

Piddington Wood

(Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



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

Piddington Wood

Location:	Cherwell, nr Bicester Grid reference: SP628163 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 164
Area:	18.47 hectares (45.64 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, Local Wildlife Site
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Piddington Wood is an 18.5 hectare / 45.5-acre site in north-east Oxfordshire, located between Thame and Bicester. The woodland is a remnant of the ancient Bernwood Hunting forest dating back to Henry II which once covered an area of some 400km², from the Great Ouse River in the north to the Thame, a tributary of the River Thames, in the south. The area is designated by Natural England as the Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area (NCA 108) and is characterized by highly fragmented remnants of a once much large ancient woodland, nearby large wetland basins such as Otmoor and the level ridge and furrow traditionally managed meadow systems along the River Ray. The wood is located on a hillside with a north-westerly aspect overlooking the village of Arncott. Piddington Wood is rare in that it is one of the few ancient woodlands in Oxfordshire that has not been replanted with conifers.

The Woodland Trust bought the site in two phases. The ancient woodland was bought in 1989 (compartment 1a), and then in 2002 the land to the north, south and east was acquired (compartments 2a and 3a).). The woodland is situated on heavy clay soils that are seasonally wet in winter and prone to drying and cracking during summer. Most of compartment 1a (almost 10 ha) is ancient semi-natural woodland which has been managed historically as hazel coppice with oak and ash standards. Large birch standards are scattered throughout and occasional boundary ash stools are still present. The southern boundary has a dense fringe of mature blackthorn scrub, and a stand of young sycamore occurs parallel to the western boundary. The rest of the site to the north and east, (compartment 3a) is a mixture of planted broadleaf trees, naturally emerging scrub and open ground that is kept free from encroaching scrub by an annual cut. The large and expanding area of varied-age blackthorn scrub means the site is inhabited by the nationally scarce and locally significant brown and black hairstreak butterflies.

Prior to acquisition by the WT there was no public access into the mature woodland or previous farmland due to it being in private ownership. Since taking ownership, the Woodland Trust has installed a network of unimproved but managed permissive paths with benches as rest stops and bridges that span the seasonal ditches. A small (3/4 car capacity) formal surfaced lay-by on the B4011 facilitates those arriving by motor vehicle from which there are two pedestrian kissing gate entrances. A public footpath links two pedestrian gates on the east and west boundary and the wider countryside beyond and is also part of the signposted Walk 127: Piddington Circular Walk. Due to its rural location, Piddington Wood remains a low-key site for the public and consequently has a low number of visitors with many living locally and who attend frequently.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The management of Piddington Wood will focus on retaining and improving woodland biodiversity and resilience across the site, with the ancient woodland remaining in favourable ecological condition, with all major woodland components in a secure and improving condition including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features and a diverse deadwood component. Buffering the ancient woodland through natural regeneration and the development of adjacent woodland habitat will in time provide species present in the old growth habitats with additional connected habitats into which they can expand. Management will also focus on maintaining public accessibility and increasing people's understanding of the habitats present using temporary information when applicable. The woodland is a prominent visual feature in the landscape and as such any required silvicultural intervention must ensure the mature woodland composition appears to be largely unchanged.

The ancient woodland component in compartment 1a will continue to develop naturally as a largely closed canopy broadleaved woodland with a diverse age structure, occasional canopy gaps and an increasing proportion of veteran and old growth characteristics. Trees of age and character, particularly oak and old ash and field maple, will be identified as future old growth trees and will be sympathetically managed by reducing competition and shading when required. Once the consequences of ash die back have restructured the woodland, minimal intervention to assist crown development of individual trees will be considered following each woodland ecological condition assessment (every 5 years). Deadwood volume in both standing and fallen forms will increase as trees mature and senesce with cut material from any forestry interventions retained on site contributing to the overall habitat for invertebrates and fungal saproxylic communities.

Compartment 2a will be contiguous with compartment 1a with the only separation being a managed footpath. A mix of native mature broadleaf trees with scrub and shrub species will be present with the public footpath acting as a thoroughfare with exits leading to the permissive path network around the site.

To the east of compartment 1a, the progressive natural tree regeneration in compartment 3b will continue to be encouraged. The majority of naturally regenerating ash are succumbing to ash dieback at an early age, but this may reduce as individuals with greater resistance prove successful in reaching an older age. Species such as birch, field maple, oak and blackthorn are already readily colonising, and with a reduction in deer browsing pressure, should form the start of this new woodland habitat. During the woodland development stage, scrub and shrub species will make the most of the open habitat which will be lightly managed as a mosaic of coarse vegetation (bramble) and long sward grass and herbs. The site will retain its importance for notable and rare and threatened butterfly species including the brown hairstreak with ongoing monitoring and habitat management centered around the rotational management of the blackthorn. The current permissive north/south path will form a wide ride with scalloped edges and glades at path junctions, providing a structurally diverse woodland edge and valuable habitat for invertebrates, birds and small mammals.

The managed grassland on the level areas will become more species rich with a good assemblage of grasses and herbs offering nectar sources for insects and habitat for small mammals which in turn are prey species for barn owls and kestrels. With the regular addition of green hay from the neighbouring ancient ridge and furrow meadows, it is hoped that the site will become an important reservoir of locally important lowland plant species. These open habitats will continue to complement the surrounding woodland and contribute to the overall biodiversity of the site.

The 2003 planting in compartment 3a has seen the loss of much of the planted ash. Dead ash will be left to fall apart and only felled where necessary alongside the paths for safety and access reasons. In these newly open areas natural regeneration will be favoured and monitored to ensure success. Oak, field maple and birch will be the main species with blackthorn, hawthorn, privet, dogwood and coarse vegetation softening the woodland edge forming important nesting and feeding habitat for birds, bats and insects. Over time this area will develop into a diverse native woodland with strong structural and functional connectivity with the adjacent ancient and natural regenerative woodland areas on site.

Observations will be carried out regularly to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland and open habitats. Preventing and managing negative impacts from herbivores and invasive pests and diseases will be prioritised. Archaeological features such as boundary wood banks, will be protected from damage so future generations will be able to learn and enjoy these features.

The public's enjoyment of the woodlands will be secured by maintaining an accessible and safe network of public and permissive paths and infrastructure, in line with the recommendations for a Woodland Trust category C for access (low usage site where we do maintain paths). People will continue to be able to enjoy informal recreation and opportunities to experience wildlife throughout the site. On-going monitoring will ensure access infrastructure is appropriate to the site/location and tree safety surveys will be undertaken in-line with Woodland Trust guidance.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 F1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
The ancient woodland component at Piddington Wood accounts for just over 50% of the whole site (9.76ha), and is entirely contained within compartment 1a. The woodland approximates to W10 in the NVC (National Vegetation Classification): Oak / birch, ash (declining due to ash die back), field maple, hazel, hawthorn, sycamore and elm common with aspen also present. The underlying geology is West Walton formation, Amptill and Kimmeridge Claywood. Springs and generally waterlogged soils are common in the wetter months which then completely dry out during the summer. The structure is composed of oak and ash high forest (standards) with an understorey of hazel coppice; secondary regeneration with scattered birch, field maple and sycamore. There is also a significant blackthorn content, particularly towards the woodland edges. The woodland has traditionally been managed as coppice with standards and there are some very large old coppice stools present, especially on the boundaries, as well as oak/ash/hazel coupes within the compartment. The last significant management intervention was undertaken in the early 1960's. Scattered ancient trees, including a mature field maple and ash, contribute significantly to the woodland's ecological value and are monitored as important long-term structural features. There are also scattered trees with veteran characteristics the potential to develop into future veteran and old-growth trees. An area comprising 0.25 acre was re-coppiced along the southern boundary in 2016 and regeneration from cut stools was strong with minimal deer browsing. Unfortunately deer browsing of the new hazel regrowth after coppicing in 2022 meant complete failure of the stools. Subsequent dead hedging to protect the coppiced hazel in 2023 was successful in preventing the majority of browsing damage. Deer browsing is now recorded as medium to high following herbivore impact assessments and a thermal drone survey. The ground flora contains dog's mercury to the south, tufted hairgrass to the north-east, and with primrose, common and early dog-violet, wood anemone and bluebell widespread. Wood sedge and wild angelica, meadowsweet, soft rush, bugle and pendulous sedge can be found in the wetter areas. In total, 28 ancient woodland indicators have been recorded and include bluebell, green hellebore, moschatel, goldilocks buttercup, ramsons, hairy brome, remote and wood sedge, giant fescue, wood sorrel, barren strawberry, creeping soft grass, wood millet, three-nerved sandwort and sanicle. Bramble and bracken proliferate where there are openings in the tree canopy. The woodland and associated blackthorn scrub provide important habitat for a diverse assemblage of butterflies. They are well recorded and include black, brown and purple hairstreak, purple emperor, white admiral and white letter hairstreak. There is a ditch that runs along the south, east and north of compartment 1a which may be remnants of the original wood bank. These features provide evidence of the compartment's long history of woodland management and may

represent historic woodland boundary features. Compartment 1a has been internally designated as a natural reserve and will receive only regular management along the footpaths to allow public access and maintain safety.

Significance

Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat and one of the Woodland Trust's highest conservation priorities which is home to more species of conservation concern than any other habitat in the UK. Twenty-eight ancient woodland indicator species were recorded in 2008 and veteran coppice stools are also present (no longer managed). The woodland has local significance in being a remnant part of the much larger Bernwood hunting forest. Ancient woodland covers only a small proportion of the UK and cannot be recreated once lost, making its protection and enhancement particularly important. Compartment 1a is also designated as a Local Wildlife Site and a mature mixed species hedgerow to the west links Piddington Wood to further ancient woodland at Little Wood, contributing to habitat connectivity and species movement across the wider landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

- Piddington Wood is within the project area for the National Lottery Heritage Funded 'Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray (RBOR)' project, providing opportunities for ecological monitoring, knowledge-sharing, landscape-scale conservation initiatives.

Constraints:

- Archaeology is present such as perimeter wood banks and ditches and should be protected against damage from management operations.
- There are no surfaced management tracks and limited access widths which limits vehicle access and the scale and timing of forestry operations.
- The ground can become very soft in wetter weather while clay soils can remain waterlogged for prolonged periods, so any management work with machinery should be carefully timed with drier site conditions.
- Key protected and rare species are present, such as black/brown hairstreak butterflies and bats utilising boxes and natural tree features which will require ecological assessments and careful planning and timing of any vegetation management work to avoid disturbance or habitat impacts.

Factors Causing Change

- Herbivore damage (deer, grey squirrel) - Currently deer browsing is having a medium to high impact on natural regeneration and coppice regrowth with browsing pressure limiting the successful establishment of young trees and shrubs. Deer impact assessments will monitor the extent of the impact and if intervention is required. Grey squirrel damage may also affect the long-term condition of maturing broadleaved trees by bark stripping. Woodland ecological condition assessments will record the impacts of this activity and if control is necessary.
- Loss of some of the ash trees due to ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), resulting in canopy loss, increased deadwood creation and changes to woodland structure and species composition. While this may create opportunities for natural regeneration, it may also increase colonisation by bramble and other competitive vegetation in newly opened areas.
- Climate change resulting in periods of extreme weather episodes, including prolonged summer droughts, heavy rainfall and strong winds, which may affect tree health, regeneration success and the survival of veteran trees. Changing climatic conditions may also influence the abundance and distribution of woodland flora, invertebrates and tree pests and diseases over time.

- Veteran and future veteran trees: Competition from surrounding trees may restrict crown development and reduce the longevity of existing veteran trees and those showing veteran characteristics. Ash dieback, storm damage and other natural ageing processes may also affect individual trees and the continuity of veteran tree habitat across the woodland. Their condition will be monitored periodically to inform any necessary management.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Piddington Wood will continue to develop largely through natural processes with the addition of small-scale interventions only when required to secure the longevity of the existing and future veteran trees. The long-term objective is for a woodland habitat with a diverse species composition, irregular age structure, abundant deadwood and robust natural regeneration, a flourishing diverse ground flora including ancient woodland indicators, all helping to create greater resilience to natural threats including extreme weather events and disease.

The composition will remain broadleaved, with all major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, and a diverse deadwood component. The on-going colonisation by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) will affect the younger ash tree predominantly with a deterioration and possible death of the older trees. Despite ash decline, the woodland will continue to support a diverse mixture of native tree and shrub species capable of maintaining canopy continuity and ecological function. The mixed stands of oak, cherry, birch, hazel, field maple and aspen (being the most common species) will be managed where necessary on a continuous cover silvicultural system to produce uneven-aged, self-regenerating stands of high conservation and amenity value. Deadwood habitat is likely to increase over time through trees being left to age and collapse naturally and any felled trees will be left in situ. Standing dead wood will be retained where it is safe to do so.

Deer browsing impact will be low-medium and will not greatly affect the establishment of new trees and shrubs through natural regeneration. Deer population management will be on-going to maintain browsing impacts at acceptable levels and allow successful woodland regeneration. Negative grey squirrel impacts will not be at a level where the majority of developing trees are suffering from significant bark stripping. The impacts of non-native and invasive species, pests and diseases will be monitored and managed to ensure they do not significantly compromise woodland condition or ecological integrity.

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

1. Veteran trees

By end of 2027, to have mapped and recorded the location and condition of the notable and veteran trees across the site. Evaluate any management requirements for the recorded trees so they can be safeguarded as long-term important ecological features. The condition of these trees will be reviewed at the time of the next Woodland Ecological Condition Assessment in 2030 and every 5 years thereafter.

In combination with the other compartments;

2. Deer impact

By 2035, reduce deer impact from high to medium measured as an outcome of the deer impact assessments in 2028/2030/2032 and 2034. A deer management plan will be written by the end of 2026 which will help to set targets for future deer management. A competent deer management contractor will work to reduce deer numbers as set out in the management plan and subsequent impact assessments and observations. The contractor will work in collaboration with surrounding landowners and deer managers as part of the landscape scale management reduction in negative impacts. Success will be measured by achieving a medium or lower impact score and the successful establishment and

survival of natural regeneration within compartment 1a.

3. Woodland monitoring

A woodland ecological condition assessment in spring 2030 and 2034 will review the woodland at the time of the visit. The assessment will include recording details of the woodland structure, regeneration (trees and understorey), ground flora, deadwood, veteran trees and the impacts of pests, diseases and herbivores. The information will help inform the remaining life of the plan and the full woodland management plan review due in 2035.

4.2 F2 Secondary Woodland

Description
The secondary woodland at Piddington Wood consists of both planted and natural regeneration on former arable farmland, with existing hedgerows. The extension to the semi-natural ancient woodland in compartment 1a was purchased in 2002 and split into a further three compartments (2a, 3a, 3b). The secondary woodland of compartment 2a to the south of the wood bank and compartment 1a is largely composed of planted (1980s) oak, cherry, ash, hazel and a high component of blackthorn, with also birch, elm and sycamore that have naturally regenerated. Two seasonal ponds are present in this area fed by wet flushes and ditches further up the hill. This compartment has undergone a series of ride-edge coppicing and scalloping works within the last two plan periods. The regeneration of the hazel and blackthorn was robust but more recent hazel coppicing on the southern edge of compartment 1a saw heavy deer browsing preventing all regeneration unless it was protected by dead hedging. As a result, no further ride side coppicing has occurred in the last plan period. Flora includes blue bugle, lords & ladies (<i>Arum maculatum</i>), sedges in the wetter areas and bracken. Compartment 3a contains a broadleaf plantation of oak, field maple and silver birch with ash as a declining component due to ash dieback. Scrub and understorey species include hazel, blackthorn and hawthorn. Between compartment 1a and 3a is compartment 3b, a rank grass dominated habitat with natural regeneration of shrubs and tree species (oak, ash, hawthorn and blackthorn) extending out from the mature woodland and the broadening hedgerows. In addition to the grass, there are thickets of coarse vegetation such as bramble and thistles plus suckering blackthorn. To increase species diversity approximately 0.8ha of the level grassland is cut and collected in July like a traditional hay cut. This habitat management is gradually increasing the number of flora species present as the nutrient levels decrease, moving towards a semi-improved grassland. The woodland edge surrounding the managed grassland is gradated and a wavy edge is maintained to extend this important transitional habitat. Barn owls are known to use the open ground for feeding and a box has been erected to encourage them to stay and breed and to provide temporary roosting opportunities. Together, the woodland, scrub and open habitats provide a varied habitat mosaic that compliments the adjacent ancient woodland. A ditch runs from the highway verge underground and reappears on the eastern boundary of compartment 1a. A further ditch to the north follows the mature hedge from the highway to the northern boundary of compartment 1a and continues westerly eventually leaving the site. An unimproved management access enters through a field gate in the north-eastern corner of compartment 3a and another field gate is present at the layby, facilitating access to compartment 2a. A maintained permissive path links to the paths through compartment 1a and to the layby. A wire fence is present around most of the site boundary apart from a short section of contiguous woodland on the eastern

boundary of compartment 1a. The site provides low-key public access through a network of permissive paths connecting the ancient and secondary woodland habitats.
Significance
The secondary woodland adjacent to the mature ancient woodland allows for successional habitats to develop over time, creating a natural gradated woodland edge, especially important for protecting the mature woodland from damaging winds and providing a rich habitat for breeding birds and other wildlife. Along the road on the east and arable land to the south the shrub and tree species help to buffer road noise, reduce spread of vehicle pollution and makes for a more protected internal habitat. Over time it will adopt some characteristics of the much older semi-natural woodland through the development of more complex woodland structure, deadwood habitats and natural regeneration processes. The secondary woodland also provides habitat diversity on the site: some open ground, successional scrub and young woodland. The high blackthorn content also helps to support important butterfly species known at the site including brown and black hairstreak butterflies Piddington Wood sits close to the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Bernwood Forest and River Ray Living Landscape. The secondary woodland contributes to landscape-scale habitat connectivity by extending woodland cover around the ancient woodland core and strengthening links with nearby wooded habitats.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: - Piddington Wood is within the project area for the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray (RBOR) project, providing opportunities for landscape-scale conservation, species monitoring, habitat restoration and partnership working with neighbouring landowners and organisations. Constraints: - Woodland archaeology such as former wood banks and ditches is present and may limit the use of machinery in some areas to avoid damage to historic features. - The woodland has limited infrastructure for timber harvesting with no surfaced tracks and restricted access points for forest machinery. Access can become boggy in wetter weather. Any management work should be carefully timed with drier site conditions when the ground is firm. These factors may limit the scale, timing and type of woodland management operations that can be undertaken.
Factors Causing Change
- Herbivore damage (deer) is currently scored as medium/high across the site and is negatively impacting the ability of the natural regeneration to progress beyond seedling stage in areas where meadow and path cutting are not occurring. On-going monitoring will record the level of impact and help decide if intervention is required. - Changes in the planted woodland structure and overall species diversity due to wind-blow and disease/dieback e.g. <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> in ash. Woodland resilience and health may be compromised, leading to a loss of overall species diversity. Monitoring using the woodland ecological condition assessment will inform future management plan reviews and determine if management intervention is required.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The planted secondary woodland area is at the young woodland/closed canopy stage creating shade and reducing ground flora diversity. The next phase is the immature/pole stage where each tree competes for light, this is where intervention by thinning can enhance structural and spacing diversity across the stand. The objective is to work with natural processes to steer the woodland towards a mature woodland condition, where a structurally diverse, varied age structure and multi-layered, predominantly self-sustaining native woodland promotes an understorey of shrub and naturally regenerating trees with associated woodland ground flora.

The planted areas are not broad and are intersected by paths, tracks and are largely restricted in spreading further by managed open space, neighbouring open fields and a main road. There is a good network of hedgerows/tree belts within which some species can move. As with all plantations, the trees are of the same age but species do vary in speed of growth which can mean some species can out compete and shade their neighbours. Management intervention will be required to maintain the tree species diversity as planted plus initiate an uneven aged, irregular, self-regenerating woodland through a process of continuous cover silvicultural with varying light levels as trees are thinned and individual crowns develop. The woodland will provide an effective buffer to the adjacent ancient woodland and contribute to habitat connectivity within the wider Bernwood landscape.

It will take many centuries for the planted woodland to be similar in characteristic to the ancient woodland, but it will gradually become more ecologically rich with increasing niches for a greater number of species. Oak is likely to become the major tree species with field maple and birch as secondary species. Much of the ash will be lost due to disease and these spaces will be colonised by successional habitats if deer numbers are kept under control. It will ultimately become naturally regenerated woodland, adding age and structural variation. Blackthorn will easily sucker and move across open space quickly, this will need some careful rotational management to maintain a balance between scrub, open habitat and developing woodland, while continuing to provide habitat for the brown and black hairstreak butterfly and other associated species. Areas of grassland, scrub and developing woodland will continue to form a diverse habitat mosaic supporting a wide range of species.

The important deadwood habitat is currently absent but will increase over time as trees succumb to disease and through forestry operations leaving felled timber in situ. Standing and fallen deadwood will become a significant component of the woodland ecosystem, providing habitat for fungi, invertebrates, birds and other wildlife. It could also be possible to move felled older trees from the mature woodland to the planted wood.

Impacts from non-native species, herbivores, pests and diseases to trees will continue to be assessed and managed, to ensure they do not significantly compromise woodland establishment, structural diversity or ecological integrity.

The open ground habitat (approx. 25% or 0.8ha of Cpt 3b) is present due to the importance of having a varied habitats and increasing biodiversity across the site. In time, the herb assemblage will increase by reducing some of the soil fertility and the dominating grasses by undertaking an annual hay cut and collect. Utilising seed from nearby meadows by collecting and green hay spreading will have been undertaken when monitoring results dictate its necessary to bolster flora species. This habitat will support important invertebrate species, raptors such as barn owl and kestrel feeding on the small mammals, songbirds nesting and bats foraging along the woodland edge. The long-term aim is for the area to develop into species-rich semi-improved grassland that complements the surrounding woodland, scrub habitats and contributes to the overall ecological diversity of the site.

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

1. Scrub management

By the next woodland ecological condition assessment in 2030, to have varied the age and structure of the blackthorn in compartment 3b (3.15ha). The blackthorn covers approximately 0.5ha and approximately 0.1ha will be cut to ground level in a non-uniform pattern. Blackthorn is a vital food plant and egg laying habitat for the black and brown hairstreak butterfly. Seek advice from Butterfly Conservation or similar organisations before and subsequent management intervention. Guidance obtained will help inform if and when further cutting is required which will be included in the next 5-year short term objectives.

2. Non-wooded habitat

By the end of August 2028, initiate the enhancement of the floristic diversity within the cut (0.8ha) meadow areas of compartment 3b as current surveys have shown a low number of species. Working with conservation focused neighbouring landowners, source local green hay which retains local provenance and suitability. This habitat will be managed as herb-rich meadows, preventing woodland and excessive scrub encroachment, through a summer hay cut and collect in July each year. Success will be measured by the retention of at least 0.8ha of open habitat and an increase in the diversity and abundance of characteristic grassland herbs by the next woodland ecological condition assessment in 2035. Undertake a botanical survey of the meadows in 2027 to create a baseline record and then again in 2031 and 2036 to evaluate the success of the interventions and help inform the next short term objectives.

In combination with ancient semi-natural woodland key feature within compartment 1a:

3. Deer impact

By 2035, reduce deer impact from high to medium measured as an outcome of the deer impact assessments in 2028/2030/2032 and 2034 with additional information derived from a thermal drone survey in 2031 and 2036. A deer management plan will be written by the end of 2026 which will help to set targets for future deer management. A competent deer management contractor will work to reduce deer numbers as set out in the management plan and subsequent impact assessments and observations. The contractor will work in collaboration with surrounding landowners and deer managers as part of the landscape scale management reduction in negative impacts. Success will be measured by achieving a medium or lower impact score and the successful establishment and survival of natural regeneration in woodland edge and secondary woodland areas of compartments 2a, 3a and 3b.

4. Woodland monitoring

A woodland ecological condition assessment in spring 2030 and 2034 will review the compartments at the time of the visit. The assessment will include recording details of the woodland structure, regeneration (trees and understorey), ground flora, deadwood, veteran trees and the impacts of pests, diseases and herbivores. The information will help inform the remaining life of the plan and the full woodland management plan review due in 2035.

4.3 F3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Piddington Wood is located in east Oxfordshire 2.8 km (1.7 miles) west of Piddington Village (pop. 370) and 3.2km (2 miles) east of Upper Arncott (pop. 1738). Surrounding land use is mainly arable, with patches of isolated woodlands in private ownership as well as a large Ministry Of Defense site and Bullingdon prison to the north. The National Trust Boarstall Duck Decoy lies 2.5km (1.6 miles) to the south and Bernwood Forest is 6km (3.7miles) away by road.

Nature and quiet countryside walks often accompanied by dogs are the main reasons to visit Piddington Wood. The site is a Woodland Trust category C for access (low usage site where we do maintain paths). An orientation and site information lectern sign is present just inside the site by the car park and the public rights of way are signed at both entrances with finger posts.

Overall visitor facilities are low-key but the site offers the visitor a peaceful place in which to enjoy the natural environment. Piddington Wood has approx. 4km / 2.5 miles of permissive paths and public rights of way for visitors on foot through mature woodland, younger planted woodland and grassland. The paths are unimproved, many becoming wet and muddy during the winter months, and there are 4 bridges that assist visitors crossing the ditches. Wooden benches can be found at various locations as rest and contemplation stops.

For those arriving by vehicle, there is a small 3 car lay-by next to the main south-eastern entrance to the wood, alongside the B4011, where two metal kissing gates prohibit access by unauthorised motorbikes and discourage access on bicycles. There are two other entrances; one public footpath on the southern boundary that is not currently in use or evident on the ground, and the other is a metal kissing gate on a public footpath exiting the southwestern corner and linking to further countryside routes and woodland.

The wood forms part of the circuit for the 7km / 4.5 mile 'Piddington Circular Walk', which is a leafleted walk promoted by Cherwell District Council. This helps connect the site to the wider local rights of way network and contributes to its recreational value.

The Woodland Trust has volunteer wardens and wildlife monitors that help care for and record species on the site. Their involvement contributes to visitor engagement, site stewardship and wildlife monitoring.

Significance

The site is significant in the local area as it is open to the public and offers a range of habitats to explore. As a Woodland Trust site, it contributes to the Trust's objective of increasing people's understanding and enjoyment of woodland and trees by providing free public access to a diverse natural environment.

The fauna species are of particular interest to some local naturalist's groups such as Butterfly Conservation, due to the presence of the rare butterfly species present, such as brown and black hairstreak butterflies. The site also provides opportunities for informal learning, wildlife observation and biological recording, supported by local volunteers.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Piddington Wood has limited parking capacity, with space for only three vehicles, which may restrict access during periods of higher visitor demand.
- Paths can be very muddy and waterlogged during the winter / prolonged wet weather due to the underlying geology which may reduce accessibility for some visitors and limit opportunities to further promote year-round use of the site.
- The kissing gates are restrictive to some visitors, particularly those with limited mobility, larger mobility aids or pushchairs.

Opportunity: • The Woodland Trust benefits from support from volunteer wardens and wildlife monitors, providing opportunities to assist with visitor engagement, infrastructure monitoring and practical site management.
Factors Causing Change
- Wetter, milder weather will make the path network more muddy and less accessible for longer periods, particularly during autumn and winter, which may reduce the accessibility of some routes and increase wear on path surfaces and associated infrastructure. - Ash dieback may mean the closure or re-routing of some paths to maintain visitor safety. Ongoing tree loss may also alter the character of some paths through increased light levels and changes to woodland structure.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The mature woodland is unlikely to change a great deal, but the development of the planted woodland and area of natural regeneration, scrub and shrubs will have changed the appearance and experience for visitors. Public access for informal and quiet recreation will be maintained in perpetuity, and the current path network is unlikely to deviate significantly from the current layout. Where paths closures are required for safety reasons, then a suitable alternative will be sought and signage put in place to notify visitors. Visitors will continue to be able to experience a range of woodland and open habitats as the site develops and matures. The woodland will be kept as safe as practicable for visitors using the maintained network of unimproved paths, together with visible and clearly signed entrances. Access infrastructure will remain proportionate to the site's Category C access designation and sympathetic to its quiet, informal character. Provision of infrastructure, interpretation, orientation and signage will be largely the same with any replacement of infrastructure assessed for accessibility when renewed using the least restrictive option available as appropriate for the Woodland Trust grading of this site - Category 'C' (low usage site). Involvement of volunteers and natural history groups with wildlife monitoring and habitat management will continue to be supported, helping to increase people's understanding and enjoyment of woodland and wildlife.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
1. Site infrastructure Site infrastructure at the site including bridges, benches and gates will be well maintained, safe and fit for purpose throughout the plan period to 2036. An audit will be undertaken annually and any recommendations for repairs or renewal will be noted and undertaken in a timely manner, to ensure continued managed visitor access across the site. 2. Redundant site infrastructure and waste By the end of the 5-year objective period in 2031, remove all identified redundant infrastructure to improve the site safety, visual quality and the natural character of the site. 3. Site signage The large site entrance sign with woodland name will be replaced within the plan period when it has deteriorated to an unrepresentable condition and no longer provides a welcoming site entrance. The orientation and site information lectern is nearing the end of its life and is not representative of the site as it is now and will be removed by 2030, to

ensure site signage remains accurate, presentable and appropriate to the site's low-key character.

4. Path cutting

Throughout the plan period to 2036, maintain approximately 4km of permissive paths and public rights of way in an accessible and safe condition with annual vegetation management supported by volunteer wardens, ensuring paths remain clearly visible and usable for visitors. The low-key path network will remain unchanged and continue to be unimproved and natural in character. Public access will continue to provide opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the woodland while remaining compatible with the conservation of its habitats and species.

5. Tree safety

Throughout the plan period to 2036, maintain compliance with Woodland Trust tree safety guidance along Zones A and B, ensuring risks to visitors and highway users are assessed and managed appropriately while retaining woodland character and habitat value wherever possible. Tree safety inspections will continue at the prescribed frequencies for each zone.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

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,	November
2026	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Works that have to be undertaken by Woodland Trust as part of with legal agreements made with third parties such as erection of boundary fencing, surfacing of joint access tracks , maintenance of drainage ditches. Also works associated with safeguarding the Woodland Trust legal position – such as erection of boundary markers on open boundaries, removal of illegal third party structures/vehicles/ campsites	December
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	February
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management 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	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management 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
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,	January

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2028	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	February
2028	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management 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	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	July
2028	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	September
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
2028	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	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,	October
2029	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	February
2029	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	June
2029	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

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2029	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	September
2029	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
2030	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
2030	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
2031	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	January
2031	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	February
2031	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	June
2031	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
2031	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	September
2031	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
2032	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2032	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
2033	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
2033	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
2034	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
2034	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
2035	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
2035	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
2036	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	February
2036	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

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2036	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	9.76	Oak (pedunculate)	1901	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, Local Wildlife Site
Semi-natural ancient wood composed predominantly of a mixture of mature and developing oak, with field maple, birch, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn understory - NVC W10. The canopy is fairly even aged with a few older veteran ash and one notable field maple. Plant species comprise primrose, dog's mercury, dog violet, lesser celandine, bluebell, wood anemone and bramble, and pendulous sedge on the wetter rides. Occasional tree / shrub species include sycamore, cherry, aspen, hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, crab apple and goat willow.						
2a	2.59	Oak (pedunculate)	1980	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Area of Landscape Value, Local Wildlife Site
Strip of mature secondary woodland outside the woodbank of 1a and forming the southern edge of the site. Largely composed of oak, cherry, ash, hazel and a high component of blackthorn, with birch and elm and sycamore also present. There is a scattering of more mature oaks but most of the compartment was felled and re-planted in the 1980's at 3m spacing. The main entrance to the wood enters this compartment and a public footpath transects its full length. There is an ephemeral pond and wet flush. Flora includes blue bugle, lords & ladies (<i>Arum maculatum</i>) with sedges in the wetter areas and some bracken.						
3a	2.8	Oak (pedunculate)	2003	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor	Area of Landscape Value

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					vehicular access within the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	
Plantation on former arable field dating from 2003. Ash and oak together make up 60% of the planting mix; minor components of other species make up the other 40%: field maple, hazel, blackthorn and silver birch. Ash is showing symptoms of ash dieback and is likely to mostly fail. Naturally regenerating scrub is prevalent including drifts of blackthorn which will succeed and increase in the long-term making a good habitat for the brown hairstreak. This compartment also contains an over stood hedged road-side section with the B4011, mostly comprising of elm, crack willow, hawthorn and blackthorn, with dog rose, guelder rose and goat willow also present.						
3b	3.15	Mixed native broadleaves	2003	Wood establishment	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Area of Landscape Value
This is area of grassland was formerly part of the arable field and was left as unplanted open ground between the plantation in 3a and the ancient woodland (1a). Naturally regenerating scrub and young trees are present on the edge of the ancient woodland and are slowly colonising the open area. Ash, oak, field maple and alder are present as well as blackthorn, crab apple, goat willow and hazel.						

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.

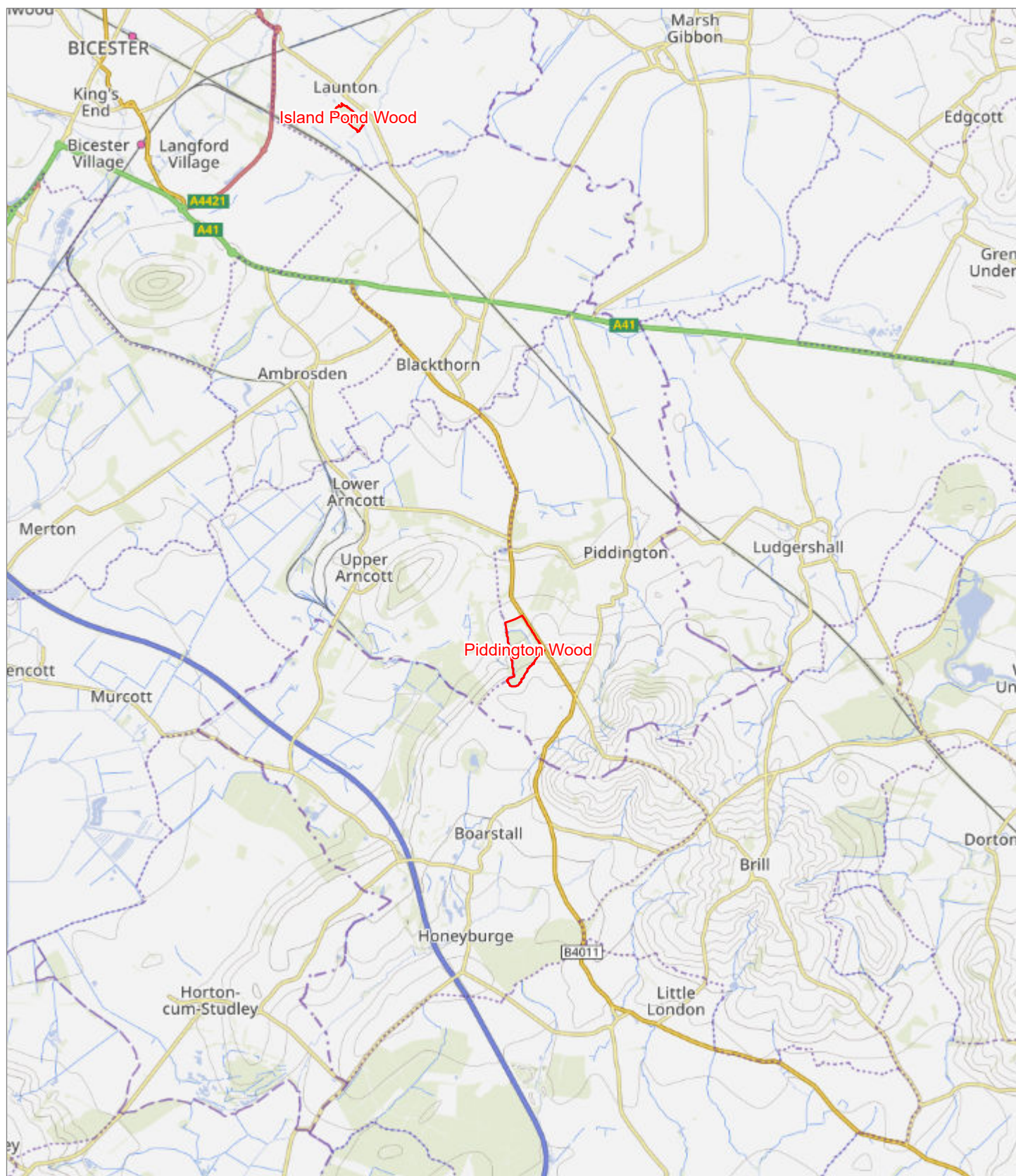
Windblow/Windthrow

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

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 Woodland Trust Site Boundary

Piddington Wood Location Map



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Scale: 1:58,975 @A4

Date: 01 October 2026

Author:



- SubComp Labels
- SubCompartments
- Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) - England
- Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland

Piddington Wood Ancient Woodland and Compartment Map

Scale: 1:3,800 @A4

Date: 01 October 2026

Author:



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- | | |
|---|---|
|  Car Parks |  Bridge |
| Access Points |  Information board |
|  Access points | Path Network |
|  Woodland Trust Site Boundary |  Legal-Footpath |
| Other Features |  Permissive-Footpath |
|  Seat | |

Piddington Wood Visitor Map

Scale: 1:3,627 @A4

Date: 02 October 2026

Author:



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