

# Elmstead Market

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

## Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

# Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

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

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

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

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

## Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

# The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
  - 4.1 f1 New Native Woodland
  - 4.2 f2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat
  - 4.3 f3 Informal Public Access
  - 4.4 f4 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Elmstead Market

Location:	Colchester Grid reference: TM073249 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 168
Area:	42.05 hectares (103.91 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archeological Site
Internal Designations:	Tree For All Site

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

This large mosaic of habitats comprises newly planted woodland, wildflower meadows, a stream, ponds and ancient semi-natural woodland on the immediate outskirts of the relatively large village sharing the same name as the site, Elmstead Market. The site is enjoyed by local residents with fairly low visitor numbers as there is no car park.

The site is former arable farmland once part of Lodge Farm which the site is adjacent to. It is situated east of Colchester in an area of generally flat open country, on the eastern edge of the interfluvial plateau between two tributaries of the River Colne. To the west, the Salary Brook and to the North and East, the Bromley Brook and Tenpenny Brook. The north and south boundaries of the site are formed by the A120 and the Bromley Road. In the surrounding area small fragments of ancient woodland remain and some local nature reserves. Dedham Vale AONB lies a short drive away directly north and to the north east is the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.

The site includes the floor and gently sloping sides of the Tenpenny Brook valley. A shallow subsidiary valley, cut by a small stream which is little more than a drainage ditch, runs across the southern half of the site south of Lodge Farm, joining Tenpenny Brook about 150m before it flows under the Bromley Road and out of the site.

The site is thought to have been part of a park (Elmstead Park) thought to date from at least the 17th century and which had largely been converted to farmland by 1845 Tithe Map. Maps from 1655 show the site's 4.5ha area of ancient semi natural woodland, Mill Wood, to have been an area of pasture woodland and overall the land was generally less treed in 1655 than it is currently.

On acquisition much of the site in 2008, 27.5 ha was planted with a mix of native woodland species which is now well established. A corridor 50m either side of Tenpenny Brook is maintained as semi natural open ground with new ponds and wetland habitats. As part of our management plan these areas are grazed by native cattle breeds. Additional open ground areas are located where new woodland could not be planted for archaeological reasons or to avoid planting trees too close to neighbours' residences. One area has been sown to wildflowers with a clumped planting of trees to create an open pasture woodland type habitat. Another area was originally intended as an outdoor education space with large chainsaw sculptures and a cherry orchard. This is maintained now as a wildflower meadow.

Mill Wood, the site's ancient semi natural woodland is a long unworked coppice of ash, hazel and sweet chestnut. Ash dieback is present here. The woodland contains a significant amount of deadwood habitat and has a stunning carpet of bluebells in spring.

Key species found on site are buzzards and barn owls, both of which nest on site. Water voles had previously been recorded on site and are likely to recolonise due to mink control measures in the wider area.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

**New Native woodland:** A well established, healthy, mature and attractive secondary native broadleaf woodland containing a diverse range of native tree species of varying age structure and habitats, which are resilient to change. Some silvicultural intervention may be necessary in the future to create and maintain these conditions.

Management of the woodlands will respond to any changes and threats imposed on them, for instance from tree diseases. Restocking and the use of alternative species to ensure a robust and diverse tree mix will be undertaken where appropriate, and especially in areas affected by ash dieback. Some areas affected by ash dieback will create space for other native trees and shrubs to regenerate. The size, species and type of woodland lends itself to coppice with standards in future, mirroring the historical management of Mill Wood and maximizing the wildlife habitat. The young woodland will buffer and extend our area of ancient semi-natural woodland, Mill Wood.

The woodland edges will be diverse and well structured. The local deer population will be managed if necessary so it does not pose a serious threat to the woodland.

**New Semi-natural open ground:** A diverse semi-natural open ground habitat with up to 20% woodland cover will be created comprising grassland, stream, ponds, wetland and scrub/woodland. The land will be managed to enhance its value for wildlife and will seek to make use of local farmers in the long-term management of the grassland. Open habitats include the development of an area of wood pasture on the southwest corner of the site.

**Informal Public Access:** Continue to provide quiet informal public access with pedestrian access only permitted. Its use as an outdoor education facility can be developed and promoted to the local primary school in the first instance. Access facilities will, on the whole, be low key and appropriate for this locally visited site. However a good standard of access provision will be maintained: the path network will be kept open for use and the entrances will be accessible and clearly signed. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors and neighbours through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones, as the woodland reaches maturity.

**Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland:** A diverse, multi-structured mixed coppice and high forest woodland with abundant natural regeneration, ground flora and deadwood habitat, maintaining the current valuable flora and fauna at a level where they will not become threatened or in decline. High forest areas will be maintained and exhibit good structural and species diversity with sufficient regeneration of native tree species. Management of the woodland will respond to any changes and threats imposed on them, for instance from tree diseases. The original policy for the woodland was non-intervention but with ash dieback there is a need to break up the age structure through coppicing with standards. This will contribute to the woodland's resilience by enhancing diversity and wildlife habitat. Larger ash stools will be left uncoppiced due to the likelihood that they will not regrow due to ash dieback. They will be allowed to senesce naturally to provide deadwood habitat. Standards will be selected as a seed source and to become future veterans.

The woodland will continue to provide a quiet area for the nesting buzzards.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 New Native Woodland

<b>Description</b>
<p>27.5 ha of the site has been planted with new native woodland and is now well established. The woodland is situated on the sides of the small river valley along which runs Ten Penny Brook.</p> <p>New woodland was established in three phases on former arable land. Archaeological assessments undertaken on all fields except for the phase one planting.</p> <p>Across all planting blocks the species mix is largely ash, pedunculate oak, hazel and sweet chestnut with smaller amounts of silver birch, downy birch, small-leaved lime, hornbeam, grey willow, holly and crab apple.</p> <p>Phase one: Planted spring 2008 by local Scouts and schoolchildren. At the time the land was not owned by the Woodland Trust but carried out the work and subsequently maintained the trees.</p> <p>Phase Two: Two blocks totalling 13.5 ha and 28,832 trees planted in spring 2009 under an English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) scheme.</p> <p>Phase three: Two blocks totalling 10.5ha and 20,700 trees planted a season apart. 5.25 ha planted in January 2011 with the remaining 5.25 planted in January 2012.</p> <p>A phased removal of rabbit fences and tree shelters across the site is almost complete, as the infrastructure and materials become redundant and not needed in the planted areas.</p> <p>The planted areas are developing in an appropriate manner for a woodland creation site. Trees are well established, however tree and shrub regeneration levels are low.</p>
<b>Significance</b>
<p>It is one of the Woodland Trust's core objectives to create quality native woods and trees to benefit nature, climate and people into the future.</p> <p>Early successional woodland, especially when it has a diverse structure, provides biodiversity benefits. It also buffers and links existing ancient woodland and improves the ecosystem of these precious habitats.</p>
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>Constraints</p> <p>C1: Deer browsing.</p>



## Opportunities

O1: Create and sustain attractive, resilient and site native broadleaved woodland;

O2: To temporarily expand habitat opportunities for non-woodland species

O3: Scalloping along the rides to create a varied, zoned edge structure, reduce shading along the ride, increase the overall structural diversity of the woodland and provide sheltered herb-rich grassy areas ideal for butterflies.

## Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*);

Deer browsing/damage. Occasional fallow and muntjac deer present;

Drier and warmer conditions with climate change could affect the longer-term survival of some tree species;

Recent sale of neighbouring farmland and acquisition by new landowner.

## Long term Objective (50 years+)

A well established, healthy, mature and attractive secondary native broadleaf woodland containing a diverse range of native tree species of varying age structure and habitats, which are resilient to change. Some silvicultural intervention may be necessary in the future to create and maintain these conditions.

Management of the woodlands will respond to any changes and threats imposed on them, for instance from tree diseases.

Restocking and the use of alternative species to ensure a robust and diverse tree mix will be undertaken where appropriate, and especially in areas affected by ash dieback. Some areas affected by ash dieback will create space for other native trees and shrubs to regenerate.

The size, species and type of woodland lends itself to coppice with standards in future, mirroring the historical management of Mill Wood and maximizing the wildlife habitat.

The young woodland will buffer and extend our area of ancient semi-natural woodland, Mill Wood.

The woodland edges will be diverse and well structured.

The local deer population will be managed, if necessary, so it does not pose a serious threat to the woodland.

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

Carry out a herbivore impact assessment in the most recently planted area to the north of the site within the term of this plan to monitor the ecological impact of deer.

Small-scale scalloping along the ride from the orchard to the meadow to create a varied, zoned edge structure, reduce shading along the ride and provide sheltered herb-rich grassy areas ideal for butterflies. Within the term of this plan.

Continue to remove redundant rabbit and stock fences running along the edges of the planting blocks. Approximately 700m to be removed along south western planted block (compartment 1) within the term of this plan.

## 4.2 f2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

<p><b>Description</b></p>
<p>24% (circa 10ha) of the site is being developed as a diverse semi-natural open ground habitat with up to 20% woodland cover. Habitats being established and maintained are grassland, stream, ponds, wetland and scrub/woodland.</p> <p>A corridor 50m either side of Tenpenny Brook is maintained as semi natural open ground to keep edges of the brook open. Additional open ground areas are located where new woodland could not be planted for archaeological reasons or to avoid planting trees too close to neighbours' residences. One area has been sown to wildflowers with a clumped planting of trees to create an open pasture woodland type habitat. Another area originally intended as an outdoor education space with wooden sculptures and a cherry orchard is now maintained as a wildflower meadow.</p> <p>The semi natural open ground is developing into a relatively species-rich grassland, with species including cowslips, oxeye daisies, yellow rattle, lady's bedstraw, bird's-foot-trefoil and knapweed.</p> <p>A new pond and wetland scrape were established in December 2010. The bulk of the grassland has been established by natural regeneration with only 2.5 ha established by sowing a wildflower meadow mix on which hay from a meadow at the Woodland Trust's nearby Fordham Hall Estate was over-sown. The grassland was initially managed by cutting and leaving the residue, however grant commitments required us to remove the arisings. Native cattle graze the grassland; short-horn are chosen for their passive nature, managed by a third party grazier.</p> <p>Barn owls have been successfully breeding on site, making use of the barn owl boxes which are monitored by BTO bird ringer volunteers.</p>
<p><b>Significance</b></p>
<p>Opportunity to create a locally significant biodiversity reserve with good prospects to facilitate the spread of species along the river valley.</p> <p>Grazed semi-natural grassland is a nationally declining habitat.</p> <p>In landscape terms, grazed grassland in the river valley restores a landscape that is increasingly being lost in Essex.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b></p>
<p>Constraints</p> <p>C1 Natural succession leading to woodland;  C2: Control of noxious weeds;  C3: Lack of experienced local conservation graziers.</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <p>O1: To create a diverse range of semi-natural habitats complementary to native woodland.  O2: To enhance water vole habitat along Ten Penny Brook;</p>

O3: To buffer the adjacent ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW).
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
Natural succession to woodland through encroachment of scrub. Thistle and ragwort expansion from meadow areas.
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
A diverse semi-natural open ground habitat with up to 20% woodland cover will be created comprising grassland, stream, ponds, wetland and scrub/woodland. The land will be managed to enhance its value for wildlife and will seek to make use of local farmers in the long-term management of the grassland. Open habitats include the development of an area of wood pasture on the southwest corner of the site.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
<p>1. Removal of annual growth by the grazing and cut and collect of the grassland areas to promote botanical diversification. The development of trees and scrub via natural colonisation on the open ground up to a max of 20%. Cut and collect on 0.19ha wildflower meadow next to contractor/staff car parking area and cattle handling area. Cut and collect in cherry orchard area.</p> <p>2. Maintenance of two barn owl boxes on the site and exploration of other habitat enhancement features opportunities.</p> <p>3. Development and maintenance of the grassland in the cherry orchard into an attractive wildflower meadow by replicating a hay crop by cut and collect to impoverish the soil. Continued maintenance/replacement of the trees and labels.</p> <p>5. Annual thistle and ragwort control on river meadow areas, if required. Cut river meadow area and remove arisings to a permanent compost area. Area approximately 4ha.</p> <p>6. Annual rotational strimming of bankside vegetation of pond to improve habitat for invertebrates and reptiles.</p>

#### 4.3 f3 Informal Public Access

<b>Description</b>
<p>There is free, pedestrian public access across the whole site. A public right of way (PROW) runs along the southern boundary of the site and the site is on the immediate outskirts of the relatively large village of Elmstead Market.</p> <p>A network of approximately 3000m of grassy paths are maintained by cutting at least three times annually. Three entrances provide access. No parking is available onsite for visitors but a village car park is nearby, a 10 minutes' walk along pavements. Limited space for ad-hoc small events and staff parking is available. National cycle route 51 passes by the entrance to the site.</p>

A quiet area for picnics has been established in the middle of the site, managed as a wildflower meadow. It comprises a chainsaw sculpted seating area in the form of a giant working sundial and flowering cherry orchard.

Any gates on the site are either 4 foot wide gates of medium mobility kissing gates. Stiles are used for management access into planting areas only and not intended for wider public use although more accessible two step stiles have been used.

### **Significance**

Increasing public awareness and enjoyment of woods and trees is one of the Trust's core objectives.

The site creates a prominent local amenity close to a large village. Although lightly used, it is well-appreciated by the local community.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

#### Constraints

C1: A number of private residences abut or are partially enclosed by the site;

C2: Lack of on-site parking restricts non-local visitor accessibility.

C3: Elmstead Market and the wider Colchester area are growing with a number of new residential developments.

#### Opportunities

O1: To create a prominent local amenity for Elmstead Market village.

O2: To promote outdoor educational opportunities at the local primary school.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Residential development in the area will lead to higher visitor numbers to the site, making it a more valuable amenity.

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

Continue to provide quiet informal public access with pedestrian access only permitted. Its use as an outdoor education facility can be developed and promoted to the local primary school in the first instance.

Access facilities will, on the whole, be low key and appropriate for this locally visited site. However a good standard of access provision will be maintained: the path network will be kept open for use and the entrances will be accessible and clearly signed.

The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors and neighbours through regular tree safety inspections in high

risk zones, as the woodland reaches maturity.

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

The overall objectives this plan period are to maintain informal access and ensure safety for visitors, with no major changes to the access facilities. These objectives will be achieved by the following activities:

1. Selected paths cut at least three times a year with annual maintenance of entrances and signage.
2. Annual maintenance of cherry orchard (picnic area) and sculpture seating area, including mowing paths.
3. Annual safety management of the boundary roadside hedge to protect neighbours, visitors and road users.

#### **4.4 f4 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland**

##### **Description**

Mill Wood, a 4.5ha ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) has many very large coppice stools of ash, hazel and sweet chestnut with mature holly. It contains a significant amount of dead wood on the ground from fallen mature ash. The ground flora has carpets of bluebells, climbing corydalis and some dog's mercury, all indicating old woodland. The coppice stool density is very low and the coppice long unworked and now very over mature. Hazel coppice is being overtopped and is in decline across the wood due to lack of regular management and lack of light. Hawthorn and elder are components of the understory. Regeneration of tree and shrub species is low.

Ash dieback is impacting some of the older ash.

Buzzards are well established nesting in the wood.

The northern end of the wood shows evidence of some replanting with sweet chestnut after the 1987 storm. A small strip along the woodbank on the eastern side of Mill Wood bordering the farmland and down to the road was likely planted with oak and ash. As a result there is a distinct woodbank which contains significant veterans and old oak pollards.

Some historic minor dumping of farm rubbish (bricks, rubble, scrap metal) and pheasant pen detritus remain in the wood as access is difficult to remove these.

##### **Significance**

Ancient semi-natural woodlands have been in existence for many hundreds of years and unfortunately are a declining resource. As well as being a traditional feature in the landscape they support an abundance of plants, mammals, birds, insects and fungi. It is one of the Woodland Trust's main objectives to protect ancient, veteran and valuable woods and trees, to stop the loss of irreplaceable habitat and carbon stores and preserve our natural heritage.

<p><b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b></p>
<p>Constraints</p> <p>C1: Timing of coppicing operations will need cooperation of neighbouring landowner for access at eastern edge of wood.</p> <p>C2: Very overstood coppice with low stool density</p> <p>C3: Deer browsing; occasional fallow and muntjac deer present.</p> <p>C4: Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>).</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <p>O1: Coppicing the out-of-cycle coppice stools will vary the age structure of the woodland, allow increased light to reach the woodland floor and encourage natural regeneration.</p> <p>O2: Further buffer the ancient woodland and enhance woodland biodiversity by exploring opportunities to acquire neighbouring 6.5ha field to the east.</p>
<p><b>Factors Causing Change</b></p>
<p>Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>).</p> <p>Deer browsing/damage.</p> <p>Shading affecting natural tree and shrub regeneration and native ground flora.</p> <p>Climate change/ pests &amp; diseases.</p> <p>Boundary fence on eastern side between our land and farmer's field currently in state of disrepair.</p> <p>Some bluebell trampling.</p>
<p><b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b></p>
<p>A diverse, multi-structured mixed coppice and high forest woodland with abundant natural regeneration, ground flora and deadwood habitat, maintaining the current valuable flora and fauna at a level where they will not become threatened or in decline. High forest areas will be maintained and exhibit good structural and species diversity with sufficient regeneration of native tree species. Management of the woodland will respond to any changes and threats imposed on them, for instance from tree diseases. The original policy for the woodland was non-intervention but with ash dieback there is a need to ensure regeneration of other species, entailing some silvicultural management. This will contribute to the woodland's resilience by enhancing diversity and wildlife habitat. Larger ash stools will be left uncoppiced due to the likelihood that they will not regrow due to ash dieback. They will be allowed to senesce naturally to provide deadwood habitat. Standards will be selected as a seed source and to become future veterans.</p>

The woodland will continue to provide a quiet area for the nesting buzzards.

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

Thin approximately 1 acre of overstood ash coppice on the boundary with neighbouring landowner to prevent further damage to neighbour's fence and property. This tree safety work will also increase light levels and develop woodland edge habitat. To be undertaken in Autumn 2023.

Install new rabbit fencing along eastern boundary in autumn 2023 directly after the ash coppicing.

Reinstate lapsed historic coppicing of the sweet chestnut to break up the structure of the woodland and increase light levels to improve conditions for ancient woodland flora in 2025 and 2027.

Undertake formal woodland condition assessment to inform management plan review. Includes monitoring impacts of pests and diseases, invasive species, regeneration and extent of ground flora. Due spring 2027.

Continue to monitor ash dieback through periodic tree safety inspections, scheduling silvicultural intervention (selective fell) where deemed necessary to reduce risk for site users.

Retain significant amount of dead wood and fallen trees (mostly ash) in situ where they do not present a safety hazard to visitors.

Annual monitoring towards the end of bluebell season to assess impact of trampling of woodland flora.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	November
2023	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	November
2023	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	November
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	February
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	April
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	September
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	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	October
2024	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	November
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	November



Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	November
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,	February
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	February
2025	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	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	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	November
2025	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	November
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	September
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	October
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	November

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	November
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,	February
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,	October
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,	October

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	27.5	NULL	2008	High forest		
<p>New woodland established in three phases on former arable land. Archaeological assessments undertaken on all fields except for the phase one planting.</p> <p>Across all planting blocks the species mix is largely: Ash 24%, pedunculate oak 21%, hazel 20%, sweet chestnut 13%, silver birch 6%, downy birch 3%, small leaved-lime 3%, hornbeam 3%, grey willow 2%, holly 1% and crab apple 1%.</p> <p>Phase one: Planted Spring 2008 by local Scouts and schoolchildren.</p> <p>Phase Two: Two blocks totalling 13.5 ha and 28,832 trees planted in spring 2009. Stocking varies slightly across the blocks but averages 2.1x1.5 m spacing.</p> <p>Phase three: Two blocks totalling 10.5ha and 20,700 trees planted a season apart. 5.25 ha planted in January 2011 with the remaining 5.25 planted in January 2012. Planting site pre-sown with various grass species. Field previously known as Spring Field; true to its name several springs rise from the site and the ground in places becomes very soft in the autumn and winter months.</p> <p>All woodland blocks are developing in an appropriate manner for a woodland creation; trees are well established.</p>						
2a	9.2	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features	Archeological Site
<p>Former arable land straddling Ten Penny Brook which runs through the site, converted to floodplain grassland with up to 20% tree and shrub cover by natural regeneration. The land was not ear-marked for extensive woodland creation due to known and anticipated archaeological constraints and previous grant obligations. Also covers the former arable field in southwest corner of site bordering Bromley Road and farm track, sown to a grass and wildflower mix in spring 2010. Hay from the Woodland Trust's nearby meadow at Fordham Hall Estate was scattered here and subsequently chopped up and left on site.</p> <p>The brook has been until recently a key water vole habitat and is still regularly monitored by Essex Wildlife Trust. Following mink control measures elsewhere, the Wildlife Trust report that water voles are now resident close to the site and likely to colonise.</p> <p>A pond and wetland scrape were constructed in December 2010 along with a river edge cut through to let cattle</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						<p>reach the brook side for water. The bankside vegetation of the pond is stumped to improve habitat for invertebrates and reptiles. Barn owl boxes have been erected at two points across the site with a third erected by our neighbour overlooking the site.</p> <p>Grant commitments under the Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) require us to remove the grass growth each year either by grazing or cut and removal.</p> <p>Native cattle graze the area; short-horn are chosen for their passive nature, managed by a third party grazier.</p> <p>Volunteers planted a new hedge in the southwest corner along the farm track compartment boundary in spring 2010 along with a number of treed clumps totalling 0.52 ha planted across the whole compartment.</p>
2b	0.7	NULL		Non-wood habitat		
						<p>Former arable field north of Lodge Farm on western side of site. Originally earmarked for woodland creation but following archaeological survey a possible hut site was identified and the area excluded from the extensive woodland creation proposals. The area is managed as a wildflower meadow with an ornamental cherry orchard, providing a quiet place for picnics. Pyramidal orchids are found here.</p> <p>The area was originally intended as an outdoor education area original sponsored by TK Maxx. A sculpted seating area in the form of a giant sundial was constructed in 2010 by a local chainsaw carver. The area was enclosed by a hedge and specially designed pencil gate and fence in spring 2010. The area has since been re-fenced. In December 2010 an ornamental cherry orchard was planted. The intention of the cherry orchard is to have the benefits of spring blossom without needing to clear up fallen fruit or plan for the use of any apples that would arise from the more typically planted apple orchard. Two each of ten different flowering cherry varieties were planted along with two each of a flowering almond and plum.</p>
3a	4.51	Mixed broadleaves		Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
						<p>Mill Wood, is an ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) with many very large coppice stools of ash, hazel and sweet chestnut with mature holly. It contains a significant amount of dead wood on the ground from fallen mature ash. The ground flora has carpets of bluebells, climbing corydalis and some dog's mercury, all indicating old woodland. The coppice stool density is very low and the coppice long unworked and now very over mature. Hazel coppice is being overtopped and is in decline across the wood due to lack of regular management and lack of light. Hawthorn and elder are components of the understory. Regeneration of tree and shrub species is low. Ash dieback is impacting some of the older ash.</p>

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
---------	-----------	--------------	------	-------------------	------------------------------	--------------

Buzzards are well established nesting in the wood.

The northern end of the wood shows evidence of some replanting with sweet chestnut after the 1987 storm. A small strip along the woodbank on the eastern side of Mill Wood bordering the farmland and down to the road was likely planted with oak and ash. As a result there is a distinct woodbank which contains significant veterans and old oak pollards.

Some historic minor dumping of farm rubbish (bricks, rubble, scrap metal) and pheasant pen detritus remain in the wood as access is difficult to remove these.

### **Ancient Woodland**

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

### **Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland**

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

### **Ancient Woodland Site**

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

### **Beating Up**

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

### **Broadleaf**

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

### **Canopy**

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

### **Clearfell**

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### **Compartment**

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

### **Conifer**

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

### **Continuous Cover forestry**

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

**Coppice**

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

**Exotic (non-native) Species**

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

**Field Layer**

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

**Group Fell**

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

**Long Term Retention**

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

**Minimum Intervention**

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

**Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

**National vegetation classification (NVC)**

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

**Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

**Natural Regeneration**

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

**Origin & Provenance**

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

**Re-Stocking**

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

**Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

**Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

**Stand**

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

**Sub-Compartment**

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

**Thinning**

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

**Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes**

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

**Weeding**

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

**Windblow/Windthrow**

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

**Registered Office:**

**The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.**

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.