

# Bramingham Wood

## (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 Community Woodland Group
  - 4.2 f2 Informal Public Access
  - 4.3 f3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Bramingham Wood

Location:	Luton	Grid	reference:	TL068258	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	166
Area:	15.70 hectares (38.80 acres)								
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Tree Preservation Order								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Bramingham wood is an oasis of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) less than 3 miles from the centre of Luton and is almost completely surrounded by housing developments, a school and recreation ground. Both sides of the wood are linked by a number of hard surfaced paths which are regularly used by local residents and the school children attending the large secondary school sharing much of the western boundary.

15.7 hectares in size, Bramingham wood is historically ash coppice woodland with oak standards. The ash (having not been traditionally managed for at least 80 years) is now a similar size to the oak. There is a decent understorey of shrubs and some tree regeneration. Other species include Field Maple and Wild Crab with an understorey of Hazel, Midland Thorn, Blackthorn and Elder. Around 130 species of plants have been recorded along with several rare species of fungi. In 1986 a new British species (*Agaricus bohusii*) was found here. The wood has a Tree Protection Order covering it and is a County Wildlife Site.

The thin, clay-with-flints soils are poorly drained despite being on top of chalk and the wood is often very wet in places. Two restored ponds provide habitat for common frogs, smooth newts and dragonflies.

The first known records of the wood date back to 1227 when the tenant, Simon de Bramblehanger, planted a hedge around it. Some of the local residents objected and it could only be resolved in court. Since then there have been several owners of the wood including the Crown in 1539. During the late 1800's the wood was managed as part of a shoot and the foundations for the gun dog kennels can still be found in the wood today.

The woodland had been actively managed by coppicing for firewood, fencing stakes and poles. However, as the work became less viable in the late 1920's the wood was neglected and by the 1980's had become overgrown. By then the surrounding fields had become compulsory purchased and new housing developments had shot up. The Marsh Farm Estate was built on the east side of the wood in the Sixties and the Bramingham Park estate was built on the East side in the 80's and 90's. In 1985 the owner, Mrs Robinson, handed the management of the woodland over to the Woodland Trust in order to protect the woodland. The freehold passed to the trust when Mrs Robinson died in 1999.

In September 1985, the local community came together to look at the various management options. A volunteer group of local residents was set up less than a year after that first meeting and the Bramingham Wood Volunteers have been managing the wood ever since.

The key features are the: Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access and Ancient Semi Natural Woodland.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

As an unparalleled opportunity for the residents of Luton to enjoy ASNW on their doorstep, Bramingham wood will remain open to the public in perpetuity.

It is hoped that the Bramingham Wood Volunteers will continue to manage many aspects of the woodland. The local “ownership” and strong community presence within the wood not only deters antisocial behaviour, keeping the wood safe to walk in, they also make Bramingham Wood a well cared for and pleasant place to be.

The current cyclical coppice regime will be continued in compartment 2, with the rest of the wood only being managed to maintain suitable public access, promote tree regeneration and for safety purposes (particularly with the onset of ash dieback and given the high visitor numbers and close proximity to permanent dwellings). When tree safety work is to take place, efforts will be made to protect regeneration (particularly of other canopy species not currently abundant), aimed at providing a succession of individual trees and species, should most of the ash be lost through ash dieback and associated diseases.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Community Woodland Group

<b>Description</b>
<p>The Bramingham Wood Volunteers have been involved in the day to day running of the woodland since the Trust took over the wood in 1985. They organise the coppicing programme, carry out maintenance along with grass cutting in the glade and rides, organise litter picking, arrange talks and activities in the woods and have a local presence reporting on wildlife sightings as well as encouraging others to leave the wood the way they find it. The strong local presence provides very quick response to unexpected issues liaising with the Police, Councils and local groups.</p> <p>The Group contains many keen naturalists who are able to monitor the woodlands wildlife value and contribute regularly towards the management policy of the wood.</p>
<b>Significance</b>
<p>The group is an excellent site based resource that can take advantage of opportunities related to their management which benefit the wood and the wider work of the Woodland Trust. The Marsh farm area is a recognised area of social deprivation and the opportunities the wood and the work of the volunteers offer are a valuable resources available to contribute towards addressing the local issues.</p> <p>The group provide a local presence able to react quickly to emergencies or unexpected events. The instances of vandalism and abuse are lower than could be expected as a result of their regular presence in the wood. Their continued coppicing programme not only provides excellent habitat for species that prefer this early successional vegetation; but also serves to deter access to the wider woodland as a result of the brambles and dense re-growth, restricting visitors to exiting paths. The group's contribution was acknowledged by the Trust in 2001 when they won the Volunteers of the year award, and again in 2012</p>
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>Opportunities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-A very active community group who take every opportunity to promote the wood and the WT.</li><li>-Very good local links to council / police</li><li>-A large local population from which to draw</li></ul> <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-The lack of new active members to ensure the long-term sustainability of the group.</li></ul>
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>



-Change in make up of the groups membership -Lack of new recruits and current members leaving group
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
To maintain and improve the wood's diverse habitat and levels of public access as a direct result of the continued levels of input by the volunteer group
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
-Increase active membership through recruitment process and local promotion (collaborating with WT volunteer officer and local channels) -The membership of the group to become more diverse appealing to newer members from all sections of the community by directing recruitment through new, innovative channels.

#### 4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

<b>Description</b>
There are housing developments on three sides of the wood with more development possible. The wood is therefore subject to very high public usage. Most public access involves people crossing the wood from east to west and vice-versa to get to the shops, schools and centres surrounding the wood. A hard surfaced path allows people to cross the wood in reasonable conditions, as the rest of the wood can be very wet at certain times of the year. Some dog walkers walk further into the wood and the local volunteer group work in all parts of the woodland. Children enjoy playing in the wood making dens as well as doing less constructive activities.
<b>Significance</b>
Locally unrivalled area of ASNW in very close proximity to a large population, including areas of social deprivation and wide ethnic diversity. A rare opportunity to involve a large and broad user base with quality local woodland.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The wood is very wet in the winter months, restricting access</li> <li>-High visitor pressure</li> <li>-Access points that restrict undesirable use (e.g. motorbikes, quads) may also restrict larger pushchairs and mobility scooters</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There are two well surfaced cross paths that allow access all year round without environmental damage.</li> <li>-There is a large local population able to take advantage of what the wood has to offer</li> <li>-Incorporating suitable entrances to allow suitable access for larger pushchairs and mobility scooters (whilst also restricting undesirable vehicles)</li> <li>-Collaborate with the neighbouring school to reduce litter levels and impacts</li> </ul>
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Footpath erosion</li> <li>-Scrub encroachment</li> <li>-Antisocial behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
The pedestrian access levels will be maintained, encouraging use of existing footpath to avoid trampling of sensitive ground flora and containing soil compaction to a minimum area.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
<p>The volunteer group (with the help of the contractors) ensure that litter is regularly picked and paths kept open by keeping back the vegetation to WT spec 2.1. Entrance points and signs are cleaned and repaired as needed by the volunteer group and contractors. Any serious incidents of fly tipping are reported by the volunteer warden to the local council, who are sympathetic, efficient and cooperative.</p> <p>Regular priority zone tree safety surveys to be carried out in accordance with standard WT guidelines and in partnership with B.W.V. to maintain good working relationships. Paths may require closing or diverting due to impacts from ADB (as an alternative to felling large numbers of unsafe trees).</p> <p>Collaborate with the neighbouring school to attempt to reduce litter levels and impacts within the woodland (ideally by improving the barrier between our sites).</p> <p>Continue replacing deteriorating cleft fences with WT spec access. Replace entrance infrastructure at Brompton Close and Oregon Way with large metal kissing gates (restricting undesirable vehicle use but still allowing the majority of suitable public use). The ground around the muddier entrances is to be reinforced with stone.</p>

### 4.3 f3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

<b>Description</b>
<p>This ancient wet ash/oak/maple woodland with hazel understory provides a significant wildlife habitat in an urban setting. Ground flora is impressive; bird life plentiful and the variety of insects and molluscs are numerous. Tree species include field maple, goat willow and wild crab. Ground flora includes bluebells, Dog's Mercury, Primrose, Wood Anemone, Yellow archangel and Enchanters nightshade.</p> <p>Over 50 species of birds have been recorded here, including Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Blackcap and Chiffchaff. Sparrow Hawks and Tawny owls are also resident and breed here too.</p> <p>Mammals such as wood mice, shrews, voles and Muntjac deer are present and Speckled wood, peacock, Small tortoiseshell and Holly blue butterflies can be seen on sunny summer days amongst the hazel coppice. There are two restored ponds which support frogs, smooth newts and dragonflies.</p>
<b>Significance</b>
The woodland attracts birds and animals from the surrounding area providing a relatively undisturbed environment amid a highly developed area. The flora is still rich and diverse despite considerable public pressure and a new British

species of fungi was discovered in the wood in 1986. Designated as a county wildlife site and protected by a blanket TPO.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

#### Constraints:

- The woodland is almost completely isolated by surrounding development.
- High visitor pressure.
- Deadwood left can be used for antisocial behaviour (unauthorised fires and used as congregation areas/seating for drug related activity)

#### Opportunities:

- a key point along a Wildlife corridor running into Luton
- major local provider of ecosystem services

### **Factors Causing Change**

- Deer pressure
- Footpath erosion and soil compaction
- Ash dieback and other pests and diseases
- Fires/antisocial behaviour
- Reducing numbers of volunteers

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

Manage as high forest through a matrix of low intervention areas with compartment 2 remaining in active coppice with standards. Allowing for an overall stand including a variety of species of all age ranges, from new growth to over-mature veteran trees and everything in-between. A good level of deadwood will be retained, both laying and standing where it is safe to do so.

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

Continue to coppice approximately one acre (0.4 Ha) each year over a twelve year rotation, lead and managed by the BWV. The rest of the woodland will be allowed to develop naturally, intervening where access or public safety requires.

The impacts of ash dieback will be managed through the regular tree safety checks and subsequent prescribed actions. A small amount of ash will be proactively removed annually (selected on their observed level of decline and their location/potential to impact boundaries and paths). An action plan has been created and is to be implemented following the observed decline of ash (>25% canopy loss), including the proactive removal of individual and groups of trees within reach of the boundaries and path network, the strategic pruning to create a crown/weight bias away from the path networks (where deemed possible and safe to do so) and the closure/diversion of certain paths (aiming to retain as many dead/dying trees as possible for ecological value, whilst best maintaining levels of public access). Suitable regeneration (ideally incorporating a mix of species) will be avoided during operations to promote a succession of individuals and species.

Deer pressure will be monitored through regular HIAs.

Pathways and additional damage from footfall and other behaviour will be monitored through WCAs and key feature observations. Mapping the current locations of paths would be beneficial.

Recruitment of new volunteers will be attempted.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	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,	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	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	August
2023	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	September
2023	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls etc	November
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,	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
2023	SL - H&S Signage	Provision of on-site signage both temporary and permanent to alert visitor to safety risks or measures	December
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
2023	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	February

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,	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,	August
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	August
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	SL - Tree Safety Inspections	The provision of external consultants/contractors to provide specialist tree safety related advice / inspections – such as climbing inspections	October
2024	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	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,	November
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,	February
2024	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	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,	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,	August

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	November
2025	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	December
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	February
2025	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	May
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2026	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,	November
2026	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	December
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
2026	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	May
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,	May

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,	August
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,	November
2027	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	December
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,	February
2027	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	May
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,	May



## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5.88	Ash	1880	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Tree Preservation Order
<p>Compartment 1 is a twenty to forty metre strip running around much of the perimeter of the wood. All ancient semi natural woodland in origin, the main tree species include Ash coppice with Oak standards, although over 80 years of neglect has meant that many of the Ash stems have grown as tall as the Oak. Other species include Field Maple and Wild Crab with an understory of Hazel, Midland Thorn, Blackthorn and Elder. The outside of the compartment is thick with woody shrubs, including Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Midland Hawthorn. The eastern boundary displays dense thickets of natural Ash regeneration. There are a number of entrance points dotted right round the wood (previously locally-built rustic-looking cleft oak squeeze stiles, wide enough for easy access on foot, but designed to restrict access by motor bikes but replaced with squeeze gaps, metal fencing [alongside recreation ground] and 'motorbike inhibitors' - allowing small pushchairs and mobility scooters access). There are numerous paths running all over the compartment and there is a restored pond to the North of the wood. The secondary school to the west of the wood have erected a new metal fence to reduce litter encroaching into the wood.</p>						
2a	5.55	Hazel	1990	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Tree Preservation Order
<p>This compartment extends to nearly 6 hectares of mixed broadleaf woodland including 5 hectares of Hazel coppice divided into 12, roughly equally sized coppice coupes that are presently (2012) in a rotation. The main tree species are overgrown ash coppice with oak standards. The understory is predominately Hazel, but with Field Maple, Blackthorn and Crab apple. Each winter a coupe extending to about 0.4 Ha (1 acre) is coppiced according to the Woodland Grant Scheme recommendations. This has been going on since 1986 and offers a varied wildlife habitat. The main north-south path runs along the eastern side of the compartment, named "Rod's ramble" after a long serving chairman of the Bramingham Wood Volunteers (B.W.V.). This path also bisects the main open glade dedicated to Tony Rhodes, the original chairman of the B.W.V. Along its southern edge a surfaced cross path links the housing estates to the east with the houses, recreation centre and school to the west.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
3a	4.27	Ash	1880	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Tree Preservation Order

This compartment extends to just under 4 hectares and is found in the south western part of the wood from the Kershaw Close to Brompton Close cross path running almost to the southern boundary. Like the other compartments the main species are Oak and Ash with Field Maple and Wild Crab. There is a restored pond in the north east corner of the compartment. Many gardens from Brompton Close back onto the wood at this point and there is a problem with garden rubbish being deposited in the wood. There are many paths winding around the compartment and numerous entrance points into the wood.

### **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.