

Gillian's Wood

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



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

Gillian's Wood

Location:	Moccas Grid reference: SO 35192 41394 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 0
Area:	56.53 hectares (139.69 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Gillian's Wood (formerly Woodbury Hill Wood) is located within the Hereford Hills major ancient woodland concentration and lies within the Herefordshire Lowlands National Character Area (NCA100), which consists of woodland lying on steep hill tops over fertile valley farmland.

Gillian's Wood is located adjacent to Moccas Park and will help form the newly designated 'Moccas Park and Gillian's Wood National Nature Reserve' (NNR). Part of Gillian's Wood (formerly Moccas Hill Wood) is already owned by the Woodland Trust but managed under a long-term lease by Natural England in conjunction with Moccas Park and is therefore included within the scope of the Moccas Park management plan. Moccas Park itself is of national importance for the ancient and veteran trees that this medieval deer park supports, along with the saproxylic species associated with this priority old-growth habitat. The Gillian's Wood management plan is closely aligned to its long-term objectives.

The site occupies steep north-east facing slopes, rising from 90m to 290m at its highest point along the ridgeline summit. The whole site falls into Soilscape 8 (slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with high fertility and impeded drainage) sitting over a bedrock of sandstone and limestone, which outcrop above the surface in places and form cliff exposures at around 240m. These cliffs are up to 10m in height and form a distinct boundary between the upper flatter ridgeline and the lower steep slopes. The whole site contains spring lines, erosion gullies and impeded drainage. There are several private water supplies from within the lower wood which supply water to farms and houses below the site. The summit woodland, along the ridgeline, is exposed to westerly winds and wind damage to trees is frequent.

All the land included in this management plan is designated as an Ancient Woodland Site (AWS). The majority of the site is classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), with a narrow strip of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) along the cliff exposures. The ancient woodland was cleared in the 1950's and replaced with a mixture of commercial plantation species by the Forestry Commission, who were then in possession of the entire ridgeline woodland. Planted species included sycamore, beech, Scots pine, western red cedar, Norway spruce, Douglas fir and western hemlock. Some Ancient and Veteran Trees (AVT's) that have survived include ancient pollards of large-leaved lime, coppice stools of ash and oak standards. These trees are restricted in distribution to the steepest sections of the site, around the cliff line, and along the boundary with Moccas Park. These trees are of the highest ecological value but currently under extreme threat from over shading by planted conifers. Areas of the woodland are rich in Ancient Woodland Indicator (AWI) species, such as ramsons and bluebells.

High deer pressure has severely limited tree and shrub regeneration across the wood and trampling has caused a significant impact to ground flora.

Public access to Gillian's Wood is via a car park), managed by Natural England, which is accessed from Pentre Lane (signed for Moccas Park NNR. A forestry track then runs along the ridge line for 1.5km before reaching the Ancient Woodland Site. The forestry track continues along the ridge line, where visitors will be able to access a circular waymarked trail through the upper ridge line woodland or access the lower woodland via further forestry tracks. The lower woodland has very steep tracks that can sit wet for most of the year, and there are no circular routes present around the wood. Due to Schedule 1 species birds nesting in the lower wood, access may be prohibited

during the nesting season to avoid disturbance.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The Ancient Woodland Site will be restored to a predominantly mixed native broadleaved canopy with a diverse structure and rich ground flora, broadly in line with NVC W8a, W8c and W8f vegetation communities. The diverse structure will allow for both permanent and temporary open spaces throughout the woodland, where nectar sources can be provided by flowering plants and shrubs. Tree regeneration will occur throughout the site, and trees will be selected from these to become ancient and veteran trees of the future. The current stock of veteran and ancient trees will be protected and managed into senescence, with a younger cohort of trees growing and being managed to take their place, to support the rich fauna and flora associated with them.

The woodland's irregular structure will be maintained through regenerative felling, initially to reduce the dominance of planted conifer species to below 20% of the woodland composition, and afterwards to help maintain a diverse broadleaf mix. Ride side coppicing will also take place to further maintain structural diversity within the woodland. Existing ancient and veteran trees and selected veteran trees for the future will be maintained through periodic halo thinning, giving them the light and space needed to grow into old age. Deadwood levels will be maintained above the UKWAS requirements of 20m³/ha throughout the woodland. Any non-native invasive species shall be eradicated, and any further incursions shall be controlled. Deer populations will be maintained at a low level, enabling ecological function without a detrimental effect on the habitat, and boundary fences will remain secure from neighbouring livestock.

The many spring lines across the site will support gullies of wet woodland (W8c) with permanent and ephemeral pools, supporting a wider range of wildlife. Measures to slow the flow of water across the woodland will increase the quality of discharge from the site and maintain a healthy water supply to those properties that depend upon it.

Historical features on the site will be protected and any work carried out near them will be done in a sensitive manner to avoid ground disturbance. This will include historical boundary banks and trackways, along with other identified features.

The path network shall be managed to allow visitors to explore this varied and interesting site, with a waymarked trail in the upper wood directing people along a circular route from an orientation board at the entrance. Access infrastructure, such as gates and signs, will be maintained in good working order and both safety and tree safety checks will be routinely carried out in line with the Woodland Trust's policies. This sustainable access network will also facilitate the ongoing woodland management work throughout the site.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

The whole site is designated as an Ancient Woodland Site (AWS) with the majority of the site classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), with a narrow strip of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) along the cliff exposures. The ancient woodland was cleared in the 1950's and replaced with a mixture of commercial plantation species by the Forestry Commission, who were then in possession of the entire ridgeline woodland. Planted species included sycamore, beech, Scots pine, western red cedar, Norway spruce, Douglas fir and western hemlock.

Little is currently known of the pre-plantation woodland, but the 1946 RAF aerial photographs show a closed canopy broadleaved woodland and the 1880 first edition Ordinance Survey maps show a mixed woodland of mature broadleaved canopy with coppice and symbols for conifer trees present.

Some pre-plantation trees have survived including ancient pollards of large-leaved lime, coppice stools of ash and oak standards. These trees are restricted in distribution to the steepest sections of the site, around the cliff line, and along the boundary with Moccas Park. Areas of the woodland are rich in Ancient Woodland Indicator (AWI) species, including ramsons, bluebells, yellow pimpernel, opposite leaved golden saxifrage, remote sedge, great wood rush, pendulous sedge, moschatel, slender St John's wort, wood sorrel, wood speedwell, dog's mercury and scaly male fern. These are often restricted to areas with higher light levels, such as along the edges of the rides and within woodland blocks that have recently been thinned. Low light levels in other areas has severely restricted the ground flora, and over thinning in some compartments has promoted excessive bramble growth.

Three woodland habitat types have been identified within the AWS, corresponding to W8a, W8c and W8f on the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). W8a is characterised by lime and beech trees with dog's mercury, bluebells and primrose forming the dominant plants. This community occurs around and above the cliff line, where ground conditions are less saturated. W8c has formed in areas of saturated or water-logged ground and the grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* dominates the ground flora and ash and alder makes up the tree canopy. W8f is the most widespread community, with ramsons forming large continuous carpets across the ground, and is also characteristic of continuously damp soils.

A combination of low light levels and high deer pressure has limited the regeneration of trees and shrubs, even where light levels permit. Ground flora appears to be less impacted by deer browsing but the high level of trampling has led to large areas of bare ground. Deer numbers will need to be significantly lowered in order to reverse the detrimental impact and achieve restoration. Control of grey squirrels may also be required and impacts should be monitored.

Stoned access tracks are present in both the upper and lower woods, however their extent is limited and the remaining tracks are both unsurfaced and steep. These tracks cross spring lines and the poorly draining soil leads to water logging

of the track surfaces. Improvements will be needed to these tracks to enable safe access for machinery and work will need to be undertaken during the summer months when ground conditions will be drier.

Significance

Gillian's Wood represents an important reserve of Ancient Woodland communities and features within the landscape that includes AWI species throughout and a mixture of surviving veteran and ancient trees. It reflects the wider landscape context of hilltop ancient woodland, much of it now PAWS, and is within the Hereford Hills major concentration of ancient woodland.

The site is complementary to the adjacent Moccas Park and its restoration will be of high importance for buffering such a significant site, within a contiguous NNR.

Herefordshire's local Biodiversity Action Plan has developed a specific action plan for mixed deciduous woodland. This includes a number of objectives, all of which complement the core policies of the Woodland Trust and our woodland management approach; the objectives include PAWS restoration as well as appropriate management of deer, squirrels and boar (the latter not currently known at Gillian's Wood).

Opportunities & Constraints

Aligning management plans with the rest of the NNR from 2025 onwards.

Landscape scale deer and squirrel control.

Engaging in landscape scale habitat restoration beyond the NNR by working with neighbours through ELM schemes.

Combined demonstration of woodland and tree management with the whole NNR complex.

Schedule 1 species birds breeding on site.

Poor access and bearing capacity of tracks for forest machinery.

Steep terrain and waterlogged soils.

Factors Causing Change

Impact from deer and squirrels on natural regeneration and ground flora.

Pests and diseases, such as ash dieback and *Phytophthora ramorum* and *pluvialis*, resulting in compulsory felling and a forced change of approach.

Windblow from further opening of the canopy during restoration.

Climate change impacts on tree growth, stability and survival in the face of extreme weather events.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Ancient Woodland Site will be restored to a predominantly mixed native broadleaved canopy with a diverse structure and rich ground flora, broadly in line with the identified plant communities. The diverse structure will allow for both permanent and temporary open spaces throughout the woodland, where nectar sources can be provided by flowering plants and shrubs. Tree regeneration will occur throughout the site, and trees will be selected from these to become veteran trees of the future.

The woodland's irregular structure will be maintained through regenerational felling, initially to reduce the dominance of planted conifer species, and later to help maintain a diverse broadleaf mix. Ride side coppicing will also take place to further maintain structural diversity within the woodland.

Deadwood levels will be maintained above the UKWAS requirements of 20m³/ha throughout the woodland. Any non-native invasive species shall be eradicated, and any further incursions shall be controlled. Deer populations will be maintained at a low level, enabling ecological function without a detrimental effect on the habitat.

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

To carry out a herbivore impact assessment and maintain a control programme accordingly.

Undertake a mensuration survey of the woodland to understand the standing volumes and basal area requirements to inform restoration.

Begin a programme of thinning and selective felling of PAWS to enable a gradual restoration to broadleaf.

Survey and undertake works to slow water flows and improve discharge quality of water from the woodland.

Undertake an infrastructure survey to inform necessary improvements needed for harvesting and operator safety.

Implement the required track works to facilitate machinery access for restoration.

Begin and maintain a programme of ride-side cutting in line with 2-Zone ride management guidelines.

Maintenance of boundary fences to prevent livestock incursion by sheep.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Public access to Gillian's Wood is via a single track from Pentre Lane (signed for Moccas Park NNR). This leads to a car park for approximately 10 – 15 cars. A forestry track runs along the ridgeline for 1.5km through the wood pasture restoration site before reaching the Ancient Woodland Site (AWS). Both the car park and wood pasture are managed under lease by Natural England (NE) on behalf of the Woodland Trust. A large Natural England orientation / interpretation board is present in the car park with substantial information.

The ancient woodland has not been open to the public and a large, locked deer gate is in situ. The forestry track continues along the ridgeline and into the ancient woodland site. This track continues along the ridge into neighbouring land, where there is no public access, or turns steeply downhill into the lower parts of the AWS. The tracks down the slope can sit wet for most of the year and there is no circular route. Management access exists across farmland to the lower woodland, but no public access is in place.

This lack of circular trails and challenging terrain will limit visitor numbers in the lower woodland, especially when combined with the long walk from the car park. New access infrastructure and circular waymarked route will be created as the site opens to the public.

Joint branding and communications with NE will see new welcome signs and orientation boards installed at the entrance and into the car park. Woodland Trust welcome signs and an orientation board will greet visitors as they enter the AWS, from where a waymarked visitor trail can be followed.

Little is currently known about the history of the site, outside of the former deer park, and there are opportunities to increase knowledge to aid with interpretation.

Forestry tracks, footpaths and access infrastructure will be maintained in line with Woodland Trust standards, providing an informal access experience to visitors wanting to explore more of the NNR and see ancient woodland restoration in

<p>progress. Opportunities exist to extend the wider permissive footpath network to connect the AWS to the villages of Moccas or Tyberton.</p>
<p>Significance</p>
<p>Whilst access may be challenging, the AWS at Gillian’s Wood offers the opportunity for visitors to explore a larger area of the NNR and witness PAWS restoration and the protection of ancient and veteran trees. There are few sites in the local vicinity that offer such extensive walks, and with views ranging over the Golden Valley and towards the Black Mountains to the west, and views over Herefordshire to the east. Gillian’s Wood offers a range of important wildlife habitats and species for visitors to see.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p>
<p>Connections to external permissive footpaths, to allow better access to nearby villages. Wider access is currently very limited. Examination of site history and features. Due to Schedule 1 species birds nesting in the lower wood, access may be prohibited into the lower during the nesting season to avoid disturbance to these rare birds. Long distance from car park and lack of circular routes in the lower wood. Steep terrain with water-logged ground throughout much of the year. Little known history of the site, but could be an opportunity for a volunteer to explore. Ad hoc volunteering opportunities involving the local community may be possible in future years.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<p>Misuse of the site, such as access by mountain bikers. Higher than expected visitor numbers affecting path/ track conditions and wildlife disturbance. Potential clash between user groups, such as by uncontrolled dogs. Possible increase in desire lines/ ground impact during winter months when the ground conditions are poor. Tree disease affecting use of the permissive waymarked trail (ash die-back and phytophthora sp.).</p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>
<p>Visitors feel safe and welcome. They understand the restoration work and value this wood as a haven for wildlife and a place to escape to. Visitor infrastructure is low key in keeping with the natural setting. Infrastructure and tree safety checks are carried out in line with Woodland Trust policies, appropriate for the type of site and levels of access.</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p>
<p>All paths and access routes should be maintained to a high standard, being regularly cut with any obstacles removed from the path/track edges - any informal non-permissive paths should be managed to discourage and prevent increased access and potential damage to sensitive flora. Ride management should ensure increased light levels reaching the main tracks which will help to dry out current wet areas and improve the quality of access, along with improving the structure and wildlife value of the habitat. Explore opportunities with neighbours for extending other walking routes into / out of the wood. Install signage and waymarking to help guide visitors into the best parts of the wood for visitors to enjoy. Opportunity to run led events to showcase the opportunities for restoration and working at landscape scale. Explore opportunities for ad hoc volunteering activity to engage the local community.</p>

Visitor infrastructure and tree safety will be maintained in line with Woodland Trusts policies, appropriate for the type of site and levels of access.

4.3 f3 Veteran Trees

Description

The neighbouring Moccas Park is of national importance for its Ancient and Veteran Trees (AVT's), along with the associated invertebrate fauna. The immediate proximity of Gillian's Wood to this high priority habitat lends itself to the expansion and continuity of old growth features. It is a requirement of woodland owners under UKWAS to promote such trees and maintain their habitat continuity in perpetuity.

Within Gillian's Wood there are a range of AVT's that have survived felling, although they are restricted to the boundary with Moccas Park and the steepest sections of the site. These include oak standards, large-leaved lime pollards and ash coppice. The identification of all AVT's on the site, along with their protection, is of the highest ecological importance and protection will take the form of halo thinning to provide space, light and reduced competition for these trees, allowing them to carry on growing into senescence.

As part of the Ancient Woodland Restoration (AWR), younger trees will be selected to become AVT's for the future. This will involve a similar treatment of halo thinning, to promote a low canopy, creating new pollards and using veteranisation techniques such as high-pollarding to bridge the age gap between existing AVT's and future generations of AVT's.

The opportunity to graze the upper part of the woodland with cattle will be explored as a long-term management tool for providing an open structured woodland, which would benefit the promotion of future AVT's whilst helping to reduce competition to existing AVT's. This feasibility will be undertaken in the next management plan period (2025-2030) in conjunction with the whole of the NNR.

Significance

The neighbouring Moccas Park is of national importance for its Ancient and Veteran Trees (AVT's), along with the associated invertebrate fauna. The immediate proximity of Gillian's Wood to this high priority habitat lends itself to the expansion and continuity of old growth features and associated fauna. Within Gillian's Wood there are a range of AVT's that have survived felling. It is a requirement of woodland owners under UKWAS to promote such trees and maintain their habitat continuity.

Opportunities & Constraints

Cattle grazing for the promotion of open grown trees.
Steep waterlogged soils affecting access for works and stability of ground and trees.
Planting of future AVT's from seed sourced from existing AVT's within the NNR.

Factors Causing Change

Impact from deer and squirrels on natural regeneration and ground flora.
Pests and diseases, such as ash dieback and acute oak decline.

Windblow from further opening of the canopy during restoration.
Climate change impacts on tree growth, stability and survival in the face of extreme weather events.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Existing ancient and veteran trees will be protected and managed into senescence, with an active programme for their recruitment will be in place. AVT's will be managed as a contiguous feature across the NNR, creating additional resilience to this high priority habitat in the face of increased tree diseases and climate change. A target of at least 1 AVT per hectare will have been achieved across the site, and the boundaries between the ancient woodland and the more open parkland of Moccas Park and wood-pasture will be blurred, as opposed to the current hard woodland edges. Future ancient and veteran trees will be encouraged through a combination of halo thinning and pollarding younger broadleaved trees, or by the use of other veteranisation techniques.

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

Survey and map all AVT's, identifying work required and timescales for completion.
Undertake initial halo thinning of identified AVT's.
Explore the opportunity of cattle grazing within the upper AWS within the first full management plan cycle (2025-2030).

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	1.61	Birch (downy/silver)	2010	PAWS restoration	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Poor vehicle access from track. Historic earthworks. Current make up of the compartment is young dense birch regeneration following a larch clear fell in 2010. Japanese larch and western red cedar regeneration occur throughout but densest along the eastern boundary. One veteran oak tree sits close to the boundary with Moccas Hill Wood, and shows evidence of past attempts to ring-bark it.</p>						
1b	5.81	Japanese larch	1990	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Plantation stand of young Japanese larch, first thinned in 2018. Access is better for machinery in this compartment and 2 culverted crossings allow access from the main forestry track. An area of older beech sits along the north western boundary. Ground flora is bluebells and dechampsia cespitosa with bracken and bramble dominant.</p>						
1c	5.81	Norway spruce	1960	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Historic boundary bank along western edge.</p>						
1d	4.93	Western red cedar	1960	PAWS restoration	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Area between the main forestry track and the cliff/ break in slope. Mainly planted with western red cedar but other conifer species occur. Prone to wind-snap. A small area at the northern end was clear felled in 2018 and restocked with mixed broadleaves. Ground flora is dominated by bracken and dog's mercury. Veteran (and possibly ancient) large-leaved limes occur along the cliff edge, mostly along the south eastern boundary against compartment 2a.</p>						
2a	5.06	Beech	1960	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Very steep ground with cliff above and poor track access below. No vehicular access within compartment. Veteran and ancient pollards, coppices, coppards and pheonix trees occur, including large-leaved lime, wych elm and ash.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Mostly classified as ASNW but appears as PAWS throughout. Pockets of planted western red cedar, beech and some western hemlock occur. Abundance conifer regeneration throughout compartment since planting now threatens AVTs. Compartment is classified as CRITICAL on the PAWS assessment.						
3a	6.3	Norway spruce	1960	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Very steep ground but tracks above and below. Mostly homogenous compartment of Norway spruce, thinned in 2019, with small pockets of planted sycamore and western red cedar. Cedar regeneration is prolific along the eastern boundary. Ground flora is dominated by ramsons, bramble and nettles.						
3b	2.37	Douglas fir	1960	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Very steep ground but tracks above and below. Homogenous stand of Douglas fir, the lower (eastern) end was thinned in 2019 but little was removed from the steep upper slopes (western). Ground flora is sparse but contains ramsons, soft shield fern and scaly male fern.						
3c	3.16	Norway spruce	1960	PAWS restoration		Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Stand of predominantly Norway spruce with some Japanese larch. Regeneration is limited but includes ash and alder, mostly around the springlines/ gullies.						
3d	3.59	Norway spruce	1960	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Services & wayleaves	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Private water supply. Heavily thinned spruce with some larch and ash. Ground flora dominated by bramble.						
3e	4.33	Norway spruce	1960	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Services & wayleaves	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Private water supply. Heavily thinned spruce with some larch and ash. Ground flora dominated by bramble.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
3f	10.04	Norway spruce	1960	PAWS restoration		Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Heavily thinned spruce and ash with some larch. Ground flora dominated by bramble.						
4a	1.01	Oak (pedunculate)	2020	Wood establishment		Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Clear felled in 2019 and restocked with oak, sweet chestnut, cherry and hazel. Ground flora dominated by bramble.						
4b	0.88	Oak (pedunculate)	2020	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Private water supply. Clear felled in 2019 and restocked with oak, sweet chestnut, cherry and hazel. Ground flora dominated by bramble.						
4c	0.7	Oak (pedunculate)	2020	Wood establishment		Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Clear felled in 2019 and restocked with oak, sweet chestnut, cherry and hazel. Ground flora dominated by bramble.						
4d	0.92	Oak (pedunculate)	2020	Wood establishment		Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Clear felled in 2019 and restocked with oak, sweet chestnut, cherry and hazel. Ground flora dominated by bramble. Some older alder trees occur around a wet flush.						

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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