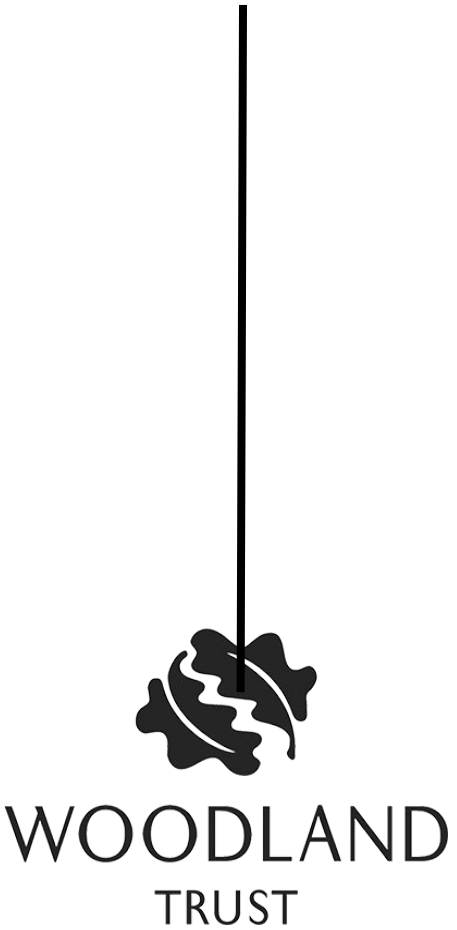
Eliburn Woods

(Plan period – 2026 to 2031)



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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.

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1. SITE DETAILS

Eliburn Woods

Location:	Livingston Grid reference: NT034681 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 65
Area:	7.81 hectares (19.30 acres)
External Designations:	Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin
Internal Designations:	Tree For All Site

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Eliburn Woods covers 7.81 hectares and forms part of the Woodland Trust's holding in Livingston, West Lothian. The site consists of eight separate woodland shelterbelts located off the Houston Road within the centre of Livingston. Residential areas, roads or land zoned for similar development surround all the woodland belts. Most woods have a north-south alignment, reflecting their function as shelterbelts, providing screening and an attractive backdrop to the various residential developments as well as providing windbreaks and barrier to noise.

As the surrounding landscape is heavily urbanised, Eliburn Woods are even more important spaces for wildlife, woodland cover and recreation. More greenspace is present to the west of compartment 17a at Eliburn reservoir which is owned and managed by West Lothian Council. However, the majority the surrounding area is already heavily developed.

Generally, with the exception of compartments 17b, 17c and 14a, all of the belts making up Eliburn Woods are remnants of an older shelterbelt complex dating from around the mid 1800's. Most appear on OS maps of 1860 as woodland and are therefore classed as Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO-2b) on the ancient woodland inventory. Generally, they are all dominated by Scots pine with occasional larch, sycamore, beech, ash, and oak. Much of woodland cover in the surrounding area is younger, typically dating from the 1960s and 1970s.

From the 1960s, these woods were owned and managed by the Livingston Development Corporation (LDC) who were responsible for designing and creating Livingston as a 'New Town'. During this time under-planting of beech and non-native conifer was conducted which has influenced species composition and regeneration levels across the site. When the LDC dissolved 30 years later, many woodland areas, including Eliburn Woods, were acquired by the Woodland Trust. Since 1996, the Woodland Trust's approach to woodland management for Eliburn woods has focused on retention of the woodland and maintenance for health and safety.

The woods lie on a shallow south-facing slope between the altitudes of 139m and 169m above sea level with an underlying geology of sedimentary sandstones/ limestone's/ shale of the Carbonioferous-Dinatian period. Soils are derived from a glacial till of carboniferous sedimentary sandstones and shale. They are generally brown forest soils with gleying, of the Rowanhill association and are characterised by slowly permeable clayey horizons at varying depths between 40 and 80cm. There are no watercourses within the woods, only drainage ditches. The MLURI climate map identifies the area as fairly warm moist lowland and foothill, being moderately exposed with moderate winters.

Eliburn Woods is considered to be a high usage site by the public as it is regularly used at all times of year, more than approximately 15 - 20 people using one entrance every day. The woodland blocks provide good recreation opportunities for local users and contain a number of informal paths and desire lines. They are accessed from entrance points which link to the formal tarmac footpath and cycleway networks connecting into the wider complex of Livingston paths and Greenways. For example, compartment 17 has links into other woodland and recreational paths around Eliburn Reservoir, which are managed West Lothian Council. The woodland belts with the exception of compartment 18a, all have a central, usually un-surfaced informal path, accessed from two or more entrance points. The longer strips (compartments 17 & 20) are crossed at several points by tarmac or surfaced paths. There are no on-site car parks at any of the woodland blocks however parking is available in adjacent streets.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Eliburn Woods will be managed as a sustainable natural resource to safeguard their public amenity and biodiversity value and in line with the Woodland Trust's corporate objectives of improving and enhancing biodiversity, encouraging public access and enhancing people's enjoyment of woodlands.

The desired outcome for our sites is native broadleaved high forest, managed in a sustainable way in compliance with UKWAS requirements. Ideally this will be achieved through maintaining these woodland areas under continuous cover silviculture where possible and allowing for natural regeneration as and when it occurs. Areas which are currently predominantly non- native conifer species, will be actively managed to enable gradual conversion to predominantly native broadleaf woodland of varied age structure. Wherever possible, native and to a lesser degree non-native natural regeneration will be utilised. Enrichment planting with native species will be considered if there is insufficient regeneration or to enhance species diversity. Individual examples and groups of specimen conifers, particularly Scots pine, which is featured throughout West Lothian, will be retained. However, regeneration of these species will be monitored to maintain a mixed, predominantly broadleaved character woodland. Any planting along woodland edges, including near housing, industrial and roadside boundaries will be replaced with smaller stature trees and shrubs to reduce conflicts with neighbouring land uses.

An increase in native tree species will facilitate the development of native healthy ground flora communities. There will also be a conscious effort to retain standing and fallen deadwood, where it is safe to do so.

Livingston was developed with an extensive network of street lit, tarmac cycleways and footpaths, linking north to south and east to west. Many of the Trust's woods border these routes and this often negates the need to improve internal woodland paths beyond their beaten earth standard.

Due to the woods location within the central belt and close proximity to large populations, the intention is to use the woods to improve and raise awareness, through education, of the biodiversity, recreation and health benefits woodlands provide.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Connecting People to Woods and Trees

Description

Eliburn woods are a well-used complex of woodlands in the centre of Livingston. Each of the 8 woodland blocks border several residential areas and is often used for access to local amenities. This site a convenient local resource for outdoor recreation for the population of Eliburn within the wider Livingston population of approximately 57,000 (according to 2024 Locality Plan).

The local population continues to increase due to a number of recent and proposed housing developments, including in the areas that immediately surround Eliburn Woods. For example, compartment 14a had a new development constructed next to the eastern boundary completed in 2022. As of 2024, construction has been undertaken on the western boundary for 132 more houses. The close proximity of housing is combined with the presence of the railway line and gas pipeline immediately to the north and the underpass to the south.

As of 2026, the areas around Eliburn Woods have tree equity scores ranging from 72 to 100 (out of 100). High scores (80-100) represent that areas currently have good access to trees and woodlands within the community for health, climatic and economic benefits. Whereas neighbourhoods with scores under 80 are considered as a priority for work to increase canopy cover. Compartment 15a is located within an area of lower tree equity scoring 72 with the canopy cover recorded as only 13 percent. An increase in canopy here would improve tree equity as the local population would directly benefit from the presence of trees close by. with the higher levels of social deprivation in this area contribute to its high priority status. Furthermore, currently (2026), there is a housing development under construction next to compartment 14a which could affect the score. Thus, tree equity scores should be monitored going forward.

Eliburn Woods is a very well used complex of woodlands in the centre of Livingston. There 35 entrances to the woodland located across the site, identified by welcome posts installed in early 2020. The majority of entrance points are completely open. Built structures within the woodlands are limited across the site. Those that are present can be found in compartment 20a including a small footbridge and fencing along the eastern boundary. At two entrances there are large boulders marking the entrance which have been carved with motifs of mythical creatures. There is also one entrance with a large metal kissing gate, usable by prams, that was previously installed to discourage garden waste dumping.

Internally, there are approximately 2.4km of surfaced and unsurfaced paths across Eliburn Woods. The path present in compartment 17b was surfaced by West Lothian Council in 2024 to enable access for works in the Eliburn Reservoir area. The other paths within the site are unsurfaced as there are many streetlight paths with a tarmac surface located within close proximity already, such as the tarmac paths that runs alongside compartments 17a, 18a, 19a and 20a. All the woodland compartments are generally accessible directly from the surrounding roads and pavement network.

The paths are generally straight ‘through’ routes and link directly into the Greenway and pavement network within Livingston as well as linking directly onto Livingston Oldwood (West Lothian Council). This provides access to long distance routes as well as shorter circular routes using soft and surfaced paths. There are a number of core paths

located within close proximity to Eliburn Woods including WL28 Nell Burn Path to the west. The WL29 Railway Path sits between compartments 15 and 16a and travels north past 19a and 20a. There is also another core path travelling southwards between compartment 18a and the north eastern corner of 17a is WL33 Folly Burn Path.

Other Woodland Trust owned sites located within 1km include Cousland Woods, Ladywell Woods and Knightsridge Woods. Local amenity areas close to the woodlands include Livingston Football Community club and Eliburn Park located to the south of compartment 14a, Peel Park to the southwest of compartment 17a and Carmondean Library which is within a 5-minute walk to compartment 15a.

There is no on-site parking for Eliburn Woods. There are bus stops and parking within walking distance. Livingston North Train station is also within 1 mile walking distance from the Eliburn Wood compartments.

The level of public use of Eliburn Woods is defined as WT Access Category A (high usage) and most users live locally and travel through the site to access amenities such as workplaces, schools and shopping as well as enjoying the wooded habitat for informal outdoor recreation, primarily dog walking.

This close proximity to residential areas also offers potential opportunities to work with local education centres. The closest schools to the site are Peel Primary School (under 10 minutes' walk to compartment 17c), Deans Primary School (approximately 10-minute walk to compartment 14a) and Ogilvie School Campus (under 10 minutes' walk to compartment 20a). There are also nurseries next to compartment 15a which have used the woods for outdoor sessions on occasion.

Replanting of compartment 17b was conducted with the local community in 2010. Unfortunately, repeated acts of vandalism compromised the establishment of the trees for the first 5 years.

Fly tipping, dog waste, and garden waste dumping are known issues in Eliburn Woods. Fires involving wheelie bins were previously highlighted as an issue in compartment 14a. However, none have been reported in this area since the housing to the east of the site has been completed. In 2021, unauthorised bike jumps were constructed in compartment 17a and had to be removed. As of 2022, Woodland Trust has been meeting regularly with West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (WLPARC) to discuss incidents and issues affecting woodland use and management with other local services and landowners. This has enabled open discussion to recognise trends and ability to streamline messaging and pool resources for the area.

There are a number of Volunteer Woodland Wardens that cover Livingston who regularly patrol the area and provide reports of issues found on site. There is currently one Volunteer Woodland Warden dedicated to Eliburn Woods. A Woodland Working Group (WWG) was set up for the Woodland Trust sites across West Lothian during late 2019. The aim of this group is to conduct practical conservation tasks across the 16 Woodland Trust sites in the area, including Eliburn Woods. Volunteer activities for the area have included removing tree tubes, vegetation clearance and litter picking. During 2021, the WWG volunteers also planted a mix of hawthorn, holly and blackthorn along the eastern boundary of compartment 20a to help secure the site from garden waste dumping.

Unfortunately, litter is an on-going problem and although cleared regularly does detract from the amenity of the woods as well as creating a hazard to wildlife. Regular items such as cans can be found often in compartment 17c.

Locally, a group known as 'West Lothian Litter Pickers' has been created by enthusiastic volunteers. Although this is an independently managed group, the members do cover many of the Woodland Trust sites in Livingston, including Eliburn Woods, and wider West Lothian. Their work helps to keep the sites clean as well as encouraging community engagement for the sites and reporting any issues of concern.

Significance

Eliburn Woods is a significant asset for Livingston, providing a valuable outdoor resource in an increasingly urbanised area.

The is a popular local wood accessible to a large demographic of people and easily reached with or without transport and therefore the site provides a chance to promote access to a safe, natural environment close to where people live.

It is walked regularly by local dog walkers, cyclists and commuters and forms an essential part of the local access network, providing varied and alternative routes to pavements, as well as linking to longer distance routes.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities -

To further improve access facilities and respond reactively to user demand.

To further promote and use the woodlands as an educational resource.

Opportunity to develop the Woodland Trust volunteer group to become more self-led.

Proximity to other Woodland Trust sites and woodlands owned by West Lothian Council close by allows for potential to group works (such as footpath upgrades) together to be more efficient and cost effective.

To raise awareness of Tree Equity – highlighting both where there is existing good canopy cover that should be protected and where additional tree planting should be considered and prioritised locally.

Constraints –

Linear nature of the site constrains potential for large circular routes within the site. Fragmentation and small size of compartments across the site limits the suitability for engagement events. The small size and limited open ground within and surrounding the site restricts the ability to conduct more planting at Eliburn Wood to help improve the Tree Equity score.

No formal car parking, which can cause problems with neighbours and visitors parking on the local roads. This could restrict the opportunity for larger scale events on site that may attract audiences from further afield.

Some areas of the paths which are unsurfaced can remain muddy throughout the year which can make the area inaccessible especially for those with mobility issues. Poorly drained soils make access provisions difficult to maintain on soft surface routes.

The development of surrounding land and infrastructure of this compartment increases the maintenance requirements for this woodland whilst also and becoming more challenging to access and conduct woodland management.

Lack of infrastructure on site also complicates maintenance work such as path upgrades or tree felling as there is minimal appropriate places for machinery and material access and storage. This increases the cost and duration of these operations.

Anti-social behaviour such as fly tipping and garden waste dumping presents a safety hazard to visitors as well as being detrimental to the natural beauty of this wood and its wildlife.

Factors Causing Change

Adjacent developments, particularly next to compartment 14a, will increase use of the area, impacting existing access routes. Garden extensions and illegal cutting of edge trees is a constant problem due to building of adjacent housing without appropriate buffer to the woodland edge.

Continuous litter and fly tipping (including garden waste and materials) detract from the natural beauty of this site and fires detracts from the beauty of the site and could cause long-term environmental damage, as well as being hazardous to staff and public using the site.

Paths edges growing in, reducing visibility and potentially resulting in personal safety concerns by users. Wetter ground conditions also make accessibility limited on some sections of path.

Vandalism to signs also puts pressure on site infrastructure.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Due to the location of the woods within the central belt and close proximity to large populations, the intention is to use the woods to improve and raise awareness and understanding within the local community regarding biodiversity, recreation and health benefits woodlands provide.

The site should be accessible safe and welcoming with management of infrastructure and signage. There will be a well-maintained network of paths and rides with a variety of aspects allowing safe access across the site.

The site should be well used, appreciated and respected by the local community and it should be known for its habitat and wildlife interest.

Litter and fly tipping will be discouraged and removed as far as resources allow, to maintain the natural appearance of the wood and discourage further abuse of the woodland.

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

During this plan period, the short-term objective is to continue to provide public access at Eliburn Woods which is safe and enjoyable. Access provision for this site will be in keeping with WT access category A (high usage). This will be achieved by:

1) The site will be kept in a safe and welcoming condition through site maintenance:
a) Path cuts and entrance maintenance (twice annually)
b) Vegetation cut backs from streetlights to allow lines of sight where possible and appropriate (as required)
    i) Compartment 17a- 505m
    ii) Compartment 18a- 70m
    iii) Compartment 19a- 65m
    iv) compartment 20a- 380m
c) Litter and fly tip removed and disposed of appropriately off-site (as required)
d) Regular site safety inspections for tree safety, footbridges, steps, benches, fencing (as per site risk assessment)

2) Improving visitor access by upgrading infrastructure:
a) Covering existing soft-surface path running west to east in the north east of compartment 17a (approximately 465m) with woodchip to standard 1.6m width (before the end of the plan period)
b) Covering existing soft-surface path running west to east in the north east of compartment 14a (approximately 190m) with woodchip to standard 1.6m width (following felling works)

3) Providing and developing more opportunities for community engagement:
a) Continue to meet with the West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (WLPARC) group to discuss updates and anti-social issues on site and collaborate with other local organisations where possible and appropriate (ongoing)
b) Liaise with the local community council, education centres, organised groups and neighbouring businesses (as required)
c) Conduct Woodland Working Group sessions on site such as digging out invasive species, thinning small beech trees (as required)
d) Discuss opportunities with West Lothian Council to deliver a joined-up trail project throughout the whole Eliburn area, where possible and appropriate (after the proposed WLC woodland restructuring work has been completed)

4) Engaging with planners and neighbouring developers to ensure the impacts to sites are minimised and achieve gains where possible for public access and biodiversity as seen in the National Planning Framework (NPF) 4 (as required).

4.2 f2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin

Description

Covering over 7.81 hectares across 8 woodland blocks, Eliburn Woods is located in and around housing and roads in the centre of Livingston to the north and south of Houston Road.

Whilst they are now distinctive blocks, it is likely that many of the compartments were previously connected strips that have become separated by the development of roads over time. Most recently, new housing was constructed next to the woodland in the land to east of compartment 14 which was completed in 2023. The land to the west of compartment 14a is currently under development and due to be completed in 2026.

Despite fragmentation by development, the woodland blocks of Elburn Woods are a significant natural feature within the local urban landscape. The woods form a attractive backdrop and screening for the various housing developments in the area and are an integral part of the wider habitat mosaic associated with Eliburn Park- Livingston Oldwood and Eliburn Reservoir.

The woodlands' LEPO (2b) status is confirmed by its existence on the 1860 OS maps. This designation includes the majority of the site (compartments 16a, 17a, 17b, 18a and 19a). However, sections of compartments 14a, 15a and 20a also appear to contain woodland cover which can be seen on the 1860 OS map. Therefore, the whole site is managed as LEPO (2b) woodland. There are currently no specific veteran trees that have been recorded on site via the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI).

Mature Scots pine is a feature throughout the Livingston landscape and dominates compartments 15a, 16a, 17a, 18a, 19a and 20a and have a similar species composition. Mature oak and beech often feature within the woods, sycamore, birch, ash, hazel, willow, rowan, ash, Sitka spruce, elm, elder and alder are also present throughout the compartments. Where canopy is dense- typically where mature beech is present- regeneration is limited to shade-tolerant species such as beech, ash, holly and cotoneaster. Other than the dense holly and beech understorey present to the northeast of compartment 17a and the south of compartment 20a, overall, regeneration levels are poor for both trees and shrub species across the site. Small amounts of thinning have taken place over the past 20 years.

Compartment 14a, on the other hand, is dominated by hybrid larch with a small patch of Sitka spruce to the south. Mature crab apple is present along the western boundary whilst the hawthorn and Scots pine can be found on the eastern boundary. Mature oak often features within the woods and include hazel, willow, rowan, beech, alder and ash are also present in the understorey.

Compartment 17c is not included in the LEPO designation, it is noticeably younger, dominated by alder with a mix of sycamore, ash, and occasional non-native conifers. Rather than Scots pine noted in the neighbouring compartment of 17a.

In 2018, a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) for Phytophthora ramorum was issued for the larch in the south-western half of compartment 17a and across compartment 17c. The majority of larch present in this area was in the southwestern corner of compartment 17a. Consequently, this area was clear felled in early 2019. In 2021, the felled section was replanted with a mix of native species (hazel, holly, hawthorn, birch, rowan and bird cherry) and small

amounts of willow regeneration are also present. Some open ground remains present in this section where thick piles of mulch material were left on site following the felling, providing more complexity to the horizontal and vertical structure of the woodland.

Compartment 17b has a younger age structure than the other compartments of Eliburn Woods. Historically, this area was dominated by mature Scots pine and larch. Thinning of the compartment was undertaken the 2000s. However, the works had not resulted in desired levels of improved diversification. These results, combined with the close proximity beside new housing resulted in the strip being clear felled during 2010. The area was replanted with help from the local community in early 2011. The species were mixed throughout and now the compartment composition is significantly diverse including holly, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, apple, wild cherry, silver birch, sycamore, alder, rowan, ash, willow, Scots pine, oak and elm. The establishment of this area has been largely successful, and the tree protection can be removed from this compartment. There is a small area is in this compartment where trees are struggling to establish to establish due to high bracken density.

Ash Die Back (ADB) has been identified on site. This is a particular issue for Eliburn Woods as ash tree mapping in 2020 identified areas numerous mature ash present in close proximity to housing and other infrastructure. Since mapping was completed, there have been works carried out annually to remove significantly declining ash across Eliburn Woods to help limit the risk to the public and infrastructure.

Occasionally, trees have been impacted by storm damage on this site, particularly during 2024 and 2025. Deadwood provides important habitat niches, supporting invertebrates, fungi, birds and other wildlife. Efforts have been made to retain deadwood, where possible, in various sizes and forms (in canopy, fallen and standing) across Eliburn Woods. This includes large diameter standing and fallen trees, particularly throughout compartment 17a.

Ground flora is patchy throughout the site due dense canopies of conifers and an understory of beech, which both limits the light-availability. Large sections of compartment 14a and 17a are absent of any ground vegetation. Where present, the ground flora is not very diverse. However, common species are found in more natural mixed broadleaved woodland habitats including honeysuckle in compartments 15a and 17b. Rosebay Willowherb, moss, ivy, soft grasses, ferns and strong bramble growth are present where more open conditions coincide with the damper fertile soils. Poor drainage in the south of compartment 14a has allowed both soft rush and tussock grasses to colonise here. Gorse and broom are present along boundaries in compartment 14a and 20a. There are some small areas of open ground in compartments 17b where bracken is dominant.

Open ground within the woodland compartments is limited due to the nature of the woodland arranged in shelterbelts creating a dense closed canopy structure. Other than drainage ditches present in compartments 17a and 20a, there are no water bodies in Eliburn Woods. The majority of the site has consistent flat or gently sloping terrain which can influence drainage levels on site. In particular, compartment 17a has a section between the path and the housing to the west which often has standing water.

Key invasive non-native species (INNS) such as Rhododendron ponticum, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed not currently present on site (2026). Nevertheless, there are a number of other non-native species of note including Sitka spruce, beech, laurel, privet, snowberry and cotoneaster. Various garden escapees are also an issue across the site which borders many residential areas due to regular garden waste dumping. This includes bamboo in compartment

17a, multiple areas of few-flowered leek throughout 17a and patches of wood saxifrage and grape hyacinth in compartment 15a.

A range of birds, smaller mammals and invertebrates are expected to benefit from the woodland cover. Woodpecker holes are a common feature in where standing dead wood is present. Mammals such as rabbits, deer and foxes are present. Browsing from deer and rabbit browsing seem to be minimal concern for this site due to high levels of disturbance by the public in an urban location. There are particularly high densities of grey squirrels that are often seen throughout the site. Consequently, squirrel damage, particularly to beech and sycamore, is also prevalent throughout the site- particularly evident in compartment 17a.

Significance

The amount of ancient woodland left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. The woodland is on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as LEPO (2b) and has existed since at least 1860, which indicates a relatively high biodiversity potential.

The wood is a significant feature of the local landscape and provides screening and shelter between housing developments. The woodland is also increasingly important for the local biodiversity as a refuge from the built-up urban areas and increasing development in the surrounding areas.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

To improve the biodiversity value of the woodland and ground flora by continuing to manipulate the canopy and species composition through safety felling, light thinning and works such as gradual removal of beech from the understorey. Where practical, the woodland edge will be gradually pulled back from the housing boundaries and replaced with woodland shrubs.

Removal of the remaining non-native conifers (mainly Sitka and larch in compartment 14a) would help to increase light levels and support more biodiversity. Standing and fallen deadwood could be increased across the site by leaving timber and monoliths during tree safety/thinning works, where appropriate.

Proximity to other Woodland Trust sites close by allows for potential to group works (such as felling) together to be more efficient and cost-effective.

Ongoing senescence of mature beech, presence of ash die back and continuing windblow will lead to an opportunity to retain deadwood, in areas where is it suitable to do so, to increase habitat diversity across the site and opportunities to diversify the canopy and age structure.

Thinning and tree safety works throughout the compartments will also contribute to increased age complexity and levels of fallen and standing deadwood throughout the woodland. An increase of deadwood across the site would be

welcome, especially in areas where it is currently very minimal such as compartment 17b.

Removal of invasive species such as few flowered leek, snowberry and bamboo and possibly enrichment planting of flora in this areas with native species such as ramsons and comfrey, hazel and Guelder rose (Viburnum opulus), for example.

Constraints

Eliburn Woods have been and continue to be significantly impacted by development in the immediately surrounding area. In 2006, Compartment 19a was included under the Airdrie to Bathgate Railway Improvement Bill. The works associated with the Railway line caused a small number of trees to be felled and others were damaged by machinery. The narrow woodland belts are approximately 30 meters wide and there are multiple areas that neighbouring houses as little as 1 meter from mature trees. This challenge persists with more recent development, where construction either side of compartment 14a has left no appropriate access for felling the larch which is not suitable within close proximity to housing.

The existence of surrounding infrastructure influences the methodology and expense of any forestry operations. There is also a drystone dyke along the eastern boundary of compartment 17a and western boundary of 14a. There are also sections of a stone dyke also present to the western boundary of 17a- these are heavily vegetative and thus less visible. Nevertheless, are also serving as an important habitat, supporting various species including invertebrates, small mammals and mosses. These dykes must be considered and protected during operations on site.

Drainage ditches are present on site, particularly 17a and 20a. Any further works on drainage on the site are limited in their effectiveness considering the flat topography and limited gradient variation throughout the area. This can result in standing water in some area which will influence the localised species which can survive in these spaces and must also be considered during access for works.

The proximity to housing, roads and pavements and presence of multiple footpaths, increases the demand for tree safety works on this site whilst also restricting the scope for retaining windblow and standing deadwood in some areas.

Proximity to residential housing also restricts planting of larger species such as oak in some areas as these larger species should not be planted close the boundaries in order to avoid future conflict as the tree develops.

The conservation value of the woods is limited by the small size and fragmentation of the woodland blocks within an urban setting. The high density of buildings and infrastructure in the immediately surrounding area also limits opportunities for woodland expansion or improved connectivity. For example, the trainline connecting Glasgow and Edinburgh is present between compartments 15a and 16a which acts as a significant barrier to any ability for an interconnected wildlife corridor and separates the majority of Eliburn woods from the northern section of Livingston.

The closed canopy nature of the woodland and pockets of dense planting and non-native species such as beech, sycamore, Sitka spruce and snowberry restrict light levels causing a reduction in ground flora and suppresses natural regeneration. Regeneration across the site is mainly ash, beech and sycamore. This is concerning as the ash regen may not be tolerant of ADB and the beech and sycamore is likely to outcompete natural species and may not be appropriate

for the surroundings.

Whilst there is minimal browsing noted for Eliburn Wood, roe deer are regularly sighted throughout woodlands in Livingston. Furthermore, grey squirrel damage is apparent on this site and threatens young regeneration and planting on site. The urban location restricts the suitability and efficiency of possible control methods. With this in mind, no management of the species will be undertaken for the foreseeable future and further investment may be required to replace damaged trees.

Full eradication of the invasive, garden-escapee species from the site is impeded by the regular instances of garden waste dumping which is difficult to manage for this site.

Factors Causing Change

A Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) for Phytophthora ramorum has been issued at Eliburn Woods already in 2018. It is likely the disease will continue to spread which would particularly impact areas of the site that do contain larch such as compartment 14a. The management of compartment 14a needs to respond to the potential threat of Phytophthora ramorum and surrounding neighbouring development which has increased pressure and demands on the woodland.

Phytophthora cambivora has also previously been identified at Dedridge Wood in the south of Livingston and could remain a threat for the mature beech and oak in the area. The large mature beech trees which are such a feature in the West Lothian landscape also tend to be of a similar age and are now subject to ongoing senescence. They are becoming increasingly vulnerable to storm damage and disease which is becoming a challenge to manage in terms of tree safety and maintenance of the forested landscape. This decline will continue and will have a particular impact on Eliburn Woods as there are large numbers of mature beech throughout the site particularly in compartment 20a.

Ash die back (ADB) is present on site and throughout Livingston. Due to the high proportion of ash at Eliburn Woods, this disease will have a significant impact on the composition of this woodland. This will increase the volume of standing deadwood in areas where it is suitable to retain declining individuals (i.e. away from roads and footpaths). Due to the prevalence of ADB, Ash will also not be included within restocking. Therefore, its density on the site overall is likely to decline in the long term.

Whilst there will be no deliberate attempts to establish more open ground on the site, areas of the canopy will naturally open-up gradually in response to ageing, disease and response to extreme weather conditions.

Regeneration is typically limited to species that are tolerant of shade, due to density of beech, sycamore and conifers which have created a mostly closed canopy structure. Although overall browsing does not appear to be significantly impacting regeneration, this may be because these are small, narrow woodland strips with high levels of human and dog presence causing regular disturbance. Damage by grey squirrels is evident on this site, particularly in compartment 17a, which could also potentially suppress natural regeneration and the continued healthy growth of established trees.

Garden waste dumping is an issue particularly in compartments 17a and 20a. This anti-social behaviour not only compromises the beauty of the site but also undermines the native flora species as introducing more invasive species

which can spread through the woodland. Garden waste can also facilitate the spread of tree diseases.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain a diverse, mixed age and mixed species woodland habitat in perpetuity.

Woodland composition will be varied, and predominately native broadleaves. Individual examples of some conifers, particularly Scots pine which is featured throughout West Lothian, will be retained. Whilst a proportion of non-native species such as beech and sycamore will be accepted, the regeneration and ground flora will be monitored to ensure acceptable levels throughout the woodland.

Openings in the canopy due to felling, tree safety works, storm damage and senescence will allow for the regeneration or planting of native tree and shrub species to diversify the age structure of the woodland and encourage healthy ground flora communities.

Biodiversity will be safeguarded by controlling the spread of invasive non-native invasive species where practical.

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

The focus of the STOs for Eliburn Woods will be to improve biodiversity and resilience on the site through the following objectives:

1) Improve awareness and recording of species presence on site and wider area:
a) Commission ecological surveys across the site identify sensitive areas/species requiring additional mitigation for site works (prior to path or significant felling works commencing)
b) Identify and map any ancient, veteran or notable trees present on site for protection and appropriate consideration during operations (before the end of the plan period)
c) Discuss areas of non-native species and deer and squirrel management with neighbouring land owners including West Lothian Council within Livingston and explore possibilities for a collaborative approach concerning monitoring of these species and their impact locally (ongoing)

2) Restructuring areas for pro-active health and safety and enhanced biodiversity on site:
a) Gradual removal of declining ash in high-risk zones, including boundaries and paths in response to ADB (as required)
b) Clear fell Sitka spruce (approx. 15 trees) and larch (approx. 120 trees) in compartment 14a (area of ~ 0.5ha)
c) Thinning works in dense woodland sections:
i) Compartment 15a- up to 25% thin throughout compartment focusing on halo-thinning around veteran/future veteran trees (end of plan period)
ii) Compartment 16a- up to 25% thin throughout compartment (end of plan period)
iii) Compartment 17a- up to 25% thin throughout compartment focusing on removal of non-native conifer and halo thinning around veteran/future veteran trees (end of plan period)
iv) Compartment 17b- up to 25% thin of whole compartment focusing on removal of poor form trees (end of plan period)

v) Compartment 17c- up to 25% thin of whole compartment focusing on removal of non-native conifers and poor form trees (end of plan period)

vi) Compartment 18a- up to 25% thin of whole compartment focusing on non-native conifer and halo thinning around any veteran/ future veteran trees (end of plan period)

vii) Compartment 19a- up to 25% thin of established woodland focusing on non-native conifer (end of plan period)

viii)Compartment 20a- up to 25% thin of established woodland focusing on non-native conifer and beech (end of plan period)

d) Increase deadwood levels on site including retaining standing dead trees where it is safe and appropriate to do so, away from boundaries and paths, and leaving fallen timber from tree safety works (as required)

3) Optimise on potential areas for restructuring by adding species diversity and age complexity:

a) Restock clear-felled area (compartment 14a) and planting with mixed native broadleaves as shrubs (including species such as hazel, hawthorn, elder, holly, bird cherry, birch, field maple and rowan)– total of up to 800 trees (following the completion of the felling works)

b) reuse any existing tree tubes on site such as those in compartment 17b (approximately 100 tubes)

c) Monitor felled areas for natural regeneration and vitality of restocking (annually between felling completion and the end of the plan period)

d) Weeding and replacing any dead planted trees to ensure fulfilment of felling licence conditions where Sitka and larch are removed in compartment 14a (for 3 years following restocking)

4) Protecting the site's biodiversity by working towards the eradication of invasive species during this plan period:

a) Map locations of invasive, non-native species across the site (before the end of the plan period)

b) Removal of bamboo in compartment 17a via non-chemical removal by using hand tools due to small, young patches (2026 onwards)

c) Review results of removal works and use records to determine if non-chemical removal has been successful in eradication, should be continued in the next planning period or has been ineffective (annually following treatment)

d) Raising awareness regarding invasive garden species and the risk of garden/organic waste dumping through engagement with surrounding residents and landowners (as required)

APPENDIX 1 : SITE COMPARTMENT MAP



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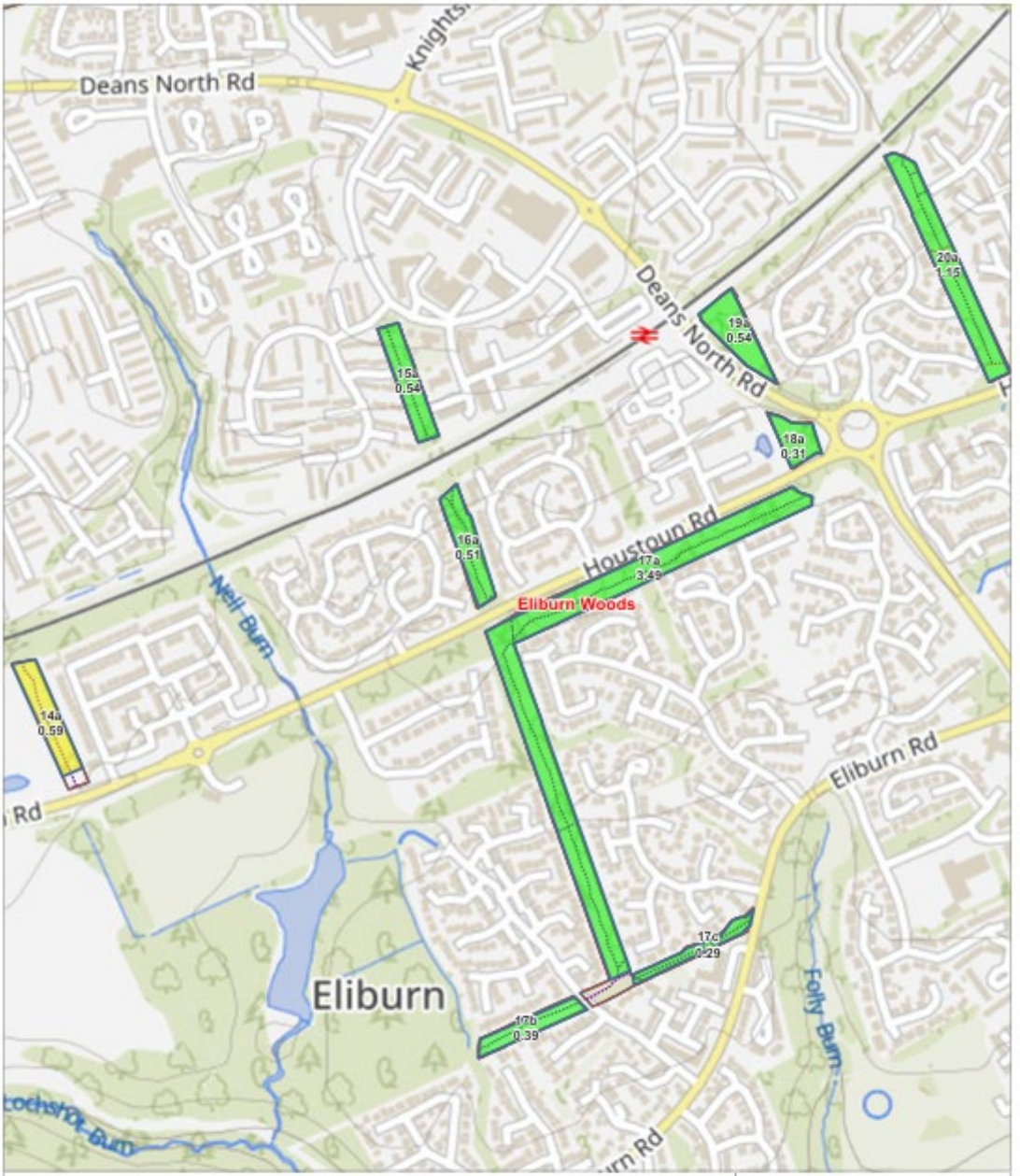
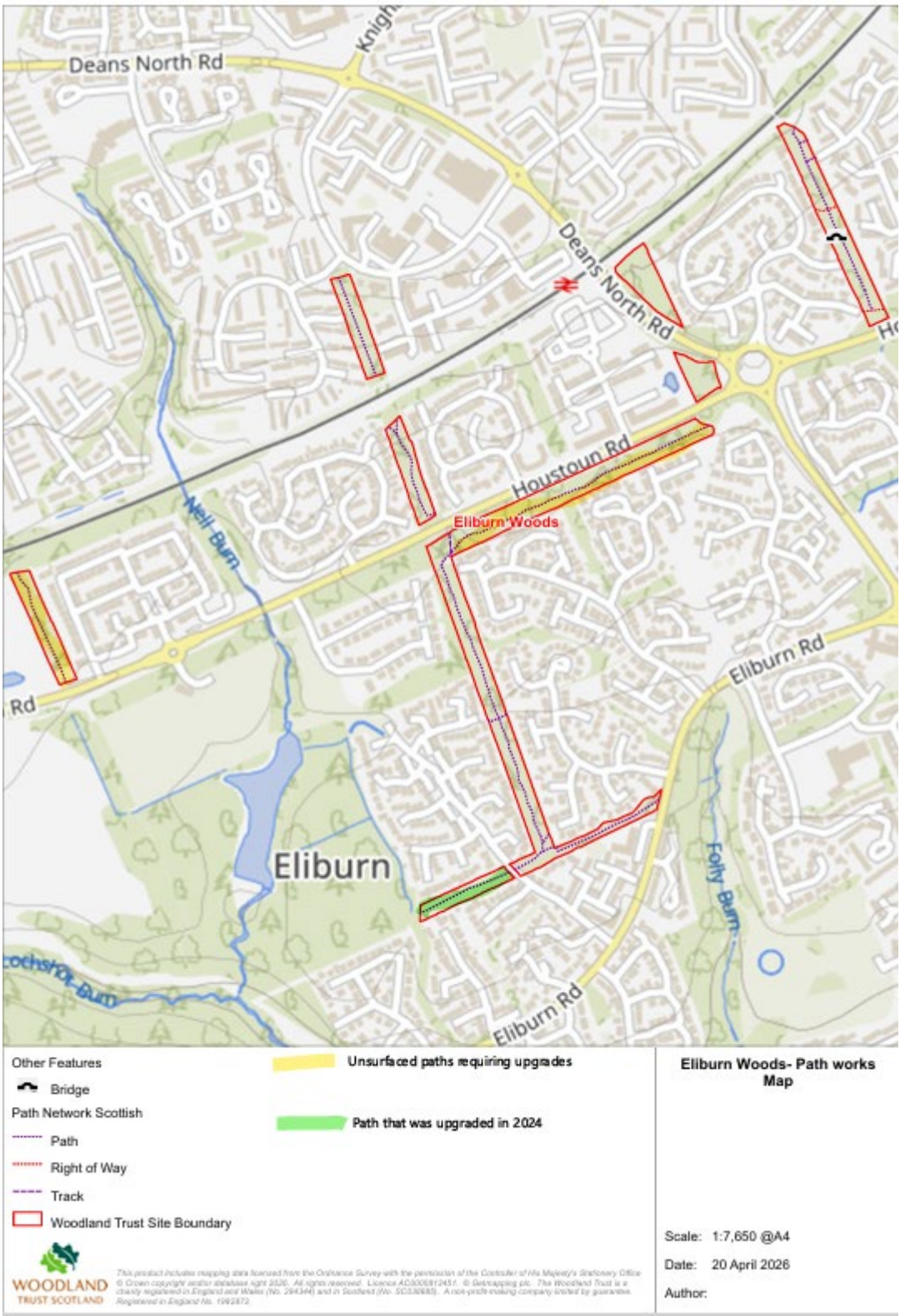
APPENDIX 2 : PROPOSED TREE WORKS MAP



APPENDIX 3 : PROPOSED PATH WORKS MAP



APPENDIX 4 : HARVESTING TABLE (20 YEARS)

Compartment	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Forecast Year	Estimated Total Volume (m3)
14a	Clear Fell- (removal of Sitka spruce and larch)	0.59	2026	120
17a	Thin- focusing on removal of non-native conifer and beech & halo thinning around veteran/future veteran trees	3.49	2027	10
17b	Thin- focusing on removal of non-native conifer and poor form trees	0.39	2027	5
17c	Thin- focusing on removal of non-native conifers and poor form trees	0.29	2027	5
15a	Thin- focusing on halo-thinning around veteran/future veteran trees	0.54	2027	3
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2027	2
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2029	2
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2031	2
16a	Thin - focusing on non-native conifer and beech	0.51	2033	5
18a	Thin- focusing on non-native conifer and beech	0.31	2033	2
19a	Thin- focusing on non-native conifer and beech	0.54	2033	2
20a	Thin- focusing on non-native conifer and beech	1.15	2033	5
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2033	2

17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2035	2
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2037	2
17a	Thin- focusing on removal of non-native conifer and beech as well as halo thinning around veteran/future veteran trees	3.49	2037	10
17b	Thin- focusing on removal of non-native conifer and poor form trees	0.39	2037	5
17c	Thin- focusing on removal of non-native conifers and poor form trees	0.29	2037	5
15a	Thin- focusing on halo-thinning around veteran/future veteran trees	0.54	2037	3
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2039	2
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2041	2
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2043	2
16a	Thin- focusing on non-native conifer and beech	0.51	2043	5
18a	Thin- focusing on non-native conifer and beech	0.31	2043	2
19a	Thin- focusing on non-native conifer and beech	0.54	2043	2
20a	Thin- focusing on non-native conifer and beech	1.15	2033	5
17a, 18a, 19a & 20a	Street-light pruning	1018 linear meters	2045	2

APPENDIX 5 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
14a	0.59	Hybrid larch	1980	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Service & wayleaves	

Also known as 'Barracks Strip', compartment 14a is the most westerly compartment of Eliburn Woods. The stand is surrounded to the east and west by land now developed for housing (2026). The compartment borders the railway line to the north and Houston Road to the south. A subway underpass is present allow for connection into longer distance walking routes throughout Eliburn Park.

As of 2026, the woodland compartment is a mixed stand comprising of hybrid larch in the north with groups of Sitka spruce, beech, Scots pine and sycamore to the south (thinned 2006). A small number of oak, rowan, willow, ash, alder and hazel also exist in the understory. There are a number of mature crab apple trees present along the western and southern boundary. Occasional hawthorn trees are also present along the eastern boundary.

Deadwood is present but relatively limited in this compartment. The majority of deadwood in the area is on the ground with small amount in the canopy/standing. Evidence of fire damage where large diameter fallen deadwood was previously left.

A significant proportion of the compartment has little to no ground vegetation at all due to high density of tree stand. Towards the edges of the site thistles can be found along with broom and gorse. The southern quarter of the site is damp and open with more grasses, rosebay willowherb and moss present.

There are services running west to east across the site with a gas pipeline present to the north of the compartment and sewage lines to the south.

15a	0.54	Scots pine	1950	Min-intervention	Service & wayleaves, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water	

Sometimes referred to as 'Carmondean Wood', compartment 15a is a stand of mature Scots pine that borders housing to the west, with St Peter's church and industrial units to the east and the railway to the south. There is also occasional mature pedunculate oak, ash, rowan and silver birch. The understory includes beech, hawthorn, elder, holly, cotoneaster, privet, dog rose and sycamore regeneration.

Ground flora includes honeysuckle, herb Robert, strawberry, dandelion, rosebay willowherb, ferns, soft grasses, moses and brambles. Occasional patches of assumed garden escapee species such as wood saxifrage and grape

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
hyacinth, and cranesbill are also present. Dead wood is present but limited to occasional lengths on the ground and hollow branches and remnants of broken limbs noted in the canopy. Other habitat features include trees with trunk rot holes, cankers and burrs present on mature trees. This area is occasionally visited by local nursery groups but also experiences regular flytipping and garden waste-dumping. Underground electricity lines are noted within the centre of this compartment.						
16a	0.51	Scots pine	1950	Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water, Service & wayleaves,	LEPO
Sometimes referred to as the 'Kirk Road Strip (north)'. Stand of mature Scots pine with occasional ash, which borders the railway to the north and road to the south with housing east and west. The understorey includes frequent beech with occasional hawthorn and oak. Ground flora of soft grasses and ferns with dense bramble coverage particularly to the east where light levels allow. Deadwood is common this compartment in the form of standing and fallen dead trees and trees felled to waste for safety issues. Underground Telephone lines are noted along the western half of this compartment.						
17a	3.42	Scots pine	1950	High Forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water, Service & wayleaves	LEPO
The majority of Eliburn Woods is part of compartment 17a which is a upside-down 'L' shape to the south of Houston Road. It is sometimes referred to as 'Kirk Road Strip: south / Newyearfield Strip'. The sub-compartment is bordered to the south, east and west by housing and to the north by roads. This compartment is a stand of mature Scots pine with occasional mixed broadleaves including, ash, oak and sycamore. Holly and ash regeneration is dense toward the north eastern corner of the site. An old stone dyke is present along the eastern boundary and a street-lit paved owned by WLC sits between the woodland and the housing. There are sections of a stone dyke also present to the western boundary of 17a- these are heavily vegetative and thus less visible. Nevertheless are also serving as an important habitat, supporting various						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
species including invertebrates, small mammals and mosses. Following the SPHN, the mature hybrid larch in the southwest corner was felled in February 2019 and restocking in included native lower-level shrub species. Understorey of frequent beech, ash, rowan, gean, birch, sycamore, horse chestnut and red oak. Some underplanted Sitka spruce is also present. The ground flora consists mainly of patchy soft grasses, ferns and brambles. Few-flowered leek appears to be spreading throughout this compartment. There are sections where ivy is expanding its cover also. Non-native garden-species are escaping beyond residential fencing including an isolated patch of bamboo. Deadwood is present in the form of numerous large standing dead ash and Scots pine that have undergone tree safety works as well as fallen or felled trees and some minor canopy deadwood in both conifer and broadleaf trees. There are numerous underground services present in this compartment including water, electricity, sewage present particularly in the northeastern section. A street-lit path is present along the eastern boundary between the woodland and housing.						
17b	0.42	Mixed native broadleaves	2012	Wood establishment	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Service & wayleaves	LEPO
A stand of Scots Pine and hybrid larch were felled in 2010 due to close proximity of new housing. It was replanted with native broadleaves in 2012. Species mix includes alder, ash, birch, oak, rowan, hawthorn, bird cherry. Area currently has dense bracken and bramble coverage in isolated patches which would be beneficial to control, possibly with volunteers. There is minimal deadwood present, limited to occasional stumps from previous clear fell works and small diameter branches and stumps. There is a gas pipeline present near the western boundary of the site.						
17c	0.28	Alder species	1985	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water, Service & wayleaves	

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
This compartment is located to the southwest of compartment 17a and is a dense belt that runs between housing to the north and housing and retail to the south. Stand of semi-mature mixed broadleaves including birch, sycamore, oak, alder, ash, rowan and hawthorn with Scots pine and occasional grand fir. No significant understorey due to the age of the trees but occasional young birch and gean present. Ground flora of soft grasses in more open areas. No significant deadwood due to the age of the stand. Sitka spruce and larch was removed from the area in Feb 2019 following the SPHN for Phytophthora ramorum in the area. Services are present along the eastern boundary of this compartment including an electrical substation.						
18a	0.31	Scots pine	1950	Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water, Service & wayleaves	LEPO
'Newyearfield Strip: South' Originally connected to cpt 19, this is a stand of mature Scots pine with occasional mixed broadleaves including ash, beech, sycamore and oak. Bounded to the east by Deans East Road, to the south by Houstoun road and the west by new housing. Understorey includes sycamore, birch, hawthorn, rowan and hazel. Ground flora of soft grasses, nettles, brambles, bracken and odd fern. Overhead telephone lines present to the south and east.						
19a	0.54	Scots pine	1950	Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water, Service & wayleaves	LEPO
'Newyearfield Strip: North' Originally connected to cpt 18 & 17, this is a stand of mature Scots pine with occasional mixed broadleaves including; ash, beech and oak. Deans East Road is present to the west of the compartment, housing is borders the eastern edge and the railway line is present to the north. Understorey includes; oak, beech, hawthorn, ash, beech, hazel and rowan. Ground flora of soft grasses and dense brambles. Some large diameter fallen deadwood from tree safety work.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Gas pipeline present to the north and the west. Underground water lines are also present to the west.						
20a	1.15	Scots pine	1950	Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water, Service & wayleaves	
'Newyearfield Strip: East' Stand of mature Scots pine with occasional mixed broadleaves including beech, birch, rowan, oak and sycamore. Understorey includes oak, beech, hawthorn, ash, birch, Scots pine, holly and rowan. Ground flora of soft grasses, ferns, brambles, raspberries, willow herb and gorse. There is a good mix of different forms of deadwood present in this compartment including standing dead, lengths on the ground, in the canopy and occasional stumps Dog waste and garden waste dumping are common in this compartment. Houses border the western edge of the site and a street-lit path owned and managed by WLC follows the eastern boundary. Services include underground electric lines and water lines. There is a gas pipeline to the north of the site (out side of WT ownership).						

GLOSSARY

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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