

Core 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

Core Hill Wood

Location:

Sidmouth Grid reference: SY 11697 90787 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 192

Area:

10.40 hectares (25.70 acres)

External Designations:

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Internal Designations:

N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Core Hill Wood is the 10.4 hectare (25.7 acre) Woodland Trust holding which is part of the larger heathland and woodland areas of Harpford Common and Fire Beacon Hill, situated to the north of Sidmouth, East Devon. They lie at the southern end of East Hill, a south-west to north-east running ridge. The site lies on the south-western edge of the Blackdowns National Character Area (NCA) but has stronger physical and ecological connections with the Pebblebed heaths more associated with the eastern fringes of the Devon Redlands NCA. The hill has a capping of clay-with-flints and chert overlying Cretaceous Upper Greensand. This geology is characteristic of the hills in East Devon and often supports similar areas of Lowland Heath. All sit within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Core Hill Wood is a mosaic of mixed woodland, ancient boundary banks supporting veteran trees, and lowland heathland (Cpt 2a). The site and surrounding area provide a diverse range of wildlife habitats, spectacular views and multiple walking options for visitors. The plan focuses on the Woodland Trust holding of Core Hill Wood, but all management decisions are taken in context of the area in partnership with the RSPB who manage much of the hill and the other neighbouring landowners and partners including East Devon District Council, Sidmouth Town Council, Forestry England and East Devon AONB. The species-rich lowland, acidic Lowland heathland that covers much of the area is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat and is managed through grazing under licence by the RSPB. The whole hill is a County Wildlife Site and Harpford Common is registered common land.

The area is well used predominantly by walkers, and some horse-riders and mountain bikers. Parking is available both at the southern end of Woodland Trust land and on Forestry England land to the north at White Cross Car Park. Much of the land outside of Core Hill, Fire Beacon Hill and Harpford Common is either grazed pasture, or conifer forest managed by the Forestry Commission or private woodland owners.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The site will be a recreational resource valued by local users in partnership with the neighboring Beacon Hill and Harpford Common Nature Reserves. Core Hill Wood will be enjoyed by people through welcoming, easily accessible entrances and a network of paths and views, all maintained to a good level of quality and safety. The Trust's duty of care to visitors will be managed through ongoing tree safety, tree health checks, litter picks, management of misuse of the site, and appropriate site risk assessment regimes, which may require remedial works as required.

Core Hill Wood will be managed to provide a variety of valuable, unique wildlife habitats in conjunction with the mosaic of surrounding habitats in the area. Veteran and notable trees will be protected and maintained to ancient status, or to senescence, whilst recruiting new future veteran trees for long term retention to provide continuity of habitat and landscape. The heathland on Core Hill will be restored back to high quality, species-rich lowland heathland through a combination of cutting and grazing in partnership with the RSPB ultimately covering approximately 50% of compartments 1a and 2a. A mixed mosaic of heathland scrub, wood pasture, and woodland will cover 50% of the rest of cpts 1a and 2a to help retain the mosaic of successional habitat, with scrub areas linking the grassland and woodland, with open glades and a network of rides complementing the heathland habitat. The area under the pylons will be managed as young, successional coppice as safety requirements dictate. The rest of the site will be predominantly native broadleaved high forest, with varied age and species structure, and a steady accumulation of standing and fallen deadwood. The woodland will develop and mature naturally over time through natural regeneration of trees and shrubs, with woodland ground flora developing and spreading throughout, with open glades and a network of rides complementing the heathland habitat.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description
<p>Core Hill Wood forms part of a larger complex of land including Fire Beacon Hill and Harpford Common owned by Sidmouth Town Council but managed by RSPB, and White Cross owned by Forestry Commission. All are open to the public with a number of public rights of way crossing throughout linking the site to the surrounding villages of the East Devon AONB and to Sidmouth town to the south.</p> <p>Core Hill Wood is a mixture of woodland and open heathland. The site and the neighbouring reserves provide a diverse range of wildlife habitats, spectacular views, and multiple walking options for visitors. The site is managed in partnership with the RSPB who manage much of the surrounding hill, and with other neighbouring landowners and partners East Devon District Council, Sidmouth Town Council, Forestry Commission, Sid Valley Biodiversity Group and East Devon AONB. There is a volunteer group coordinated by RSPB carrying out habitat management and monitoring across the complex of sites, the Fire Beacon Survey Team.</p> <p>The area is well used by walkers, mountain bikers and horse-riders. Parking is available to the south of Woodland Trust land on Core Hill Road and on Forest Enterprise land to the north at White Cross Car Park. The wood is less than a mile from the edge of Sidmouth and online leaflets and websites promote access in the area www.wildeastdevon.co.uk/nature-reserves/fire-beacon-hill-local-nature-reserve. The main route through the wood (Core Hill Road) and the parking area is not owned by the Trust.</p>
Significance
<p>Public access is vital to ensure on-going support for the Trust's work. Inspiring everyone to enjoy and value trees and woodland is a fundamental aim of the Woodland Trust. Core Hill Wood provides an important amenity for people living in the area, and it is well used by walkers and horse riders. Promotion of the area by RSPB, Woodland Trust, Forest Enterprise, Sidmouth Town Council etc. through websites and leaflets means that visitors are drawn not only from the surrounding area but from further afield.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities: Collaborative messaging and working with various partner organisations including: Fire Beacon Survey Team, Sid Valley Biodiversity Group, East Devon National Landscape, Sidmouth Town Council, neighbours, and other volunteers working on landscape; to survey, monitor and carry out practical works across the areas.</p> <p>Constraints: Mis-use by motorbikes, 4x4's, joyriders, mountain bikes and trail building. Littering, vandalism, camp fires etc.</p>

Core Hill Road which bisects the wood is a rough track not owned by the Trust, and as a BOAT, makes it difficult to limit undesirable access.
Factors Causing Change
Erosion, compaction and deterioration of paths Drainage and run-off in access lane Core Hill Rd. Mis-use and vandalism by vehicles and motorbikes. Fire damage. Loss of trees or woodland through pests/diseases E.g. Ash die-back.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The site will be a natural space valued by local users in partnership with the neighboring Beacon Hill and Harpford Common Nature Reserves. Core Hill Wood will be enjoyed by people through welcoming, easily accessible entrances and a network of paths and views, all maintained to a good level of quality and safety. The Trusts duty of care to visitors will be addressed through ongoing tree safety, tree health checks, litter picks, management of misuse of the site, and appropriate site risk assessment regimes, which may require remedial works as required.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
The short-term objective is to maintain the site as easily accessible, attractive, well maintained, and safe woodland. The path network and entrances should remain in good condition and appropriate for level and type of use and in accordance with access category A. Entrance furniture and car park will be maintained annually to keep them welcoming and in good condition to allow access to walkers. Litter will be regularly collected to maintain a welcoming feel to the site, and other anti-social activity will be monitored and managed as appropriate. Ensure visitor safety via ongoing monitoring regime of tree health and infrastructure, and remedial works as necessary.

4.2 f2 Feature Trees

Description
Core Hill Wood is home to many veteran beech trees situated on current or historical boundaries and enclosure banks which divide up the woods. Historically Core Hill would have been an open area of heathland and scrub, the old boundary banks support many more open grown veteran beech trees including several notable trees that are approaching veteran status, and are now part of the secondary woodland and heathland. 22 trees on Core Hill are currently mapped as notable or veteran trees on the Ancient Tree Inventory, and a further 19 are recorded in the adjacent Forestry Commission and private woodland around Fire Beacon Hill, and Harpford

Common. Collectively they enhance the historical and cultural landscape and provide vital, unique homes for wildlife. Some are very large feature trees, mostly beech pollards, but there are also Scot's pine, a goat willow, a rowan, and oaks including pedunculate, sessile, turkey & Lucombe oaks and hybrids. Some are single stemmed, and some are multi-stemmed old pollards or coppiced trees.

Veteran Tree surveys carried out in 2008, 2014 and 2022 – the latter as part of GRCF in 2022 by Land & Heritage 'GRCF Veteran Tree Survey Executive Summary Report 2022'.

Beech saplings have been taken from other parts of the wood and planted in gaps on the enclosure banks to provide future cohorts for the existing feature trees.

In the wider landscape, Core Hill is close to Sidbury Castle and park which is approximately 1km distant at nearest point. Sidbury is on the Provisional Inventory of Parkland and Wood pasture sites in Devon currently of unknown quality/value but expected to be at least of regional value.

Significance

All ancient and veteran trees are of historic interest and high wildlife value; they are a relic of a former landscape and a valuable part of our cultural heritage, and they provide a variety of unique habitat for wildlife inc. lichens, fungi, invertebrates, birds, and mammals. The Woodland Trust supports the retention and enhancement of old growth and veteran trees.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: To provide future cohorts for the existing feature trees. Creating open areas around some trees to encourage seed development and natural regeneration. Development of future veterans through silvicultural felling, pollarding, veteranisation, safety felling, and planting and protection of trees.

Constraints: Steep slopes, exposure, and heavy shading from existing canopy. Tree safety on PROW and public access under veteran trees and trees under veteranisation. Heavy browsing by deer and/or squirrel damage.

Factors Causing Change

Tree disease – acute oak decline, pine processionary moth, beech leaf disease.

Extreme weather events and climate change.

Changes to the woodland or habitat structure may affect stability of veteran trees or by changing light levels and humidity.

Encroachment of younger trees through natural regeneration of secondary woodland may also be detrimental via shading.

Erosion of the banks around their roots, primarily by public use will also be destabilising.

Natural senescence and no future cohorts.

Heavy browsing by deer and/or squirrel damage.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Core Hill Wood will be managed to provide a variety of valuable, unique wildlife habitat in conjunction with the mosaic of surrounding habitats in the area. Veteran and notable trees will be protected and maintained to ancient status, or to senescence, whilst recruiting new future veteran trees for long term retention to provide continuity of habitat and landscape.

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

To create or maintain optimum habitat conditions for the long term survival of existing veterans, by managing light levels as required, halo-thinning existing and future veteran trees, and recruiting future veterans on or near the boundary banks by identifying suitable naturally regenerated trees of different ages where necessary (in-line with Natural England 'Guide to Managing Veteran Trees').

Development of future veterans will also be done through silvicultural felling, pollarding and veteranisation techniques on selected veterans of the future. Selecting approx. 15 trees in this plan period.

Where possible direct public access away from the veteranised trees, areas of regeneration, and the boundary banks to prevent erosion & look to improve ground conditions where erosion has occurred if necessary.

Any tree safety works will be carried out to provide suitable veteran or decay habitat wherever possible.

4.3 f3 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

Description

The species-rich lowland, acidic heathland that covers much of Harpford Common, Fire Beacon Hill and Core Hill Wood is a registered common and is managed in partnership with the RSPB. The secondary woodland (1a) and area of lowland heathland (cpt 2a) to the north of the site is currently managed via cattle grazing and cutting as part of its restoration towards an species-rich habitat structure in conjunction with the larger adjacent heathland. Whilst having species-rich heathland characteristics including heather, bell heather and bilberry, it also has important heathland edge and scrub habitat including gorse, bramble and purple moor grass, providing valuable successional areas into the woodland areas.

The heathland (Cpt 2a) is synonymous with the NVC heathland community - H4 *Ulex gallii* – *Agrostis curtisii* heath (Western gorse – Bristle bent) which is the common heathland community of the pebblebed heaths and Fire Beacon Hill. Species records include: rare breeding birds - nightjar, Dartford warbler and yellowhammers; reptiles including adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow-worms; and rare invertebrates such as Grayling butterfly and Small-heath butterflies.

The area was cleared extensively between 2003 and 2006. Bracken and bramble encroachment, tree regeneration of birch and other woody species, and spreading purple moor grass, is a constant management consideration and is monitored annually. Periodic cutting, flailing, scraping and scarifying, hand-pulling, and cattle grazing (currently managed by the RSPB using cattle fitted with NoFence collars) helps maintain the structural diversity and various successional staged habitat of the open areas and scrub.

The woodland compartment of 1a at the north of the site is predominantly beech, birch, Scots pine, sallow and sessile oak, with hazel and holly understorey, and very little ground flora. There are a few areas of scrub, some wet, rush

flushes, and a mosaic of more open heathland scrub edge habitats as mentioned above. Its is also grazed, more as wood pasture, by cattle using No Fence collars as part of the wider grazing area. There are overhead electricity cables crossing the compartment. Their wayleave corridors were coppiced in 2013 and will remain under this management regime which will add to the structural diversity of the site, although there are plans for the undergrounding of the 33Kv powerlines that traverse the whole of Fire Beacon Hill LNR.

Older veteran beech trees and veteran pollards line the enclosure banks surrounding many of the compartment blocks (key feature 2).

Significance

Lowland heathland is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat. The area of heath at Core Hill links directly with the wider area of Fire Beacon heathland which is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Nightjars are the subject of a species action plan in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and are on the UK Amber List. Dartford warblers have come back from the brink of extinction in the UK in the last 50 years. Numbers have gradually recovered, thanks in part of conservation interventions to protect and restore the lowland heath habitats on which Dartford Warblers rely. The species is on the UK Amber List. The UK Red-listed Yellowhammer are suffering long-term declines in UK breeding numbers.

Adders are a priority species in the UK BAP and are classed as 'Vulnerable' in England. Recent declines especially in central England mean it is of major conservation concern.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Further restoration and expansion of the lowland heathland habitat.

Pony grazing alongside cattle.

Constraints:

The heathland needs regular management to prevent reversion to scrubby woodland, and encroachment by gorse, bracken, bramble and purple moor grass.

The site is part of a Registered Common, and therefore permanent fencing currently cannot be used, however the current use of electric fencing and NoFence collars enables better control of livestock.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Gorse, Bracken and bramble,

Invasive Rhododendron,

Natural Succession to woodland,

High levels of atmospheric nitrogen may cause a slow change in the plant communities increasing the amount of grasses such as purple moor grass and therefore a greater need for management.

A cessation of grazing through vandalism, dog attack, vehicle misuse, or lack of a grazier would have a major impact on the habitat allowing coarse species to become dominant again.

Undergrounding of the 33Kv powerlines that traverse Core Hill Wood and Fire Beacon Hill.
Disturbance by dogs to ground nesting birds.
Nutrient enrichment from dog waste.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Core Hill Wood will be managed to provide a variety of valuable, unique wildlife habitat in conjunction with the mosaic of surrounding habitats in the area. The heathland on Core Hill will be restored back to high quality, species-rich lowland heathland through a combination of cutting and grazing in partnership with the RSPB covering 50% of 1a and 2a. A mixed mosaic of heathland scrub, wood pasture, and woodland will cover 50% of the rest of cpts 1a and 2a to help retain the mosaic of successional habitat, with scrub areas linking the grassland and woodland, with open glades and a network of rides complementing the heathland habitat. The area under the pylons will be managed as young, successional coppice as safety requirements dictate.

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

The heathland area will be grazed by cattle (and potentially ponies) at an intensity sufficient to reduce the woody species such as gorse and bramble and coarse grasses such as purple moor grass, and to promote heather and heathland flora regeneration. This work will be done under licence by the RSPB using No Fence collars in Cpts 1a and 2a.

Reduction of coarse and woody vegetation in open heathland areas (2a) carried out through a combination of cutting, sapling pulling, flailing and scarifying areas of the heathland and scrub in partnership with the RSPB and its volunteers, and specialist contractors.

Create a more open structure in compartment 1a through veteranisation and selective felling of 25% of the trees in conjunction with kf2 in 2025 and 2028 (and next plan periods) - using ring-barking, haloing, pollarding, coronet cutting and selective felling of the younger trees to increase the wildlife habitat, understorey, ground flora, successional scrub development, and the amount of standing and fallen deadwood habitats.

Reptile, bird and invertebrate surveys will be carried out in cpt 2a through the RSPB's monitoring programme to ensure habitats remain suitable.

4.4 f4 Secondary Woodland

Description

Core Hill Wood has partly developed as steep secondary woodland (cpt 1b, 1c & 1d) of ash, beech, birch, goat willow and sycamore, with non-native trees such as Lucombe oak, turkey oak and sessile/turkey oak hybrids, as well as scattered mature Scots pines. The understorey is hazel, hawthorn and field maple. The lower SE slopes have good stands of bluebell indicating more continuous woodland cover.

Mixed woodland has developed since at least 1840, although individual areas have not been continuously wooded since then. Areas in the north-east, and south west appear to be natural regeneration, whilst areas in the north west and south central and east are thought to have been planted. Prior to afforestation the land was enclosed and is thought to have been heathland/rough grazing. Non-native species are prominent - including, sycamore, turkey oak, Luscombe

oak and Scot's pine, with sessile/turkey oak hybrids. Native species present include pedunculate and sessile oak, ash, birch, alder and willow, and hazel and field maple in the understory. Where gaps in the canopy occur, there are healthy levels of regeneration with a range of species although beech and sycamore are the major ones.

Older veteran beech trees and veteran pollards line the enclosure banks surrounding many of the compartment blocks (Kf2).

Significance

The wood forms part of a mosaic of habitats in the area, together with adjoining woodland, heathland & pasture. It is surrounded by mainly conifer plantations to the north and east, and is large enough to sustain viable populations of native broadleaf woodland and its associated species acting as a reservoir for their future spread.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Opportunities exist to allow the woodland to develop towards a more native species structure and improve biodiversity. There is evidence of natural regeneration of native species specific to the geology and soil type of the wood.

Herbivore impact assessment and/or deer enclosure plots to assess levels of deer damage.

Constraints:

Management access is narrow and steep restricting timber extraction and harvesting on steeper sections of woodland. Conflicts with East Devon AONB - the wood is highly visible from surrounding hillsides and any major changes in the canopy would be easily visible and thus potentially in conflict with the East Devon Landscape Assessment.

Factors Causing Change

Ash die back may restrict the natural development of the structure.

Pest damage by squirrels and deer may inhibit the development of natural regeneration, or good crowns on older trees. Significant wind damage, particularly as a result of opening up of areas on adjacent land.

Damage from motorbikes or overuse by horse riding.

Rhododendron is not currently an issue but is present in the surrounding area (some regrowth cleared 2023).

Non-native regeneration of oak species (turkey/Lucombe) and hybridization.

Run-off during extreme weather events.

Nutrient enrichment from dog waste.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Core Hill Wood will be managed to provide a variety of valuable, unique wildlife habitat in conjunction with the mosaic of surrounding habitats in the area. Cpt's 1b, 1c & 1d will be predominantly native broadleaved high forest, with varied age and species structure, and a steady accumulation of standing and fallen deadwood. The woodland will develop and mature naturally over time through natural regeneration of trees and shrubs, with woodland ground flora developing

and spreading throughout, with open glades and a network of rides complementing the heathland and mixed mosaic habitat.

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

The wood will be allowed to develop naturally with no major interventions planned unless for the development of future feature trees as mentioned elsewhere in the plan.

Turkey oak and rhododendron regeneration will be monitored annually in summer and controlled and/or reduced where applicable through pulling by volunteers or contractors.

Manage tree safety throughout the wood to maintain visitor safety.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	3.28	Beech	1900	High forest	Management factors (eg grazing etc)	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Mixed secondary woodland to the north of the site, predominantly broadleaved, but with occasional planted mature Scot's Pine; and old boundary banks supporting veteran beech trees grown in more open conditions before woodland established.</p> <p>Main components of woodland include beech, oak (both pedunculate, turkey, and possibly hybrids), birch and ash, with some willow and sycamore. Understorey is sparse, where present includes hazel, rowan, hawthorn and holly. Exact canopy composition varies over the compartment. Establishment thought to have begun about a century ago, but the age structure is quite varied, due to the natural development of the wood over time. Regeneration and ground flora is sparse, particularly under beech canopy, but occasional where there are gaps in the canopy. Birch and oak regeneration is more predominant where it has developed on former heath.</p> <p>There are overhead electricity cables crossing the compartment. Young birch regeneration cut regularly by Western Power contractors has established under this, last coppiced in 2013.</p>						
1b	4.01	Mixed broadleaves	1950	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Mixed broadleaf woodland south of heathland compartment - on steep south facing slope with beech, oak (pedunculate, sessile, Lucombe, turkey, plus possibly hybrids), birch, sycamore and ash, scattered mature Scot's Pine on the higher bank thought to have been planted c.1950, with hazel and hawthorn understorey. Mature, more open grown, veteran trees on boundary/enclosure banks – mainly beech and some oak spp. Regeneration is abundant in canopy gaps - mostly sycamore, with ash, beech and birch. Some signs of historic squirrel damage and deer damage in places. There has been scattered rhododendron, although this has been controlled in recent years. Bluebell ground flora patchy but dense in places, suggesting more prolonged woodland cover in this cpt. BOAT running through compartment and much of rest of Core Hill Wood is not in WT ownership.</p>						
1c	0.68	Sycamore	1950	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Mature sycamore thought to have been planted in c.1950, although mature birch is also a component. Regeneration abundant - predominantly sycamore. Neighbour's laurel hedge on southern boundary encroaches over time. Mature feature trees on boundary banks - oak (some turkey), and beech. Bluebell ground flora rich in places suggesting more prolonged woodland cover in this cpt. Sunken public footpath to south-east boundary outside of WT ownership.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1d	0.33	Alder species	1900	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Secondary woodland inc ash and oak with a more wet woodland mix of predominantly alder in the south-east, willow in the south-west. Steep slopes, dense growth make it difficult to access. Bluebell ground flora rich in places, wetter celandine and lords and ladies in SW corner.</p>						
2a	2.1	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Management factors (eg grazing etc), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Open heathland, scrub, and young naturally regenerating woodland edge. NVC heathland community - H4 Ulex gallii – Agrostis curtisii heath (Western gorse – Bristle bent) is the common heathland community of the pebblebed heaths and Fire Beacon Hill, including bell heather, ling, western gorse, bilberry & purple moor grass. Other species records include: rare breeding birds - nightjar, Dartford warbler and yellowhammers; reptiles including adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow-worms; and rare invertebrates such as Grayling butterfly and Small-heath butterflies. Regenerating successional woodland of birch, oak spp, beech etc, and bramble and bracken under a regular programme of cutting works. Mature and veteran beech and Scot's pine on boundary banks.</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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