

Stoke Wood

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

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
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
 - 4.2 f2 Informal Public Access
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Stoke Wood

Location:	Stoke Albany Grid reference: SP800863 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 141
Area:	10.91 hectares (26.96 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Stoke Wood is a wet Oak/Field Maple ancient woodland, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, that was traditionally managed as coppice with standards and was historically still actively coppiced in parts as recently as 1970. Ash is also currently prolific and there are small areas of Birch. The under storey consists of Hazel, Dogwood, Spindle, Blackthorn, Dog Rose, Willow, Buckthorn, Crab Apple and Wych Elm. Its structure is varied with high forest and neglected coppice to the north and south and actively managed Hazel coppice with standards in the central areas. Especially for a site of its size, Stoke Wood has a very rich assemblage of plants associated with ancient woodland (dominated in parts by Bluebell, Dogs Mercury and Tufted Hair Grass) and more open ride habitats. These also include: Herb Paris, Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel, Yellow Archangel, Early Purple Orchid, Birds Nest Orchid, Wood Speedwell, Nettle-leaved Bell Flower, Broad-leaved Helleborine and Greater Butterfly Orchid as well as a good assemblage of grasses, sedges and rush. The woodland contains a number of locally and nationally rare animals and plants.

The site is sloped downwards toward the northern end and has lime-rich clay soils with impeded drainage (according to UKSO), making it prone to being wet during the winter months. Some of the permissible paths were closed in early 2023 following the impacts of ash dieback and to prevent the need of mass felling in these areas due to subsequent safety concerns. There is a Victorian culvert in this recently closed area which is declining (mortar deterioration, loose bricks, etc - professionally surveyed 09.22).

Dormice once frequented Stoke Wood and the wider woodland of which it is a part, unfortunately no dormice have been recorded at Stoke Wood since 1999. Muntjac, fallow and roe deer are prevalent in this area.

Stoke Wood sits on the eastern edge of and is contiguous with a larger woodland block called Brampton Wood, this wider wooded area is divided up between three landowners, The Woodland Trust, The Wildlife Trust and The Forestry Commission. The areas under Woodland Trust and Wildlife Trust ownership are the most diverse from a habitat and species point of view with Stoke Wood being one of the most significant areas of ancient Ash woodland in Northamptonshire, in terms of its habitat value, despite its small size.

the key features are: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and Informal Public Access.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Robust native woodland able to sustain the various plants, animals and other features that make Stoke Wood of special scientific interest through the maintenance and where possible the enhancement of the structural and species diversity of the site.

Specifically:-

- To manage the majority of the wood as coppice with standards with oak/ash as the dominant species, but maintaining the present diversity of other species in the canopy and under storey.
- To ensure that the above areas are stocked with a proportion of over mature, dying and dead trees (both standing and fallen).
- To maintain and enhance the species rich and diverse rides through appropriate path cutting techniques.

Coppicing will be maintained on a 14 year rotation in the areas cut since re-coppicing began. Coppicing will also take place along the rides with the intention of maintaining a variety of ecological niches throughout the wood for ride side plants and animals.

The remainder of the wood will be managed to support natural processes, with intervention only to manage the decline of ash safely in order to maintain public access objectives. The woodland will be monitored on a regular basis and appropriate action taken where necessary should any threats be noted. This includes pests and disease risks over the immediate threat posed by ADB.

Due to the properties status as a Site of Special Scientific Status, Natural England will be formally consulted before any major management operations take place and at management plan review periods.

The size of the deer population and its effects on the regeneration of the wood will be monitored and action will be taken to control excessive browsing as indicated on the Deer Management Plan.

It is our intention to foster a relationship with neighbouring landowners in particular the Forestry Commission and the Wildlife Trust in relation to management and particularly deer control so as to coordinate management that best enhances and protects the woodland as a whole.

As per the Woodland Trusts corporate aim associated with people, paths and entrances will be monitored and maintained in perpetuity.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
Stoke Wood is a wet ash / field maple woodland which has been traditionally managed as coppice with standards and was still actively coppiced in parts as recently as 1970. Ash is prolific with Field Maple, Oak and small areas of Birch. Under storey consists of Hazel, Dogwood, Spindle, Blackthorn, Dog rose, Willow, Buckthorn, Crab apple and Wych elm. Its structure is varied with high forest and neglected coppice to the north and south with actively managed coppice with standards in the central areas. The ground flora is very diverse for a wood of its size, dominated in parts by Bluebell, Dogs Mercury and Tufted Hair Grass. The wood has several less common woodland plant species including Greater Butterfly Orchid, Wood Speedwell, Nettle Leaved Bell Flower and Broad-Leaved Helleborine. It was once well known for its dormouse population which unfortunately is now extinct.
Significance
This is a semi natural ancient woodland of the wet ash-field maple type which has been in decline across the country as a whole and is of importance due to its rarity as a habitat type of this condition in Northamptonshire, hence its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Stoke wood is still under traditional coppice with standards management having had a 20 year break with little if any management from 1970 to 1990. There is a very rich assemblage of plants associated with the woodland and its open ride habitats including:- Herb Paris, Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel, Yellow Archangel, Early Purple Orchid and Greater Butterfly Orchid as well as a good assemblage of grasses, sedges and rush. There are various micro-fauna such as hover fly and moth associated with Stoke Wood which are considered nationally rare.
Opportunities & Constraints
OPPORTUNITIES: Part of a larger complex of woodlands within the Rockingham forest area. Stoke Wood lies adjacent to Wildlife Trust managed Stoke Wood and Forestry Commission owned Brampton Wood. Stoke Wood has a very active, very knowledgeable, influential local individual associated with the property, Keith Walking, who is well connected with local stakeholders and special interest groups. Regular opportunities to engage with local stakeholders / landowners and also Natural England who have a vested interest in the site due to its Site of Special Scientific Interest status. Stoke Wood is well known amongst local special interest groups, there is the opportunity for the Woodland Trust to demonstrate best practice concerning woodland habitat management to external audiences given Stoke Woods special and unique status in the area. Work to best practice with neighbours/deer management groups to manage populations at a landscape scale, or a scale wider than the individual site wherever possible CONSTRAINTS:

Very wet for vehicle access at any time of year Isolated from the public highway by a poorly surfaced, very rutted farm track some 800m in length.
Factors Causing Change
Browsing from fallow, muntjac and roe deer to coppice regrowth and important ground flora. Also the potential for other impact species (Chinese water deer, for example) in the future. Active coppice becoming dense, over mature and un-managed. Pests and diseases such as Ash Dieback. Shrub encroachment into florally-diverse rides.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To maintain the wood as Ancient Semi-Natural woodland of the wet Ash / Field Maple type; National Vegetation Classification W9. Managed under a mixture of long term retention and coppice with standards to maintain the diverse age, species and physical structure of the woodland and its associated status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Ash die-back and other pests and diseases have the potential to have a significant negative impact at Stoke Wood, the woodland will be regularly monitored and assessed and appropriate action taken to mitigate any negative effects where required. This may include silvicultural operations in light of impacts from ash dieback, such as remedial work for public safety, halo-thinning healthiest individuals and recruiting a range of other canopy species.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
COPPicing: Coppice hazel annually as per the management plan. Identify standards to be maintained within the coppice coupes in order to achieve 20% to 40% canopy cover; advanced broadleaved regeneration may be recruited to achieve a greater diversity of age classes within the canopy where appropriate. Path and ride habitats will be maintained based upon monitoring and consultation with Natural England and other local stakeholders. Coppicing will take place on ride edges to further diversify structure and preserve the ride side habitat, up to a depth of 3m in from the ride edge. The Deer Stalker will also be consulted so that appropriate sight lines can be maintained for deer control within the woodland. Communication amongst the various stakeholders is beneficial to the successful management of Stoke Wood. Coppicing is to be undertaken on a 14 year rotation over a total area of 6.62ha, equating to approximately 0.4ha per year. Due to access constraints, materials are not able to be extracted from site. The quantity of timber coppiced on site with a desirable measurable volume (material 15cm or less for cutting coppice) will be less than 5m³, thus no requirement for felling licence. Larger diameter material will be processed and stacked neatly into habitat piles which will slowly rot down, providing habitat for a variety of insects, birds and small mammals. The site is fenced externally and individual plots may be fenced as well until regrowth is large enough to withstand browsing pressures (dependent on the herbivore impact assessments). The smaller brash wood will also be used to dead-hedge around the coppice plot, providing additional habitat opportunities. Where additional brash wood is leftover, this will be burnt on raised tin sheets, protecting the sensitive nature of the woodland floor below. Ride edges are to be coppiced as per rotation (7 year). Rides to be inspected, along with footpaths, through Informal Public Access and Ancient Semi Natural Woodland Key Feature monitoring, with additional coppicing of ride edges

undertaken where needed for access or deer stalker sightline requirements.

DEER CONTROL:

Deer are to be monitored and managed as detailed on the separate management plan and annual contract. Target levels will be considered from thermal surveys (1-2 per plan period) and impact assessments (1-2 per plan period)

OTHER:

Culvert clearance will take place as needed (prompted by SM inspections). The closed paths will continue to be monitored to ensure they are not still in use and, if reopened, the culverts in that area will require repair work. The impacts of ash dieback will be managed through the regular tree safety checks and subsequent prescribed actions. These may include remedial work to improve public safety, halo-thinning of healthiest individuals and the protection and recruitment of other canopy species. If significant numbers of ash decline, then supplementary planting of areas with additional appropriate species will be considered.

4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

Description
Although located in a fairly remote part of Northamptonshire, Stoke Wood is regarded by many local people as the best woodland open to the public in the area. Although not directly linked to any public rights of way it is accessible from the public highway via a rough farm track. The ride and path network are well distributed but do tend to be extremely muddy most of the year round. The woodland also attracts a number of special interest groups due to the abundance of flora and fauna contained there in.
Significance
Well known and well used, Stoke Wood gives visitors an idea of what a working coppice woodland looks like and is an exemplar in the local area. A number of species of plant and animal that are locally or nationally rare exist within Stoke Wood, this fact regularly attracts visits by a variety of special interest groups.
Opportunities & Constraints
OPPORTUNITIES: Links in to other woods in the immediate vicinity owned by the Forestry Commission and Wildlife Trust. A well known place to visit locally, particularly popular with special interest groups attracted to the sites abundant flora and fauna. CONSTRAINTS: Regularly wet and muddy paths sometimes can be difficult to negotiate. Access to the wood is a relatively long way down a rough and rutted permissive farm track.
Factors Causing Change
Natural succession/encroachment of scrub on the rides and paths. Pests and diseases such as Ash Dieback.
Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the current path network, Woodland Trust "Welcome" signage and entrances in perpetuity.

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

To keep paths clear of overgrowing vegetation in May, July and September/October.

Footpath cutting in May and July will consist of a single width cut, not cutting onto path/ride edges which are extremely sensitive and display a variety of beneficial flora. September/October cut will include full path width in areas highlighted on management plan map.

To maintain and, where needed, enhance the existing pedestrian access points as required.

To maintain and upgrade the Woodland Trust "Welcome" signage at the entrance as per work programme. Signage to be inspected and cleaned by the contractor when completing path cuts and entrance maintenance.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	May
2024	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	June
2024	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	August
2025	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	February
2025	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2024	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April
2025	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	June
2025	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	November
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	December
2026	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April
2025	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	June
2026	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	June
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	August
2026	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	December
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April
2027	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	June
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April
2028	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	June

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	2.1	Ash	1940	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 1a is the oldest stand of mature coppice, situated at the northern end of Stoke wood. A small proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around 1920s are scattered throughout the stand, as well as slightly younger Oak and Ash standards estimated to have been established around the 1940s. Mature Ash coppice makes up the greater proportion of canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the 1940s. One particularly large Ash stool is about 6 feet in diameter and could be classed as ancient. The under storey consists of frequent coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a moderate northerly aspect, and an abundance of dead wood material is present throughout. There is much evidence of deer activity in the compartment including stem damage, browse line and runways. The northern and eastern boundaries of the compartment are running spring fed streams. There is evidence of an old pond in the extreme north, where the dominant tree species is Willow. Ground vegetation is dominated by Bluebell and Dogs Mercury.						
1b	0.65	Ash	1975	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 1b is an area of coppice with standards. Existing Ash standards were originally coppice stools which have now been singled. Estimated age of the standards is split into two age ranges, 70 years of age, estimated to have last been cut around the 1940s, and 40 years of age estimated to have last been cut around 1975. The under storey consists of frequent coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material. Bluebell and Dogs Mercury dominate the ground flora.						
1c	0.45	Ash	1960	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 1c is an area of coppice with standards. Existing standards include a small proportion of Oaks estimated to have been established around the 1940s, and Field Maple estimated to have been established around the late 1960s. Ash coppice makes up the greater proportion of the canopy composition and is estimated to have						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
last been cut around the 1960s. Under storey consists of dominant, coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. Sub compartment 1c has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect. Bluebell and Tufted Hair Grass dominate the ground flora.						
2a	0.13	other oak spp	1920	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 2a contains a proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Mature Ash coppice makes up a smaller proportion of canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940's early 1950's. Other species which make up a proportion of the canopy composition include Birch, Field Maple, Goat Willow and some large Crab Apples. Under storey consists of frequent to abundant coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a gentle to moderate south westerly aspect and adjoins the most northerly point of Brampton wood/Stoke End Quarter. Dead wood material is present throughout the stand. Bluebell dominates the ground flora.						
2b	0.42	Ash	1960	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 2b is an area of coppice with standards. The compartment contains both Oak and Ash standards. The Oak are estimated to have been established around the 1920s to 30s. Existing Ash standards were originally coppice stools which have now been singled and are estimated to be around 45 years of age, last cut around the late 1960s. Other species making up a small proportion of the canopy composition are Silver Birch and Field Maple. Several large Crab Apples are scattered throughout the stand. The under storey consists of frequent, coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn, Goat Willow and Field Maple. The stand has a gentle to moderate south easterly aspect, and an abundance of dead wood material is present throughout. The ground layer is very grass dominated.						
2c	0.45	other oak spp	1940	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 2c is an area of coppice. Existing standards are predominantly situated around the edge of the cant and include a small proportion of Oaks estimated to have been established around the 1940s, and Field Maple estimated to have been established around the late 1960s. Occasional to rare Birch stems also occur. The under storey consists of dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a gentle to						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
moderate south westerly aspect and is reasonably sheltered by adjoining Brampton wood/Stoke End Quarter. The ground layer is grass dominated.						
3a	0.4	Ash	1940	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 3a is an area of over mature coppice, situated at the southern end of Stoke wood and contains a proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around the late 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Oak and Ash standards are estimated to have been established around the late 1940s and also make up a percentage of the canopy composition as well as a small proportion of mature Ash coppice estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940's early 1950's. Other species within the canopy include a small proportion of Birch and Field Maple. Under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The stand has a gentle to moderate south westerly aspect and adjoins Brampton wood. Dead wood material is present throughout the stand. The ground layer dominated by Bluebell and Dewberry.						
3b	0.2	Birch (downy/silver)	1960	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 3b is a small area of coppice with a few remaining Ash, Birch and one Norway Spruce all estimated to have been established around the early 1960s. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. Ground cover is dominated by patchy Bramble becoming quite heavy in places.						
3c	0.7	Ash	1940	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Compartment 3c is an area of coppice with standards. Standard Oak are estimated to have been established in the 1930s. Ash coppice makes up the greater proportion of the main canopy species and is estimated to have last been cut in the 1940s. Birch also makes up a small percentage of the canopy composition. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. Sub compartment 3c contains an abundance of dead wood material, the ground layer is dominated by patchy Bramble and Bluebell.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
3d	0.2	Ash	1960	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 3d is an area of coppice with very few standards containing one Oak and three Ash standards. The Oak is estimated to have been established around the 1920s to 30s. Ash standards are estimated to be around 45 years of age, established around the late 1960s. The under storey consists of frequent coppiced Ash, Hazel, Goat Willow and Field Maple. The stand has a gentle northerly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material. The ground layer is grass dominated. Compartment 3d is separated from compartment 3e by a small stream on the northern boundary.						
3e	0.25	other oak spp	1920	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 3e is an area of coppice with standards. Oak standards make up the greater proportion of the canopy composition and are estimated to have been established around the late 1920s. Ash standards are estimated to be 75 years of age established around the 1940s. A small proportion of Ash coppice also exists within sub compartment 3e and is estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940s. The under storey consists of frequent coppiced Hazel and Field maple. Ground flora is predominantly grass. Sub compartment 3e has a gentle to moderate southerly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material.						
4a	1.7	Ash	1940	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 4a is an area of over mature coppice situated towards the southern end of Stoke wood and contains a proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around the late 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Oak and Ash standards estimated to have been established around the late 1940s make up the greater percentage of the canopy composition as well as a small proportion of mature Ash coppice estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940s early 1950s. Other species within the canopy include a small proportion of Birch and Field Maple. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a level lying aspect and contains an abundance of dead wood material the ground layer is dominated by Bluebell and Dogs Mercury with Dewberry.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
4b	0.4	other oak spp	1960	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 4b is a thin strip of coppice with standards running along compartment 4's northern boundary. Oak standards are estimated to have been established around the 1960s and the birch 10 years latter in the 1970s. The under storey consists of frequent to abundant coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. The stand has a level lying aspect and contains an abundance of dead wood material. Broad Leaved Helleborine has been recorded here.						
5a	1.3	Ash	1950	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Compartment 5a is an area of coppice with standards. Standards include Oak, Ash and Birch with the Oak and Ash estimated to have been established in the 1950s and the birch in the late 1960s. Other species making up a small percentage of the canopy composition are Field Maple and Goat Willow. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple, Birch and Goat Willow. Sub compartment 5a contains an abundance of dead wood material and patchy Bramble. The compartment is divided in half by a small stream running east-west.						
6a	0.23	Ash	1950	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 6a is an area of coppice with standards. Existing Oak and Ash standards are estimated to have been established around the 1930s. Ash coppice also makes up a proportion of the canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut in the 1950s. The under storey consists of coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The stand has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect and an abundance of dead wood . Ground flora is predominantly grass but Bluebells and Dogs Mercury do occur.						
6b	0.45	Ash	1950	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Sub compartment 6b contains a proportion of oak standards estimated to have been established around the late 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Mature Ash coppice makes up a greater proportion of the canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940s early 1950s. Birch also makes up a small proportion of the canopy composition. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. The stand has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material. The ground layer consists mainly of grasses with some Bluebell and Dogs Mercury.						
6c	0.62	other oak spp	1930	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 6b contains a proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around the late 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Mature Ash coppice makes up a greater proportion of the canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940s early 1950s. Birch also makes up a small proportion of the canopy composition. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. The stand has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material is present throughout the stand. Ground layer is mainly grasses with some Bluebell and Dogs Mercury.						

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.

Registered Office:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.