheeplands, Sheep Pound Field, Minepit Field and Pear Tree Field. P60 mixed broadleaves, last thinned 2018. Species include beech, sycamore, oak, ash and sweet chestnut. Understorey forming from coppice regrowth of felled tree stumps and natural regen of sycamore and ash. Ash is badly affected by dieback and been targeted for removal by tree safety work and thinning.. Ground flora is dominated by bramble with pendulous sedge and some dogs mercury. The subcpt is crossed by a 10m wide ride from E to W. This is heavily rutted and prone to waterlogging but has a richer ground flora including wood dock, water pepper, broad-leaved dock, wood sedge, rough meadow grass, remote sedge, broad-leaved helleborine. S boundary is the woodbank around Coneyburrow Wood. W boundary is historic trackway.						
6d	5.52	Birch (downy/silver)	1989	High forest	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly known as Hooe Field, part of Brede High Farm. Originally planted with beech in the 1950s, with a few trees surviving. Subsequently planted with mainly Japanese larch in 1989 following windblow in 1987. Small area of P89 Sitka spruce in NW clearfelled 2022. JL still dominates the N third of the subcpt with birch and mixed broadleaves to S. JL thinned in 2011 and 2021. Ground flora is dominated by bracken and bramble but with more diversity on ride edges Small pond and site of farm cottages in N. NW boundary is small stream. SW boundary is historic trackway from Brede High Farm to Brede Furnace. This edge of the Subcpt is a largely open strip up to 10m wide and has oak, field maple and bluebells suggesting a long established woodland shaw.						
6e	2.48	Japanese larch	1950	High forest	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Site of Brede High Farm prior to 1930 (partly excavated in 2012). Also Moat and Stack Platt Fields. P50 beech, sycamore, Scots pine and larch to SW with P89 JL in SE corner. Approx P89 MB to N of subcpt, mostly from natural regeneration and including sycamore goat willow and birch. Grojd flora includes: bramble; bracken; nettle. Historic trackways to west and south. Woodbank and hedge-bank to east. E section crossed by high voltage power lines with open ground, wetland and scrub underneath.						
6f	0.83	Douglas fir	1989	High forest	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formally part of Hay Stack Field. Predominantly P89 Douglas fir, partly thinned in 2011 and 2021. Ground flora includes: bramble, bracken, broad buckler fern, male fern, wood sorrel, orpine and wood club rush. Old trackways border the north with hedge/woodbanks to south and east. High voltage powerlines and wetland to E.						
6g	8.18	Mixed broadleaves	1975	Coppice	Archaeological features, Diseases, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Predominantly mixed secondary woodland except for a small area of ASNW with pits and pond on the S boundary historically known as Brick Kiln Shaw. Formerly part of Brede High Farm including Six Acres, Hay Stack, Way and Broomy Fields. Now coppiced sweet chestnut and sycamore to the NW. Planted ash and Japanese larch to the S. Mature planted beech and birch thicket in the NE. Largely neglected with extensive windblow and diseased ash and chestnut. Ground flora includes extensive bluebells in NW under chestnut coppice + bracken, bramble, ferns and bare ground. Historic trackway (Brede High Lane) to W. Various boundary banks from previous fields. 'Horse Pond' on W edge.						
6h	1.54	Western hemlock	1975	High forest	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formally part of Way Field. Predominantly P74 western hemlock (thinned 2013) with some open bracken glades and occasional broadleaves including birch, sweet chestnut and sycamore. Ground flora includes: bracken; bramble; bluebell; ferns. Historic trackway to the west becomes a significant deep hollow-way along this section with coppiced broadleaves along its edge. To E and S is a steep bank.						
7a	24.22	Sweet chestnut	1900	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Diseases, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Coneyburrow Wood and Twist Wood/Field. ASNW. Predominantly coppice with oak standards. Main coppice species are sweet chestnut, hornbeam, alder and ash. Extensive areas of chestnut were coppiced 2002-2005. The wood is crossed by 3 streams with gills along some of their lengths. There is also an area of wet alder woodland around the central stream and spring. The W edge of the wood is crossed by the powerlines with a 15m wide swathe of scrub/open ground. This includes an area of coppiced alder carr. There are ancient woodland plants throughout including bluebell; wood anemone, primrose, dog's mercury, yellow archangel along with ferns, sedges, rushes, bracken and bramble. The very rare green hellebore also grows in one location. The subcpt contains many woodbanks, trackways, sawpits, charcoal hearths and other archaeological features. The public footpath crosses the eastern stream on a pond bay/causeway. The area south of Subcpt 7b is a former field (Twist Field?) now reverted to secondary mixed broadleaved woodland with birch, sallow and ash.						
7b	3.03	Beech	1960	High forest	Archaeological features, Diseases	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly known as Hilly Field (medieval assart) planted with mixed broadleaves in 1960/61. Species include beech, ash, oak and sycamore. Thinned in 2018. It is mostly surrounded by a bank and ditch with coppiced broadleaves and ancient woodland plants such as bluebell and dog's mercury. It is crossed by a wide ride from NW-SE. The stand is a continuation of the plantation in Subcpts 6c and a small part of 7a to the N. Ash badly affected by dieback.						
7c	1.54	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Twist Wood. Formerly PAWS with P79 Japanese larch. Larch removed in 2019. Frequent mature oak standards and coppiced broadleaves including hornbeam and sweet chestnut along with holly, hazel and birch. Ground flora dominated by brambles but with ancient woodland flora including bluebell, wood anemone and wood sorrel. The eastern boundary is Goatham Lane where there is a bank on or parallel to the lane with coppice mixed broadleaves and a rich woodland flora. Western boundary is an historic trackway.						
7d	2.73	Mixed conifers	1989	High forest	Archaeological features, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly a field (part of Loanhams/Meadowlands Farm). Originally planted with mixed conifers (SP, SS and DF) in c1950 with some remaining in the centre of the subcpt. Subsequently appears to have been windblown or harvested and restocked with Douglas fir and Japanese larch in 1989. DF thinned in 2011 and 2019 (along with JL). Ground flora includes bracken, bramble and ferns with some bluebell, wood sorrel and ferns. Mostly surrounded by a woodbank with coppiced mixed broadleaves and holly which forms historic boundary with Coneyburrow Wood. NW boundary is top edge of gill (Subcpt 7a). Includes the site of a small cottage in the SE.						
8a	2.71	Sitka spruce	1951	High forest	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Predominantly P51 Sitka spruce with extensive windblow in places. Planted over historic field boundaries (part of Loanhams Farm) which can still be identified in some places. Contains some mixed broadleaves including ash affected by dieback. Ground flora poor. Boundary to NW is with Southern Water's land and is not delineated on the ground. The northern boundary is the woodbank delineating the edge of Coneyburrow Wood. The subcpt is divided in 2 by the powerlines. Thinned and edges of wayleave felled in 2010.						
8b	3.87	Mixed broadleaves	1970	High forest	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly fields with hedges and shaws (part of Loanhams Farm). Mixed broadleaved and conifer plantations of various ages. Species include semi-mature oak, beech and ash, young planted and regenerated oak, ash, birch etc, young Corsican pine. Shaws contain some ancient woodland flora. There is a large pit that contains water seasonally. The powerlines form the boundary to the east. To the SW is the Southern Water owned part of Pond Wood (ASNW).						
8c	4.37	Birch (downy/silver)	1989	Coppice	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly fields with hedges on banks (part of Loanhams Farm). Also small ASNW shaw in NE adjacent to lane. Mostly cleared following 1987 storm and restocked with Corsican pine in 1989. This has largely failed and been replaced with naturally regenerated broadleaves, predominantly birch. Approx 1 ha birch coppiced in 2015 and 2ha in 2022/23. Ground flora is largely limited to bramble, mosses and ferns. The powerlines run along the western boundary. Goatham Lane is to the east. A forestry road forms the southern boundary.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
8d	1.78	Corsican pine	1989	High forest	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly part of Loanhams Farm. Predominantly P89 Corsican pine with naturally regenerated broadleaves, thinned in 2011. Small area of mature CP (c1950s) in NE of subcpt, thinned in 2010. To the S is Pond Wood (ASNW). To the E are the powerlines. The N boundary is an old hedge-bank.						
8e	1.52	Oak (pedunculate)	1954	High forest	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Predominantly secondary woodland of plantation origin with part of ASNW shaw in the north. Predominantly semi-mature mixed broadleaves including oak and ash. Formerly part of 2 fields adjacent to 'Meadowland' (also Subcpt 8f). Old field boundaries are present in the form of banks and relic hazel hedges. Ground flora includes some ancient woodland species such as early purple orchid. The Subcpt contains ditches/stream flowing towards the reservoir. The S boundary is with Reservoir Lane. To the W is Pond Wood (ASNW). To the E are the powerlines.						
8f	1.54	Sycamore	1989	High forest	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Predominantly secondary woodland of plantation origin. Part ASNW shaw in the northern part. Formerly the site of 'Meadowland' which was demolished in 1930. Planted with Corsican pine in 1989 but now predominantly naturally-regenerated broadleaves such as sycamore, ash, birch and sallow. A pond remains on the site of the property. Ground flora is varied and includes both ancient woodland and open ground species. To the north is a forestry track. To the east is Goatham Lane. To the west are the EHV powerlines.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
9a	4.32	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Pond Wood. ASNW. Mixed coppice (hornbeam, sweet chestnut, ash) with oak standards. Wild service and crab apple on woodbank to north-east. AW ground flora including wood anemone and bluebell. To the west is a continuation of Pond Wood owned by Southern Water on the edge of the reservoir. To the south is Reservoir Lane with a species-rich bank below the wood. There are various small pits within the subcpt which would appear to have been for iron-ore extraction.						
9b	1.27	Corsican pine	1989	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Pond Wood. PAWS. Remnants of P89 Corsican pine, thinned to waste in 2011. Broadleaves include birch, sallow, hornbeam, ash, oak, hazel and field maple and some old dead coppice stools. There is a woodbank to E. The N section contains a stream that flows NW towards the reservoir with wet unstable valley sides with alder, aspen and ash. There are 'bell-pits' within the Subcpt to S and W. Ground flora includes bluebell, wood anemone and dogs mercury.						
10a	9.47	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	Archaeological features	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Rafters Wood. ASNW. Mixed coppice with oak standards. The coppice to the north is predominantly sweet chestnut with an area to the NE coppiced c2005 and an adjacent cant coppiced in 2014. Coppice species to the south include hornbeam and ash. Ground flora includes AW species such as bluebell and wood anemone. The wood contains various archaeological features including a trackway running from north to south with evidence of surfacing with blast furnace slag. There are also sawpits and charcoal heaths situated along the track. Rideside coppicing was undertaken along the trackway in 2011. To W is the stream from the reservoir with pasture/arable beyond. To NE is Plains Wood (ASNW). To E is arable farmland. To the SE is Horns Wood which is under private ownership.						
11a	2.71	Ash	1960	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Secondary woodland of plantation origin. Formerly Tithe Field. Thinned mixed broadleaved/conifer plantation planted in c1960. Ash is the main broadleaved species with occasional sweet chestnut. There is a developing coppice understorey from stumps of felled trees. Conifers include Japanese larch, Sitka spruce and Scots pine (rare). Ground flora includes ruderal species such as bramble and stinging nettle. The subcpt is surrounded on 3 sides by a steep bank with AW flora and hazel coppice, beyond which is farmland. To the SW is a significant historic trackway, partly sunken. Beyond the track is a continuation of the plantation under private ownership. To W is a steep bank leading down to the B2244 Hawkhurst Road.						

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.