

Dutton Park

(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

Dutton Park

Location:	Dutton Grid reference: SJ577767 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 117
Area:	64.05 hectares (158.27 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, Green Belt, Local Wildlife Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
Internal Designations:	Tree For All Site

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Dutton Park is a 64 hectare woodland creation site located in the Weaver Valley, an Area of Landscape Value in North West Cheshire. It is two miles to the south of the M56 and the town of Runcorn and about a mile to the south west of the small village of Dutton. The West Coast railway line crosses over the Weaver valley on the Dutton viaduct which is an impressive structure. The surrounding landscape is rolling countryside, predominantly dairy and arable farming, with woodland copses and old hedgerows. The area also contains the largest concentration of ancient woodland in Cheshire, even though the county is the least wooded in England with less than 5% woodland cover.

The Woodland Trust acquired the site in 2006, before then it had been owned by Cheshire County Council and grazed by a tenant farmer. The landscape of the site varies from riverside meadows alongside the River Weaver rising up a wooded escarpment to higher flat ground which was previously grassland for cattle grazing. Dutton Park is now a mosaic of habitats including ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), new native broadleaved woodland, scrub and open ground habitat, ponds and seasonal wetland scrapes. The Woodland Trust also own Longacre Wood less than a mile away from Dutton Park along Lodge Lane.

The site was planted with approximately 25,000 native broadleaf trees (covering 36 ha) in 2006-7 to create new native woodland which is a key feature of the site. The planting comprised English oak, ash, silver birch, rowan, wild cherry and shrubs (holly, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and dog rose) since 2006. An additional area of 2.75 ha was deep ploughed and sown with wildflowers by Landlife in summer 2007, followed by planting with tree seed as a trial, low cost method of creating new woodland. This later area has been slower to develop than the areas planted with whips, but the seeds have germinated and young trees are now established and growing well.

There are two areas of ASNW (Park Brow and Quick Wood) covering approx. 5 ha, which are a key feature for the site. ASNW is rare in Cheshire and covers less than 2% of land cover in the UK. The ASNW areas had been severely damaged by over grazing and inappropriate management before the Trust owned the site. Park Brow wood was being trampled and grazed by cattle who wandered unrestricted in the wood. This has now been fenced and already shows signs of natural regeneration establishing and the ground flora is recovering. Quick Wood in the western most part of the site is a Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) which had European larch planted in the 1990's. Work has been undertaken to control the larch to prevent them from dominating the canopy and to promote native species to regenerate and develop and to preserve the ASNW ground flora species. Surveys of both ASNW compartments show they still have ground flora ASNW indicator species present including remnants of Bluebell, Ramsons, Wood Sorrel, Wood Anemone, Dogs Mercury and the locally rare Moschatel in Quick Wood.

The site includes approximately 18 hectares of open ground which is another key feature of the site. The open ground habitat is mostly the area beside the River Weaver and railway viaduct in the lower part of the site and includes several flashes (large ponds) which were part of the old river channel that was cut off when the river was straightened for navigation. On the higher ground there is some smaller areas of open ground and scrub habitat including some shallow wetland scrapes that were created in 2008 and a further two ponds (former farm marl pits). In the past the ponds were stocked with fish by the farmer and became popular for fishing which then continued for some years after the Trust took ownership causing issues with rubbish being left and camp fires. In 2007 the ponds were electro-netted and most of the fish were removed which has reduced the problem. The mosaic of habitats on the site and adjoining it makes it rich in wildlife with over 50 bird species recorded and buzzards, kestrels, peregrines

and owls are frequently seen hunting on site. Park Brow Wood is designated as a Local Wildlife Site due to the scarcity of ASNW in Cheshire and Dutton flashes (ponds) are designated as a Local Wildlife Site due to having a high number of species of amphibians, dragonflies and damselflies.

Informal public access is a key feature with approximately 2000 metres of footpaths, mostly grass permissive paths across the site. There are public access points from the riverside path next to the River Weaver and from Lodge Lane. A public bridle-path runs from Lodge Lane along the eastern edge of the site and then along the bank of the River Weaver where it is also part of National Cycleway route 55 along the riverside.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention is to maintain Dutton Park as a mosaic of habitats including secondary woodland, ancient semi-natural woodland, open ground and scrub, ponds and wetland habitat, It will be managed to maintain the landscape and conservation features with the main drivers for management operations being for public access/safety and to make the woodland more robust and resilient to deal with threats from climate change, pests and disease.

The areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) will be managed to maintain the ancient woodland trees and ground flora species and the Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) will be managed to safeguard the ASNW, promote natural regeneration of native broadleaves and protect the ASNW ground flora.

The new native woodland will be left to develop naturally with minimal intervention unless it is necessary to maintain a diverse mix of species and to make the woodland more robust and resilient. The open ground habitats and ponds will be subject to minimal intervention allowing the open ground areas to become transitional habitat with scrub developing over time.

Public access to the site will be managed to ensure the site is welcoming and safe for visitors. The network of approximately 2000m of grass paths will be maintained annually with paths cut during the summer months and entrances, signs, access furniture and fencing checked and maintained as necessary. As the young woodland grows paths may become encroached and overgrown by the trees and will be maintained by coppicing along edges which will help to create a varied woodland edge structure.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
<p>Park Brow Wood (sub compartment 4a) is designated in English Nature's Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. The woodland is dominated by sycamore with other species including ash, silver birch, oak, cherry and wych elm. There has been little natural regeneration in the past due to cattle wandering freely within the wood and causing damage. However since fencing the wood to keep cattle out, there is now signs of regeneration especially of ash and sycamore. The shrub layer of the woodland is diversely structured with species including hazel, hawthorn, elder, holly, gorse, and dog rose. Ground flora in the woodland is relatively diverse although many years of grazing and trampling has caused damage. There are still many ASNW indicator species present including bluebell, ramson, dogs mercury, lesser celandine, wood anemone and fern species. The woodland contains significant levels of deadwood, both standing and fallen which offers an excellent habitat for birds and invertebrates.</p>
Significance
<p>Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England with less than 5% woodland cover. The Weaver Valley area has the second highest concentration of ASNW in Cheshire which makes Dutton Park important for this habitat in the county.</p> <p>Park Brow wood has been designated a Local Wildlife Site because ancient woodland is a rare habitat and a priority habitat for the Cheshire Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>The fencing of the wood to keep cattle out should give the ancient woodland indicator species the opportunity to recover. Additionally the buffering of the ancient woodland with new native woodland provides an opportunity to increase the biodiversity across the site through the spread of ancient woodland indicator species into the new woodland areas.</p> <p>The steep slope in the wood makes management access difficult.</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>Tree disease especially Chalara will lead to the loss of some trees, however Ash is not a significant component within the ASNW.</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>In the long term Park Brow Wood will be protected as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and left to develop by natural processes where possible and subject to minimal intervention.</p>

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

During the plan period the short term objective is for no management operations in the ASNW.

4.2 f2 New Native Woodland**Description**

Over 28.8 hectares of new native broadleaf woodland has been planted by the Woodland Trust from 2006 to 2008. The new woodland areas have established well and now require minimal aftercare. A further 7.4ha was planted by the site's previous owners. An additional area of 2.75 ha within compartment 2B was deep ploughed and sown with wildflowers and tree seed in 2007 as a trial low cost method of creating new woodland. This later area has been slower to develop than the areas planted with whips, but the young trees are now established and growing well.

Significance

Cheshire has less than 4% woodland cover so creating this sizeable area of new native woodland adds to the amount of woodland in the area and provides important habitat for biodiversity in the local area. Despite the site's previous history of intensive cultivation its location in the Weaver Valley acts as a wildlife corridor which enables the passage of wildlife species to and from the site and the wider countryside. This new woodland planting at Dutton Park serves to extend and buffer the existing ASNW and a mosaic of other habitats such as wildflower meadows, wet scrapes and ponds.

Opportunities & Constraints

There are likely to be opportunities for additional tree planting in some areas to replace losses caused by squirrel damage and tree disease (Chalara).
In some parts of the site there are difficulties for management access due to very steep slopes and wet ground, however most of the areas of new planting have good management access.

Factors Causing Change

Rabbit damage has caused the loss of some new trees.
Squirrel damage (bark stripping) is severe in some of the new planted woodland blocks.
Tree disease especially Chalara will lead to loss of Ash within the site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In the long term (50+ years) the woodland should be left to develop naturally where possible to become native mixed broadleaved woodland with a diverse age, structure and species composition. The amount of dead wood, both fallen and standing will increase which will enhance the biodiversity value particularly for invertebrates. The new woodland will be the core in a mosaic of different inter-relating habitats including scrub, meadows and grassland, ponds and wet scrapes. Over time the Ancient Woodland ground flora indicator species and wildlife should colonise the new woodland and spread across the site.

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

During the plan period there will be minimal intervention apart from where operations are necessary for public access and safety.

Tree guards and shelters on young trees will be removed from trees.
Tree health and the effect of damage on young trees caused by squirrels will be monitored.

4.3 f3 Pond

Description

There are 7 ponds across compartments 1, 5, 6 and 7. The largest of them are two connected linear ponds known locally as Dutton flashes or ponds, which were once part of the old river course and are now ox-bow lakes isolated from the river. These have previously been stocked with fish particularly carp and been fished for decades. Due to on going problems with anti social behaviour from fishermen, the Trust arranged for a local angling club to remove significant numbers of fish in 2007. However not all fish were removed and numbers have since increased, partially it is believed through illegal introduction of fish in the ponds.

Significance

Cheshire has one of the highest densities of ponds in the countryside in the UK and as a result is a stronghold for newts and in particular Great Crested Newt.

Dutton Park provides a mosaic of habitats including ponds which make it an ideal site for supporting populations of newt species. Surveys of the ponds carried out in 2004 identified the presence of frogs, toads, smooth and palmate newts in most of the ponds, and Great Crested Newts were found in 3 of the ponds.

Opportunities & Constraints

The ponds have a long history of being fished and despite the Trust removing significant numbers of fish from the ponds in 2007 and attempting to stop fishing since then it has continued because many of the ponds are hidden away or not near paths.

Factors Causing Change

Fishing and anti-social behaviour has been a significant issue in the past that had a detrimental impact on the pond environment (litter, fires, fishing line and rubbish), although it has in been less of a problem in recent years.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The ponds will be maintained to provide a valuable aquatic habitat on the site to encourage a range of aquatic wildlife species, including amphibians , dragonflies and damselflies.

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

No management work is planned for the ponds during the plan period.

4.4 f4 Open Ground Habitat

Description

There is approximately 18 hectares of open ground habitat, most of which is located on the low lying ground beside the River Weaver and the area underneath the electricity pylons which was left unplanted. The riverside meadows had

been grazed by Cheshire Wildlife Trust until 2019, but are no longer grazed and are being left to develop naturally into grassland/ scrub habitat..
Significance
Open ground habitat areas provide important habitat and food sources for birds, small mammals, insects, bees, and butterflies. The open ground areas at Dutton Park are part of the mosaic of habitats which enhance the site for wildlife and visitors. These areas are particularly important for birds of prey to hunt including kestrels, buzzards, peregrines, tawny owls and barn owls, which is a local BAP species.
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Growth of scrub will reduce the area of open grassland, however this is a slow process that will happen gradually over the long term.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
In the long term the open ground habitats will be left to develop naturally to become a transitional habitat with scrub.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
During the plan period the the open ground areas will be subject to minimal management unless work is necessary for safety reasons.

4.5 f5 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description
Quick Wood is a Planted Ancient Woodland Site. It is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) that was planted with European larch in the 1990's. The main tree species are sycamore, silver birch, ash, cherry, oak and hybrid black poplar. The shrub layer is diversely structured and includes holly, hazel, elder and thorn. Ancient woodland ground flora species are present throughout the wood.
Significance
Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England with less than 5% woodland cover. The Weaver Valley area has the second highest concentration of ASNW in Cheshire which makes Dutton Park important for this habitat in the county. Quick Wood is important as it is a Planted Ancient Woodland Site with many ASNW tree and ground flora species.
Opportunities & Constraints
Reducing the amount of larch in the wood will help to safeguard the ASNW tree species and ground flora and promote natural regeneration of native species. The buffering of the ancient woodland with new native woodland provides an opportunity to protect the ASNW and increase the biodiversity across the site by the spread of ancient woodland indicator species into the new woodland areas.

<p>The Woodland Trust only own the eastern half of Quick Wood which is where the larch was planted. The western half of Quick Wood is owned by the Aston grange farm estate.</p> <p>The wood is situated in a steep sided clough and management access is very difficult . There are protected species on the site which is a constraint on work in the wood.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<p>Regeneration of larch will need to be monitored and controlled. Rabbits are present across the site and could impact on any natural regeneration, although levels of rabbit damage appears at present to be minimal.</p> <p>Allowing too much light into the wood could allow coarse vegetation esp. bramble and nettle to dominate so the control of larch needs to be done gradually.</p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>
<p>The ASNW will be restored and safeguarded through appropriate management intervention to prevent larch from dominating and spreading. Overtime there will be a greater amount of dead wood (standing and fallen) throughout ASNW.</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p>
<p>During the plan period no management operations are planned in the Planted Ancient Woodland Site.</p> <p>A PAWS assessment will be carried out to monitor the impact of the previous management work and to assess whether any further intervention is necessary to protect the ASNW indicator species.</p>

4.6 f6 Informal Public Access

<p>Description</p>
<p>The site has approximately 2 km of permissive grass footpaths for public access in addition to an existing public bridlepath along the eastern and southern boundaries. Part of the National Cycleway route passes along the riverside bank.</p>
<p>Significance</p>
<p>The network of footpaths and bridle paths link the site to the wider countryside and villages in the Weaver Valley which attracts visitors from further afield as well as from nearby towns in North Cheshire. The site is also close to another Woodland Trust site, Longacre Wood, which is approximately 1 mile to the north and is linked via Lodge Lane and public footpaths.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p>
<p>Management access is difficult or very poor in some parts of the site, especially the ASNW/ PAWS areas. Previous issues with a neighbouring farmer have resulted in additional locked access gates being required to prevent unauthorised access. There is no parking at the site and parking on nearby roads is very limited.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<p>Damage to paths from vehicles/ horses using them; vegetation encroachment as the trees grow up in the new planted areas which will require ride edge management in future.</p>

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The network of footpaths will offer all year round access for visitors to the wood. Where necessary for visitor access and safety, ride edges will be opened up to improve sight lines and visibility through a programme of edge coppicing.

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

Footpaths and tracks will be maintained for public access by cutting back vegetation (two or three times a year). Entrances, boundaries and site infrastructure will be inspected and maintained as part of the EMC. During the plan period an assessment of current public access and infrastructure will be carried out to identify any future work required. Coppicing along path edges will be undertaken during the plan period to maintain public access and open sightlines.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

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

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	16.55	Oak (pedunculate)	2006	Wood establishment	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	Community Forest
<p>This is the largest compartment situated in the northern part of the site and abuts farmland to the north and west, with a hedge and ditch along the boundary. The north eastern boundary is fenced and borders the railway line. The south western boundary partially borders agricultural land, as well as compartments 7a and 8a along. The south eastern boundary is stock fenced and abuts an access track owned by the Trust.</p> <p>There is a pond surrounded by some mature trees in the middle of the compartment. The pond was netted of fish in December 2006 and an amphibian survey carried out in 2008.</p> <p>Over 14,000 mixed native trees were planted in early 2006. Additionally an area of new trees were planted by the previous tenant farmer in 2001 adjoining the boundary with compartment 8a.</p> <p>The compartment is 75% (12.38 ha) new native woodland and 25% (4.17 ha) open ground. The planting mix comprises of: English (Pedunculate) oak 35%, ash 25%, silver birch 10%, rowan 10%, wild cherry 10% and woody shrubs: hawthorn (3.33%), blackthorn (3.33%) and dog rose (3.33%). A number of wet scrapes were excavated in the southern part of the compartment in December 2008.</p> <p>Two barn owl boxes have been fitted on old telegraph poles and along part of an old fence in the southern boundary of the compartment a series of tree sparrow boxes have been erected.</p> <p>There is public access around the perimeter of the compartment on mown grass paths and the access track. An overhead electric HV line runs above ground NE to SE.</p>						
2a	5.79	Oak (pedunculate)	2007	Wood establishment	Archaeological features, Services & wayleaves	Community Forest
<p>This compartment is on a slope gently rising to a plateau in the southern part of the compartment. It is bordered by a ditch/mound and hedge line on the north western side adjoining Dutton Park Farm and a farm access track, the south western boundary is alongside the railway line, and the eastern boundary abuts compartment 4a (Park Brow wood). In the far north eastern corner are some stones which represent the remains of the old chapel for the Dutton Estate which was left un-planted.</p> <p>The compartment was planted with nearly 6000 new native trees in February 2008 and is 80% (4.92ha) new woodland and 20% (1.23 ha) open ground. It was part deep ploughed and wild flower seeded mainly in the area west of 2b as part of a forest of flowers project. The remaining areas of 2a were planted into the turf.</p> <p>The planting mix was English (Pedunculate) oak 31%, ash 25%, silver birch 11%, rowan 7% and woody shrubs: hazel 5%, hawthorn 11%, blackthorn 5% and dog rose 5%.</p> <p>A plastic mesh grass management access track runs north to south west through the compartment.</p>						
2b	2.98	Birch (downy/silver)	2007	Wood establishment	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Community Forest

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>This sub compartment abuts sub compartment 2a on all sides apart from to the east where is abuts compartment 4a.</p> <p>The area was deep ploughed in August 2007, then seeded with a native wildflower mix, followed by seeding with native tree species in September 2007. The tree species used were silver birch (40%), oak (30%), ash (20%) and 10% shrubs including hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn. They were sown to achieve 1100 stems per ha. The seed was partially machine sown (birch/ash/hawthorn/hazel and blackthorn) and the rest was hand sown by volunteers (oak). In addition to this 2000 acorns were placed in half length tree tubes as an experiment to see if germination rates were increased if protected from vole damage.</p> <p>The trees have been slower to establish and grow in this area compared to where trees were planted as whips elsewhere on the site. 300 whips were planted in 2012/13 to beat up the planting density.</p> <p>In the southern section of this compartment the deep plough disturbed an old land drain causing a flooded wet area to establish. This has rush and iris growing in it and has become a feeding ground for snipe.</p>						
3a	4.38	Oak (pedunculate)	2006	Wood establishment		Community Forest
<p>This compartment contains 3240 new native trees planted in November 2006. It is a flat area of 4.38ha with a hedge line (predominantly Hawthorn) running NE to SW along an access track owned by the WT. The north eastern boundary borders the mainline rail link. The south western boundary borders a continuation of the access track. The south eastern boundary borders a pond and some new planting completed in 2001 by the previous tenant farmer. The compartment is 67% (2.95 ha) new native woodland and 33% (1.43 ha) open ground which includes paths rides and a small damp marl pit which has been filled with sub soil in the past.</p> <p>The planting mix comprises of: English (Pedunculate) oak 32%, ash 24%, silver birch 10% rowan 10%, wild cherry 12% and woody shrubs: hawthorn 4%, blackthorn 4% and dog rose 4%.</p>						
4a	3.3	Sycamore	1946	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site
<p>This compartment called Park Brow is Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW). It is a long thin woodland on a south facing steep slope to the east of Dutton railway viaduct. It is mostly sycamore with some ash, oak and other mixed broadleaved trees. There are remnants of ASNW flora including bluebells and dogs mercury. The site had been heavily grazed by the previous tenant farmer, but cattle have now been excluded and this is allowing natural regeneration to develop and the ground flora to recover. The ground flora has been surveyed in 2006 and 2007 (copy in site file) and includes bluebells, dogs mercury, wood sorrel and primroses. The compartment is designated a Local Wildlife Site.</p>						
5a	9.94	Open ground	1900	Non-wood habitat	Legal issues, Management factors (eg grazing etc), People issues (+tve & -tve)	Local Wildlife Site

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>This area was previously a wet wildflower meadow that was overgrazed by the previous tenant before the Trust took ownership of the site. It is now leased long term to Cheshire Wildlife Trust who are grazing the land for conservation with Longhorn cattle to improve its wildlife value.</p> <p>The north western boundary of the compartment borders Park Brow wood and the railway line forms the western boundary. The River Weaver forms the southern and eastern boundaries.</p> <p>The compartment has two ponds called Park Brow pools but also known locally as the Dutton flashes which were once part of the old course of the river. They are designated as a Local Wildlife Site and were netted of fish in December 2006.</p> <p>There is a public bridleway (part of the national cycle route) that runs along the river bank on the southern and eastern boundaries. Another public bridlepath crosses the compartment near Park Brow wood and the pools. A right of access for the owners of Pickerings cottage crosses the compartment near to the river bank. The owner of Primrose Cottage has limited access by permission from the WT only for fuel delivery.</p> <p>In the northern corner of this compartment a barn owl box has been erected on an old telegraph pole.</p>						
6a	7.78	Open ground	1900	Non-wood habitat	Legal issues, Management factors (eg grazing etc), Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves	
<p>This area was previously a wet wildflower meadow that was overgrazed by the previous tenant before the Trust took ownership of the site. It is now leased long term to Cheshire Wildlife Trust who are grazing the field with Longhorn cattle to improve the wildflower species diversity. A small pond was dug in 2007 to provide water for grazing animals.</p> <p>The northern boundary of the compartment is a stock proof fence bordering the newly planted woodland in compartment 7a. The southern boundary is along the river bank, with the railway viaduct forming the eastern boundary. The western boundary is the southern end of Quick Wood (cpt 8), adjoining farmland and the boundary fences and walls of two neighbouring cottages. The western edge of the site is very wet.</p> <p>A small scrubby area of woodland exists in the eastern area of the site containing a few mature ash and oak with an understory of hawthorn. There are also a number of remnant hawthorn hedges left on this field.</p> <p>There is a public bridlepath along the river bank and two footpaths cross the field from the bridlepath up the slope towards the woodland in cpt 7a with access over the fence via wooden stiles.</p> <p>A right of access for the owners of Pickerings cottage crosses this compartment near to the river bank. The owner of Primrose Cottage has limited access by permission from the WT only for fuel delivery.</p> <p>There is an old salt mine test shaft in the centre of this compartment. This was capped with wood and protective fencing in 2008.</p>						
7a	6.96	other oak spp	2001	Wood establishment	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	Community Forest

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>This compartment contains nearly 6000 native trees that were planted in Autumn 2001 by the previous tenant farmer. It is on a flat part of the site at the top of the main scarp slope that runs east to west. The northern and eastern boundaries are fenced and abut neighbouring compartments. The northern boundary is also partially hedged except along the boundary with compartment 1 where the fence has been removed to allow better access people and wildlife. The western boundary abuts Quick Wood (compartment 8) and is partially fenced with old stock fencing. The eastern boundary is fenced and borders the railway line.</p> <p>The compartment is 80% (5.92ha) new native woodland and 20% (1.48 ha) open ground.</p> <p>The planting mix comprised sessile oak 17% English (Pedunculate) oak 17%, ash 15%, field maple 12%, rowan 4%, wild cherry 3% and woody shrubs: holly 2%, hazel 5%, hawthorn 3%, blackthorn 2%.</p> <p>There are 3 ponds within the compartment which were all netted to remove fish in December 2006. The ponds were surveyed in 2008 and several GCN eggs were found in the pond in the NW corner of the compartment. The other two ponds still have fish present and are located in the eastern part of the compartment. Both have steep banks and work was carried out in 2008 to create a shelved bank on one side of each pond to allow easier access for wildlife and for public safety. There is a network of mown grass footpaths through the compartment.</p>						
8a	1.84	Sycamore	1900	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>This compartment is called Quick Wood and is located on the western boundary of the site in a steep sided clough with a stream running from north to south. It is bordered by farmland to the west and new native woodland planted in compartments 1a and 7a to the east and north. The southern boundary abuts the wet meadow area in compartment 6a.</p> <p>The canopy is mixed broadleaved species including sycamore, oak, beech, ash, alder, birch, cherry, and hybrid black poplar along with European Larch which was planted in the 1990's by the previous owner of the wood.</p> <p>There is a well established shrub layer including holly, hazel, elder hawthorn, blackthorn, raspberries and ivy. The ground flora has species indicative of ASNW including bluebell, ramson, primrose, dogs mercury, lesser celandine, wood anemone and locally rare Moschatel. In 2008, approximately 50-60 of the larch were stem injected with glyphosate to kill them which has been successful.</p> <p>There is no public access into Quick Wood.</p>						

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

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