

Woodland Trust Management Plan

Brooke Hill Wood

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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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

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Brooke Hill Wood

Location:	South of Oakham Grid reference: SK851078 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 141
Area:	15.58 hectares (38.50 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	Tree For All Site

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Brooke Hill Wood is situated on the edge of Oakham in the small County of Rutland. It is the collective site name for three parcels of land which were acquired by the Trust at different times: Gorse Field (acquired in 1994), Harris Grove/ Ball's meadow (acquired in 2004) and Brooke Hill (acquired in 2008). Ball's meadow was named after John Ball, a local farmer who owned most of the land prior to the Trust's ownership and who was anxious to safeguard the land for the benefit of local people

The site is a rich mixture of habitats, including old pasture, young plantation woodland, gorse scrub, established hedgerows and old hedgerow trees. Although all the woodland on the site is relatively young it was planted in phases, which adds further diversity for wildlife. The earliest planting by The Trust took place in 1998 on the edges of Gorse field, with a further block planted just to the east in 2006 (Harris Grove). The planting on the lower slopes of Brooke Hill wood took place in 2008, and this included small blocks created within the open field. Additionally a number of Royal oak trees (grown from acorns collected on the royal estates) were planted to mark the Queen's Diamond jubilee year in 2012, and these are located on the edge of the ridge and furrow grassland and close to the rifle ranges (see below).

A large proportion of the site is open grassland (approximately 60%), and there were very good reasons for ensuring this remained unplanted. Gorse Field is an area of semi-natural neutral grassland (designated a County Wildlife Site) and supports an important collection of plants as well as gorse scrub. Ball's meadow is likewise important botanically and also supports an impressive collection of anthills.

The lower fields of Brooke Hill Wood contain a medieval 'ridge and furrow' field system which has archaeological significance, and there are also several concrete structures, which are the remains of old rifle ranges created in the early 1900's.

The earliest acquisition, Gorse Field, sits on a steep slope, overlooking Oakham and the Vale of Catmose with great views over to Rutland water and the surrounding landscape. Being on the edge of the town the site is well used by local people and there is a good network of permissive footpaths across the whole site, offering a range of walking routes. There is also a public bridleway along the southern boundary of the site, which links the access on the site to that of the surrounding countryside. There is a public car park next to the wood, off Brooke Road and next to the primary school. Although this is not owned by The Woodland Trust, visitors to the wood are able to make use of it.

Locally the Woodland Trust also owns and manages another wood called The Seek, which is located approximately 1 mile away to the south and towards the village of Braunston.

The Key Features which are relevant to this site and which the Woodland Trust will focus its management towards are:

- Secondary woodland
- Connecting people with Woods and Trees
- Open ground habitat

3. LONG TERM POLICY

At Brooke Hill Wood the plantation woodlands will develop towards maturity and will be managed to ensure they are as resilient and diverse as possible. Ash is likely to be a decreasing component of the woodland, due to ash dieback. In 50+ years the major tree species are likely to be oak, cherry, birch, field maple and hazel and sycamore may start to appear via natural means. There is likely to be a residual component of ash, and the regeneration of ash trees will be continue to be encouraged. To ensure resilience the woodland will be regenerating with a diversity of broadleaved species, and supplementary planting may need to be carried out to achieve this diversity if necessary. Periodic silvicultural intervention (thinning) is likely to be needed to create and support natural regeneration. This thinning will also ensure the woodland has structural diversity and a healthy understory, and there will also be an element of natural thinning from the impact of ash dieback disease. There will be a significant amount of deadwood retained in the wood, also complemented from tree death and branch failure as a result of ash dieback disease. The current area of woodland cover on the site is likely to remain the same into the future due to constraints of extending woodland onto more of the open ground.

The open ground component of the site will be retained and managed because it contains important heritage features or has an inherent ecological value. The open areas will continue to be managed in the best way possible to maintain their conservation value. Conservation grazing is likely to continue to be the most practical and beneficial method to manage the open areas. An element of tree and scrub growth will be present within the open habitats however, with the aim of maintaining an average of at least 80% grassland across all the open areas. The tree and scrub component will take the form of: small groups of trees, individual (parkland-type) trees, patches of gorse scrub (especially in gorse field) and small banks of bramble/hawthorn scrub. The older trees present along some of the boundaries (mainly oak and ash) will be retained as long as possible with the aim of them reaching veteran status. The extent of noxious weeds (dock and creeping thistle) will be maintained so that they only occupy very small areas of the open ground (no more than 5%), hence preventing their domination of the grassland.

The Woodland Trust has assigned an access category 'A' for Brooke Hill Wood, which is the highest category and equates to: High usage sites which are regularly used at all times of year, more than 15 - 20 people using one entrance every day. Hence a high standard of access provision will continue to be provided. The path network will be kept open for use through annual maintenance and the entrances will be welcoming, accessible and clearly signed. Access infrastructure such as gates and stiles will all be of a good standard and well maintained. The car park will provide a warm welcome to visitors with prominent welcome signage and information displayed about the wood and its' management. An element of community engagement and engagement with schoolchildren from the neighbouring primary school will continue to be encouraged and supported. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones as the woodland develops.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

Description
The woodland on the site is split into 5 main woodland blocks arranged around areas of open ground/wood pasture. The blocks were planted in stages between 1998 and 2008, with the southern half of the site being earliest and the northern half being the most recent. In total, woodland covers almost 40% of the site area. The main tree species are oak and ash which make up 50% of the woodland matrix. The rest of the tree mixture consists of birch, alder, field maple, rowan and edible apple varieties. Shrub species make up around 10% of the mixture as well and include hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn and guilder rose. Ash dieback disease is affecting ash trees growing in the woodland.
Significance
The woodland on the site adds to and complements the surrounding landscape, which is mixed farming broken up with scattered small woods. The woodland adds valuable habitat to a predominantly farmed landscape.
Opportunities & Constraints
Constraints: -The site can be extremely wet and waterlogged during the winter restricting management operations during this part of the year. -There are no hard tracks through the site to aid management operations. -The ecological and archaeological value of the existing areas of open ground on the site restrict any further woodland creation.
Factors Causing Change
-Mammal damage affecting tree quality and natural regeneration (mainly from squirrels and deer respectively). -A reduction in the percentage of ash trees from the impact of ash dieback disease.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
At Brooke Hill Wood the plantation woodlands will develop towards maturity and will be managed to ensure they are as resilient and diverse as possible. Ash is likely to be a decreasing component of the woodland, due to ash dieback. In 50+ years the major tree species are likely to be oak, cherry, birch, field maple and hazel and sycamore may start to appear via natural means. There is likely to be a residual component of ash, and the regeneration of ash trees will be continue to be encouraged. To ensure resilience the woodland will be regenerating with a diversity of broadleaved species, and supplementary planting may need to be carried out to achieve this diversity if necessary. Periodic silvicultural intervention (thinning) is likely to be needed to create and support natural regeneration. This thinning will also ensure the woodland has structural diversity and a healthy understory, and there will also be an element of natural

thinning from the impact of ash dieback disease. There will be a significant amount of deadwood retained in the wood, also complemented from tree death and branch failure as a result of ash dieback disease. The current area of woodland cover on the site is likely to remain the same into the future due to constraints of extending woodland onto more of the open ground.

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

During this plan period the main objectives for the woodland component of the site will be to begin introducing greater structural diversity into the earlier plantations, to ensure establishment of the newer plantations and to monitor the impact of ash dieback disease and other threats.

The following operational work will be undertaken:

- Silvicultural management work in compartments 3a and 1a will take place in 2022. This work will seek to open up the main rides through the plantations. Compartment 3a will be thinned throughout (up to 20%) to add greater structural diversity and encourage more natural regeneration and the main ride through it will be opened up. Felling works in 1a will be limited to just opening up the main ride. Hence in total just over 3ha of woodland will be worked and over 400m of ride will be cut and opened up.
- All remaining tree tubes on the site (now concentrated in compartment 4a) will be removed in 2021.
- Monitoring of the impact of ash dieback disease will take place, with a formal observation planned for 2023, to check if any replanting is required (especially in 4a) as a result of ash losses. Observation of other threats such as deer and squirrels will also be carried out at the same time.

4.2 f2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

Three main areas of open ground are present on the site (Compartments 2a, 3b and 4b) and they make up over 60% of the site area. The open ground has been retained and managed (ie. not planted with trees) because it is either of ecological or archaeological significance. On the whole the grassland of the open ground is of a neutral pH. Gorse Field (compartment 2a) is botanically rich area of grassland on the upper slopes of the site. It is a designated County Wildlife site because of the flora it supports. Gorse Field a diverse mixture of native plants, associated with old long-established meadows, including sheep's sorrel, harebell, great burnet, lady's bedstraw and numerous species of rush in the wetter areas. Ball's Meadow (compartment 3b) has some of the same plant species but is also characterized with a large collection of anthills, created by yellow meadow ants. The lower grassland area (4b) supports a ridge and furrow landform (a medieval field system). Parts of the slightly higher ground to the west have small groups of trees, planted at the same time as 4a (2008), which add interest to the landscape. The ridge and furrow grassland is not only important historically but also ecologically. This is especially so due to many of the furrows sitting very wet almost all year round, and supporting wetland species such as rush and sedge species – a very different ecology to the drier ridges. The lower grassland also contains 2 concrete platforms which are the remains of old rifle ranges used by Oakham School during the 1900's. The structures that remain are the 100yds and 200yd shooting positions. They were used for shooting matches.

Significance

<p>Species rich grassland is a much diminished habitat. The open ground on the site is important ecologically and archaeologically. Gorse Field is particularly important as one of the best areas of species-rich neutral grassland in Rutland.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p>
<p>Conservation grazing is likely to be the best and most practical method of maintaining the open ground habitats. Mowing is practically difficult on ridge and furrow and over anthills and could also be destructive on these areas. Grazing with some types of livestock (especially sheep) can be incompatible with public access on sites used for regular dogwalking, due to the possibility of animal attacks.</p> <p>Additional (parkland-style) tree planting on the lower fields could add landscape interest and additional habitat. There is a need though to ensure the ridge and furrow landform is retained and kept mostly open.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<p>Natural succession of scrub (from under grazing) Poaching or overgrazing damage by livestock Spread of coarse species (eg dock, nettle and creeping thistle) reducing the quality of the grassland</p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>
<p>The open ground component of the site will be retained and managed because it contains important heritage features or has an inherent ecological value. Open ground will be managed across approximately 60% of the site as mostly managed grassland, ideally using conservation grazing with cattle as the best mechanism for this. The balance of the open ground will be approximately 80% grassland & 20% trees and scrub. Coarse plant species such as nettle, dock and thistle will not be allowed to cover more than 5% of the total open ground to prevent their domination of the grassland. The scrub/tree component will consist of small groups of trees, single trees, patches of gorse and bramble and bracken clumps.</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p>
<p>The main objective during this plan period is to ensure that grazing management is in place across all the open ground on the site, making sure all necessary infrastructure is in place to achieve this. Grazing management will be carried out using cattle and this will be compartmentalized into 4 areas, but with the intention of achieving even grazing across the site to a balance of 80% grassland, 20% trees and scrub. The grazing will occur during the months March to November, with stock being present in only one or two of the grazing compartments at any one time, and rotated between these compartments across the season.</p> <p>The aim will be to prevent the over-abundance of rank grassland or successional growth, if grazing is too light. But similarly, overgrazing will be avoided, which could lead to prolonged bare ground, poaching of the wetter areas, or domination of weed species (docks, nettle, thistle etc). Monitoring will be carried out over the course of the plan period to ensure the management is effective and within the parameters set.</p> <p>The following works will also be required to achieve these objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Installation of approximately 1050m of new stock (cattle) fencing in the eastern half of wood compartment 4b (due 2022) to complete full stock fencing of the open ground. -Parkland planting with individual trees across the lower fields of 4b. Approximately 20 trees will be planted over the area and protected adequately from the stock (due 2022).

-The small groups of trees present in the open ground compartments of 2a, 3b and 4b will be properly incorporated into wood pasture management by the removal of the protective fencing. The tree groups will be also be thinned by approx 50% in 2022 to favour the development of the best open grown trees.

-Annual check on all the fencing/gates and a rolling programme of repairs as required.

4.3 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

The wood sits in a convenient location on the edge of Oakham and is accessible from either Braunston Road to the northwest or from Brooke Road to the southeast (where the car park is located). The car park itself is not owned by The Woodland Trust, but there is agreement that visitors to the wood can use it and signage connected with the wood is displayed within it. The car park holds around 30 cars and is managed and used by the adjacent primary school. The wood has over 4km of footpaths covering the whole area, which are mostly permissive and all on unsurfaced ground. This provides good scope for a variety of different walks. The land rises to the south and there are good views from the open fields (Gorse Field and Ball's Meadow) over the town and further towards Rutland Water Reservoir. In total there are 5 official entrances into the wood which are all signed.

There is a public bridleway along the Southwest boundary and within the site, which links the wood to the local public footpath network.

The local primary school is known to make use of the wood for outdoor education with the children. There has been good engagement with the local population in the past, particularly to plant some of the trees on the site.

Significance

An important area of semi-natural greenspace and woodland on the edge of an expanding town.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

- Close proximity to a local primary school with the opportunity to continually engage young people with the site and the natural world.
- Close proximity to the town and within walking distance for many people living nearby, with the opportunity to engage these people with the site and the natural world.

Constraints

- Grazing animals on site, at certain times of the year, can cause conflict with local visitors with free running dogs.
- Ground conditions can be extremely wet in parts of the site during winter, discouraging some visitors

Factors Causing Change

Extension of grazing management across all areas of the open ground on the site, and the implementation of a more regular grazing regime each year. This may cause conflict with some existing visitors or require an alteration in how they use the site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Woodland Trust has assigned an access category 'A' for Brooke Hill Wood, which is the highest category and equates to: High usage sites which are regularly used at all times of year, more than 15 - 20 people using one entrance

every day. Hence a high standard of access provision will continue to be provided at Brooke Hill Wood. The path network will be kept open for use through annual maintenance and the entrances will be welcoming, accessible and clearly signed. Access infrastructure such as gates and stiles will all be of a good standard and well maintained. The car park will provide a warm welcome to visitors with prominent welcome signage and information displayed about the wood and its' management. An element of community engagement and engagement with schoolchildren from the neighbouring primary school will continue to be encouraged and supported. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones as the woodland develops.

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

During this plan period the short term objective will be ensure that the site remains accessible and as safe as possible throughout, and that public accessibility is built into the plans to extend conservation grazing across the site. An enhanced level of public information material will be displayed at the car park. We will continue to support engagement with the neighbouring primary school and the local community, as opportunities arise. The following works will be undertaken to support these objectives:

- Annual management of the path network across the site, approximately covering 4km.
- Regular inspections (at least every 2 years) to check on the safety of site hazards such as ponds and culverts.
- Monitoring during the plan period to check on the standard of access provision and whether any updating of the infrastructure (eg signs, gates, stiles) needs to be undertaken.
- Installation of public information boards in the car park, with information about the site and its management, to be carried out by 2022. In particular this information will help to explain why the site is being managed in the way it is, especially covering conservation grazing, and also display where cattle are present on the site at any particular time, to help visitors plan their walks.
- Continue and encourage relationship with adjacent Brooke Hill Primary School by making contact with them during the plan period, exploring opportunities to involve the children and to continue to support Forest School sessions.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	March
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	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,	June
2024	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	June
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,	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,	September
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
2025	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	March

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,	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	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	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 pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2025	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	July
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	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
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,	June

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	July
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	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,	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,	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,	July
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	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
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

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	July
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,	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	2.9	Sessile oak	1998	High forest	Services & wayleaves	
Plantation of native broadleaves, planted February 1998. Species include sessile oak, ash, silver birch, hazel, field maple, crab apple, guelder rose, dogwood, purging buckthorn, rowan, cultivated variety of eating apple and holly.						
2a	5.4	NULL	2020	Non-wood habitat	Management factors (eg grazing etc), Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	
Area known as Gorse Field. Open ground. Mainly species-rich neutral grassland with elements of gorse scrub, wet flushes, ponds and a small number of in-field trees.						
3a	2.61	Ash	2006	High forest	Services & wayleaves	
Area known as Harris Grove. Plantation of native broadleaves consisting of ash, oak, silver birch, goat willow, common alder, guelder rose, hazel and hawthorn.						
3b	2.81	NULL	2020	Non-wood habitat	Management factors (eg grazing etc)	
Area known as Ball's Meadow to commemorate John Ball, the former owner, who made the land available to the Trust. Mainly open ground with 8 small groups of young trees. The meadow is mainly neutral grassland with wet flushes and a pond, and is characterized by a surprising amount of anthills .						
4a	5.91	Pedunculate/common oak	2008	High forest	Services & wayleaves	
Plantation of native broadleaves on the lower parts of the site, split into 2 main blocks. Species include oak, ash, silver birch, alder hazel, field maple, guelder rose & rowan. This compartment includes a group of oaks planted in 2012 to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.						
4b	9.66	NULL	2020	Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Management factors (eg grazing etc)	
Area of open ground characterised by a well preserved ridge and furrow landform. Mainly neutral grassland, but with seasonal wet flushes within the furrows. A number of small tree groups have been established within the open						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>ground (planted 2008), mainly at the southern and northern ends. Compartment also contains 2 concrete bases, the remains of the old rifle ranges. For management purposes the area is fenced into 2 halves.</p>						

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.

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