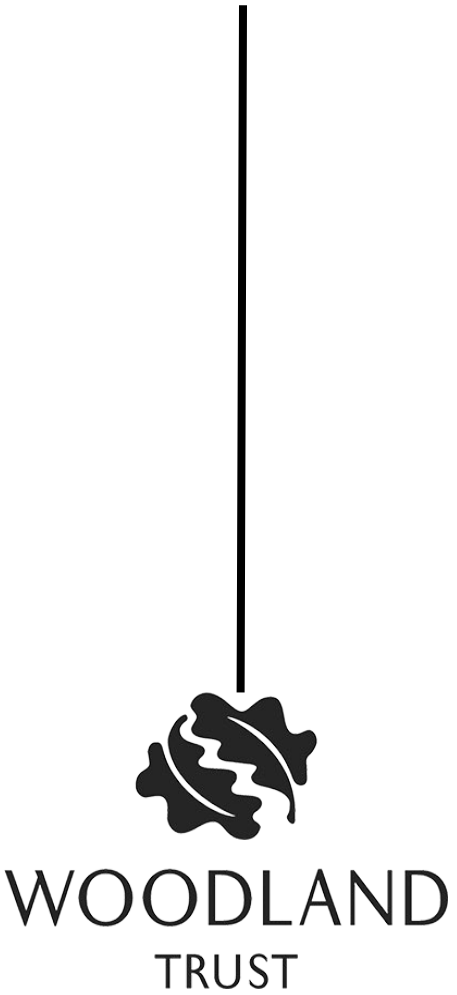
Tramlines Wood

(Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



Management Plan Content Page

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

1. SITE DETAILS

Tramlines Wood

Location:	Okehampton Grid reference: SX 59381 94491 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 191
Area:	5.69 hectares (14.06 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Tramlines wood is a linear ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) in the town of Okehampton. The site covers a steep section of north facing valley slope along the East Okement River which flows from east to west along the northern boundary of the site. At the Western end of the site, the woodland is abutted by a small open area of meadow grassland. Tramlines Wood is part of 'the Culm' landscape character area (149). The ancient woodland component is a good example of internationally rare Temperate Rainforest or Atlantic Oak woodland and has been identified as being of high importance for a number of rare species including various lichens, willow tits and pied flycatchers. The sites designation as a 'County Wildlife Site' (CWS) or 'Local Wildlife Site' (LWS), a non-statutory protection allocated to sites with 'substantive nature conservation value', reflects its local importance as remnant ancient woodland.

The wood has its origin as part of the historic Okehampton Deer Park established by the de Courtney family in the late 13th century, an enclosed hunting ground surrounding Okehampton Castle. The deer park was later 'disemparked' and returned to farmland in the 18th century. The wood is composed primarily of an oak post-wood pasture, high forest structure, with a shrub layer of frequent hazel and holly regeneration. There are several significant older trees, with open canopy growth structure, of veteran interest. Additionally, the riverside strip is varied in structure and this along with numerous boggy wet flushes and a few small streams and wet flushes feeding into the Okement River, increases the humidity and biodiversity of the site, due to the rich floral and lichen assemblages these support.

The small (0.4ha) open area of riverside meadow to the northwest of the site is predominately open acidic grassland, featuring loamy, free-draining floodplain soil and encroaching bracken and bramble indicative of moderate fertility levels. The glade also forms an ecotone between the river and woodland, contributing to the biodiversity of the site. The Millennium Feature is a wooden footbridge spanning the Okement River, facilitating local public access from a public footpath which leads from the adjacent Simmons Park.

Main public access is via a public bridleway running west to east along the old tramway through the top of the site from Station Road in Okehampton to a public access field with an accessible path to Ball Hill Viaduct. A small path from the top bridleway down the slope to Okehampton town centre through Simmons Park provides access to the riverside woodland and neighbouring local college and town sports pitches via a wooden footbridge crossing the river. The nearest parking and bus stop is in the Okehampton train station car park and on Station Road adjacent to Okehampton Train Station. To access the eastern side there is a small parking space at Ball Hill Viaduct car park. The public bridleway through the wood is wide, level and a good all-weather surface with no obstacles. The small path linking from the top bridleway down to the footbridge over the Okemont river is steep, with steps and handrails, and may be uneven and slippery underfoot in poor weather conditions.

Part of sub-compartment 1a has been designated as a natural reserve and it will be managed through minimum intervention in perpetuity.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Tramlines Wood will be managed as a predominantly native, broadleaf high forest through a continuous cover management regime, driven mainly by natural processes, with diverse species and age structure, and natural regeneration providing future tree and shrub succession, rich in ASNW ground flora. There will be well-managed veteran and future veteran trees throughout. Any felled, fallen and dead trees will be retained to form important deadwood habitat at min. 20m3 per Ha. Non-native invasive species will be controlled and eradicated if they occur. Ash Dieback disease (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) will be managed as part of the WT's tree safety policy, with ash trees being left where safe to create gap opportunities for regenerating tree species. The woodland will continue to sequester carbon with larger, mature and ancient trees and their supporting soils retained on site, including standing and fallen deadwood, meaning carbon storage will be an important benefit. Active management of shading species such as holly, sycamore and beech will be guided by woodland condition assessments, with selective ride edge coppicing to increase the habitat suitability for lichen communities, willow tits and pied flycatchers; and to help maintain its LWS status and condition as a Temperate Rainforest and Upland Oak Woodland. The woodlands river edge will be coppiced as necessary, with dappled sunlight being able to reach deeper pools and shallow riffle areas, increasing fish spawning habitat quality. There will be temporary and permanent open space along the ride network with rotational scrub and coppice habitat, and the grassland meadow will be managed with annual late-summer meadow cutting to encourage the development of a richer wildflower meadow community.

Tramlines will be a natural space valued and enjoyed by local users through welcoming, accessible entrances and a network of paths, all maintained to a good level of quality and safety. The Trusts duty of care to visitors will be addressed through ongoing tree safety, tree health checks, litter picks, management of misuse of the site, and appropriate site risk assessment regimes, which may require remedial works as required.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
Mature ancient woodland and temperate rainforest on steep ground, typical of the Dartmoor Area's upland Atlantic oak wood habitats, comprising predominately Sessile Oak (Quercus petrea) high forest, NVC types W10e, W7c and W4b. Main canopy and understory tree species include open grown canopy oak (P1850), with mature birch (Betula spp.), beech (Fagus sylvatica), ash (Fraxinus excelsior), sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), holly (Ilex aquifolium), hazel (Corylus avellana), willow (Salix spp.), and alder (Alnus glutinosa). The soils are free-draining, acidic loams with low to moderate fertility over a granite bedrock. The site also contains various Red Data Book lichen species indicative of temperate rainforest conditions produced by the north facing aspect and high rainfall including nationally and internationally scarce Anisomeridium viridescens, Calicium lenticulare and Graphina ruiziana. The woodland also supports habitat for specialist species such as marsh tit (Poecile palustris) and willow tit (Poecile montanus). Pied flycatcher and Wood warbler have also been recorded within the wood. The humidity and biodiversity are enhanced by a wet woodland riparian zone along the East Okement River with wet flushes throughout the wood - NFM 'leaky dam' structures constructed in select areas in 2024-25. The ground flora is rich in species including bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta), lesser celandine (Ficaria verna), opposite leaved golden saxifrage (Chrysosplenium oppositifolium), wild garlic (Allium ursinum), herb Robert (Geranium robertianum) and dog violet (Viola riviniana). Many tree species within the wood are currently of a similar mature age class, due to simultaneous competitive release from livestock grazing which would have historically controlled species like holly and bramble, both are now abundant following the end of grazing pressure, along with naturally regenerating beech and sycamore. Processes such as natural regeneration and wind blow events are beginning to diversify the age structure. The shrub layer is currently dominated by regenerating holly and some hazel. Oak, hazel, hawthorn, alder and willow regeneration are to be preferentially encouraged, however some beech and sycamore regeneration will be tolerated under 10% abundance each to increase species resilience and provide a suitable habitat proxy for the loss of ash from the canopy. The small open area of meadow grassland to the northwest of the site along the river is predominately acidic grassland, featuring loamy, free-draining floodplain soil and encroaching bracken and bramble indicative of moderate fertility levels. It was partially planted with trees as part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' (WOYD) Millennium project. The meadow provides an area of open habitat in an otherwise unbroken complex of mature canopy woodland. The glade is mostly dominated by rough grass sward species, with some golden saxifrage and encroaching rough vegetation such as bramble and bracken. The grassland is cut and removed annually in late-summer to encourage the development of a richer wildflower meadow community over time, with edges of rotationally coppiced willow transitioning to woodland and the river.

The river is defined as having good ecological status and recognised as being of importance to a variety of wildlife communities, with medium sediment, phosphate and surface water nitrate run-off issues associated with farming practices on the higher Dartmoor moorland areas.

Significance

Upland oak woodland or 'Temperate rainforest' is recognised as an internationally rare and important woodland habitat type. Ancient Woodland is nationally rare and its conservation is one of the fundamental objectives of the Woodland Trust. Tramlines Wood has also been identified as a Local Wildlife Site, which is a non-statutory designation allocated to sites with 'substantive nature conservation value'. A lichen survey carried out in 2003 revealed several red data list species present within the woodland, including nationally and internationally scarce Anisomeridium viridescens, Calicium lenticulare and Graphina ruiziana, emphasising the site's significance for lower plant communities. It also has a locally rare population of pied flycatchers (Ficedula hypoleuca) and willow tits which are both UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List species.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:.
- Opportunity for a more diverse and abundant community of native shrub species (such as hawthorn, willow, elder and alder) to develop, created by reducing the dominance of holly, sycamore and beech.

Constraints:
- The key management constraint relates to the steep and rocky terrain. Access for woodland management is limited by the steepness and lack of track network and constrained by sensitivities and lack of access due to the river boundary.
- The environmental effects of increased nitrous oxide emissions and impermeability of the A30 Bypass may limit the potential biodiversity of the woodland due to reduced connectivity and reduced air quality, with particular emphasis on the rare lichen assemblages for which the Dartmoor area is noted.
- Water main under main access track (public bridleway).
- Part of sub-compartment 1a has been designated as a natural reserve and it will be managed through minimum intervention in perpetuity. Improvements to this section will be considered as part of the development of the new LMS.

Factors Causing Change

- Climate change
- The cessation of historical grazing pressure and the succession of holly, bramble, sycamore and beech regeneration are reducing understory light levels and may threaten features such as light demanding lichens, liverworts, tree species regeneration and ground flora.
- Increases in peak river flows from more intense winter rainfall patterns associated with climate change causing more riverside bank erosion and flooding.
- Population increase in the town of Okehampton leading to higher visitor pressure, particularly of dog walkers leading to further riverside bank and erosion, ground compaction, wildlife disturbance and increase inputs of nitrogen and chemical pollutants from dog faeces.
- Summer drought and increased drying of soils due to higher summer temperatures associated with climate change could compromise the survival of species which rely on the sites humid woodland conditions.

- Increases in the frequency of severe weather events such as storms will likely lead to increased number of windblow events of canopy trees, particularly as mean age structure approaches more veteran stages. This will lead to more creation of canopy gaps and deadwood volume.
- Ash Die Back killing ash trees will compromise the survival of species dependent on ash, inc. specialist lichens that rely on its specific bark PH. The loss of the unique dappled light levels produced by an ash canopy in favor of a more shading sycamore or beech canopy will have a negative impact on ancient woodland ground flora. Ash also has the most important leaf litter for building soil fertility and structure which will also translate to a net long term loss for the health and regeneration of the wood.
- Invasive species - including, non-natives such as rhododendron, laurel, Himalayan balsam, skunk cabbage, Himalayan honeysuckle.
- Deer and squirrels - preferential browsing from deer on tree regeneration targeting regenerating broadleaves, and the impact of squirrel damage on young trees. Populations are currently (2025) considered to be relatively low, but changes in populations could impact the woodland structure in the future.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Tramlines Wood will be managed as a predominantly native, broadleaf high forest through a continuous cover management regime, driven mainly by natural processes, with diverse species and age structure, and natural regeneration providing future tree and shrub succession, rich in ASNW ground flora. There will be well-managed veteran and future veteran trees throughout. Any felled, fallen and dead trees will be retained to form important deadwood habitat at min. 20m3 per Ha. Non-native invasive species will be controlled and eradicated if they occur. Ash Dieback disease (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) will be managed as part of the WT's tree safety policy, with ash trees being left where safe to create gap opportunities for regenerating tree species. The woodland will continue to sequester carbon with larger, mature and ancient trees and their supporting soils retained on site, including standing and fallen deadwood, meaning carbon storage will be an important benefit. Active management of shading species such as holly, sycamore and beech will be guided by woodland condition assessments, with selective ride edge coppicing to increase the habitat suitability for: lichen communities, willow tits and pied flycatchers; and to help maintain its LWS status and condition as a Temperate Rainforest and Upland Oak Woodland. The woodlands river edge will be coppiced as necessary, with dappled sunlight being able to reach deeper pools and shallow riffle areas, increasing fish spawning habitat quality. There will be temporary and permanent open space along the ride network with rotational scrub and coppice habitat, and the grassland meadow will be managed with annual late-summer meadow cutting to encourage the development of a richer wildflower meadow community.

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

Work Programme:
1. Continue ride side pruning/coppicing of holly, sycamore and beech on paths to increase light levels and create structural diversity.
2. Cut and treat areas of denser, unmanaged holly, sycamore and beech leaving larger individuals of diameter 15cm and above, and some aggregated perches around trees with bird nest boxes, retaining perching/feeding opportunities and cover for Pied Flycatcher.
3. Mow the open glade in August each year, removing arisings to reduce fertility and encourage the development of a more species rich grassland habitat.
4. Management of ancient and veteran trees: future veterans or 'legacy trees' will be identified and managed within the Woodland Trust's guidelines on managing and restoring ancient woodland and managing veteran trees. Halo-thinning around the drip-line of selected trees to allow light to reach the lower canopy allowing the tree to re-trench and

develop a lower sub-canopy.
5. Ensure NFM woody dam structures remain in floodplain and selected wet flushes to increase biodiversity resilience of soil humidity levels to climate change.
6. Annual monitoring, cutting and treating of INNS such as laurel, rhododendron, and Himalayan balsam.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Tramlines wood is on the southern edge of the town of Okehampton, north Dartmoor. The site covers a steep section of north facing valley slope along the East Okement River which flows from east to west along the northern boundary of the site. It is adjacent to residential areas and Okehampton Train Station, agricultural fields, a local park and the A30 bypass to the south.

Main public access is via a public bridleway running west to east along the old tramway through the top of the site from Station Road in Okehampton to a public access field with an accessible path to Ball Hill Viaduct. A small path from the top bridleway down the slope to Okehampton town centre through Simmons Park provides access to the riverside woodland and neighbouring local college and town sports pitches via a wooden 'Millenium' footbridge crossing the river. The nearest parking and bus stop is in the Okehampton train station car park and on Station Road adjacent to Okehampton Train Station. To access the eastern side there is a small parking space at Ball Hill Viaduct car park.

The public bridleway through the wood is wide, level and a good all weather surface with no obstacles. The small path linking from the top bridleway down to the footbridge over the Okemont river is steep, with steps and handrails, and may be uneven and slippery underfoot in poor weather conditions.

The woodland has a semi-natural aesthetic, in contrast to the more formalised recreational park adjacent, and is a valuable resource for promoting health and wellbeing to the local community. The wood is well used for recreation and commuting by local people. Visitor levels are relatively high, consisting mainly of horse riders, dog walkers and people using the pathways as a link into Okehampton or the nearby school, via Simmons Park.

Significance

Promoting greater access to woodland areas on the fringes of the Dartmoor NPA has been identified in a number of key local biodiversity action plans as a strategy to reduce recreational pressure on more fragile moorland habitats in the national park. As an urban woodland, the site is a significant area of green space providing the town of Okehampton with a recreational resource within walking distance. Providing free public access, promoting health, well-being and education and inspiring people to get out and connect with woodlands is a principal objective of the Woodland Trust.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
- The steep, uneven and often wet conditions of the slope and connecting paths restrict visitor access for less abled visitors from the riverside areas to the top bridleway path.
- Due to the presence of wet, sensitive areas of ground along the riverbanks and wet flushes, the introduction of any new routes or circular walking routes within the wood is not feasible.

- The small relative size of the wood means there is a limit to the amount of footfall that can be sustained without degrading other values such as biodiversity, and can impact on visitor experience.
- Water main under main access track (public bridleway).

Factors Causing Change

- Increasing numbers of recreational uses causing erosion of paths, creating unofficial paths or 'desire lines' through sensitive areas and compromising the stability of the river banks due to ground compaction.
- Increases in winter rainfall and storm frequency due to climate change potentially increasing erosion of paths within the wood and along river banks and compromising visitor access.
- Increases in drought conditions in summer and storm frequency in winter due to climate change increasing chance of drought stress, and wind blow events, contributing to tree safety issues.
- Ash Die Back and other potential tree diseases increasing the risk of structural failure of ash trees causing safety issue to Zone B paths.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Tramlines will be a natural space valued and enjoyed by local users through welcoming, accessible entrances and a network of paths, all maintained to a good level of quality and safety. The Trusts duty of care to visitors will be addressed through ongoing tree safety, tree health checks, litter picks, management of misuse of the site, and appropriate site risk assessment regimes, which may require remedial works as required.

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

The short-term objective is to maintain the site as an accessible, attractive, well maintained, and safe woodland.

The path network and entrances should remain in good condition and appropriate for level and type of use and in accordance with access category A.

Entrance and access furniture including gates, paths, steps and handrails will be maintained annually to keep them welcoming and in good condition to allow access to walkers and bridleway users.

Litter will be regularly collected to maintain a welcoming feel to the site, and other anti-social activity will be monitored and managed as appropriate.

Ensure visitor safety via ongoing monitoring regime of tree risk, health and infrastructure, and remedial works as necessary.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026-36	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	Ongoing

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5.3	Oak (sessile)	1850	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
W10e, W7c and W4b NVC type upland oak, Atlantic rainforest semi-natural, native broadleaf woodland. Loamy, acidic, free draining soil with low fertility over a metamorphic aureole of granite bedrock. Relatively even aged, high forest structure with some veteran trees, scarce tree regeneration and hazel and holly dominated shrub layer. Canopy dominated by mature sessile oak (P1850) woodland and birch (P1930), with some (rare) large, open beech, ash and sycamore standards, occasionally dense hazel and holly understory (W10e), areas of wet flushes and riparian zone along river contain more ash, alder and willow (W7c). Bramble, bracken and bluebell are common on the higher ground whilst bryophytes, rushes, ferns and flora such as golden saxifrage, wild garlic, lesser celandine, herb Robert and dog violet are present in the wet flushes and stream sides areas. The western part of sub-compartment 1a has been designated as a natural reserve and it will be managed through minimum intervention in perpetuity. A mains sewage pipe runs along bridleway track along southern edge of cpt.						
1b	0.4	Other	2000	Non-wood habitat	No/poor vehicular access within the site	
A small area of species poor, semi-improved, acidic, streamside meadow grassland with loamy, acidic, free draining flood plain soil with moderate fertility. Adjacent to the East Okement River, tree species include a small area of planted willow (P2000), ground flora includes areas (10%) of encroaching bracken and bramble scrub with ferns, golden saxifrage and acidic meadow grass species.						

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.