

Lumb Brook Valley

(Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



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 10 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 Informal Public Access
 - 4.2 f2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Lumb Brook Valley

Location:	Warrington	Grid	reference:	SJ627849	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	109
Area:	10.44 hectares (25.80 acres)								
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site, Tree Preservation Order								
Internal Designations:	NULL								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Lumb Brook Valley is located in Appleton approximately 3 miles to the south-east of Warrington, Cheshire. It is a 10ha broadleaf woodland, largely Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and is situated on the steep banks of Dingle Brook and Doods Brook. The woodland lies on the urban fringe of the town with housing estates to the west and agricultural land to the east. The local area is under intense development pressure and a large new housing development is being built to the south-east of the woodland towards the village of Appleton Thorn with another new housing development further to the north at Grappenhall Heys.

The woodland is a prominent feature in the local landscape and forms a green wildlife corridor connecting with other green spaces and woodlands nearby including Lumb Brook Millennium Green, Grappenhall Heys and the Bridgewater Canal. Lumb Brook Valley has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site and has a good variety of woodland bird species and mammals. The wood is dominated by oak, ash, cherry with sycamore, beech and alder and an understorey of hazel, hawthorn and elder. There is good ground flora dominated in places with carpets of native bluebells, lesser celandine, wood anemone and dogs mercury. Sandstone exposures created by the Dingle Brook are of significant geological interest. The woodland consists of two main compartments of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland in The Dingle and Fords Rough; along with a small area of new native woodland of mixed broadleaves called Julia's Wood on the western edge of Fords Rough and a separate woodland compartment, Long Wood which lies approximately two hundred metres to the west of the main woodlands.

The Dingle: Compartment 1

This compartment consists of ancient woodland alongside the Dingle Brook. The southern part of the wood is owned by Warrington Council. Housing estates abut the western boundary of the wood with farmland alongside the eastern boundary. In the northern sub-compartment 1A a small woodland extension has been planted in 1998. The remaining mature sections of the woodland contain oak, silver birch, sycamore, Scots pine and beech. In addition, extensive edge and under planting has taken place during the early 1980's (by Warrington Development Corporation). This takes the form of dense plantings of ash, rowan, wild cherry, field maple, birch, willow, alder, oak, beech, hazel, blackthorn and hawthorn. Edge plantings adjacent to new housing have been periodically coppiced to reduce encroachment problems, improve security and to manage future tree safety liability. This has also had the benefit of creating a more graduated and diverse structure to the woodland edge, one of the key zones for biodiversity enhancement and conservation. Dense sections of rhododendron have been removed from the site particularly to the north of Dingle Brook. The ground flora is sparse but there are pockets of bluebell, lords and ladies, wood anemone. There is a well used surfaced footpath running through this section of woodland. In addition there are two vehicle bridges in the ownership of the Woodland Trust. In 1997 sub-compartment 1B and 1C were affected by the construction of a new road bridge (Witherwin Avenue) over the valley. It includes a very small triangle of trees at the junction of Dingle Lane with Lyons Lane with houses and gardens to the north. There are a small number of semi-mature oak and sycamore with a sparse understorey of hawthorn and bramble. There is no public access in the compartment.

Fords Rough: Compartment 2

This is the largest compartment of ancient woodland and is adjacent to Doods Brook. It consists of mature oak, sycamore, wild cherry, alder, ash and silver birch. The understory is more diverse than elsewhere in the valley with natural regeneration of cherry, sycamore, ash and oak. Most of the understory has been extensively restocked by Warrington Development Corporation in the late 1970's and early 1980's. The shrub layer is reasonably well

developed and contains holly, hazel, hawthorn with elder. The ground flora is also reasonably diverse and consists of wood anemone, bluebell, lesser celandine, with a range of mosses/ liverworts and ferns also present. A surfaced footpath runs the full length of the wood connecting Dingle Lane to Doods Lane. This is prone to becoming muddy in winter due to poor drainage and the topography of the site. Some small sections of this woodland were sold to neighbouring property owners in the 1980's which has caused further fragmentation and habitat loss.

Julia's Wood: Compartment 3:

In 2004 the Woodland Trust was gifted 0.6ha of land adjacent to Fords Rough and Green Lane by Mr David Ashall. It was planted with a mix of native broadleaves including oak, ash, wild cherry, silver birch and hazel and was named Julia's Wood in memory of his late wife.

Long Wood: Compartment 4

This small, roughly square shaped parcel of woodland is no longer directly connected to the main part of the site and is approximately 200m to the west of The Dingle. It is ancient woodland and comprises mature oak, sycamore, horse chestnut, ash and alder. The understorey was previously dominated by dense cover of rhododendron, but this has now been largely removed.

Lumb Brook Valley is very popular with local people and well used. It has a surfaced footpath that runs along the length of the valley, with several public access points from adjacent roads and housing estates. The paths are permissive and for pedestrian use only.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention for the site is to continue to manage the native broadleaf ancient woodland habitat - with a mix of native species, age classes and a varied structure with deadwood, both standing and fallen, being retained where it is safe to do so. Opportunities will be taken where appropriate to develop a graded woodland edge at the sides of the paths through ride-edge coppicing and cyclical cutting, further enhancing visitor interest and enjoyment. Due to ash dieback the level of ash within the woodland is likely to decrease over time. It is expected that the main canopy species will be oak, sycamore, wild cherry, alder, silver birch with some beech and pine.

Public access will be maintained in perpetuity through a managed path network, entrances and regular safety checks. Infrastructure and facilities will be minimal and only essential signage used. Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly. Public safety will be assessed through infrastructure monitoring and tree safety inspections conducted regularly.

Woodland management will focus on aiming to make the woodland more resilient to cope with future threats from climate change, pests, diseases and development of neighbouring land. Condition Assessments will be undertaken regularly to assess the ecological condition of the woodland and identify any threats, with action taken where it is practicable to do so.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
There are INSERT public access points into Lumb Brook Valley from the adjoining roads and housing estates, with limited parking on Dingle Lane which crosses through the middle of the valley. The main entrances into the wood are from this road leading into The Dingle and Fords Rough. There is approximately 2km of permissive footpaths which are mostly surfaced with crushed stone and there are several wooden bridges and piped culverts where the paths cross over the streams in the valley. The section of footpath that runs north from Dingle Lane until the first wooden bridge over Dingle Brook is in the ownership of Warrington BC. The valley connects to the countryside and nearby villages via the public rights of way network. There is no formal public access into Long Wood (sub-cpt 4). The footpaths are well used on a daily basis by visitors. The paths are pedestrian paths only and not for cycling.
Significance
Increasing access to and enjoyment of woodland is one of the Trust's key aims and the network of footpaths through these woods provide opportunities for local people to visit and enjoy woodlands in an area that is increasingly becoming urbanised with new housing developments planned close to the wood. The wood offers people the opportunity to visit ancient woodland which is a rare habitat within the UK.
Opportunities & Constraints
The footpaths are well used all year around and become muddy in the winter requiring regular maintenance. The site is within a steep sided valley and the paths are very narrow in places which is a constraint for management access to carry out maintenance work. There is an opportunity to raise public awareness about the importance of ASNW through on site posters and information.
Factors Causing Change
Erosion is an issue within the woodland with heavy visitor usage. Footpaths have increasing pressure and additional erosion along desire lines created by pedestrians and cyclist that are illegal bike riding within the woodlands. New housing developments nearby will increase the visitor numbers and recreational pressure within the wood. Vandalism, fires, and sometimes fly tipping of garden waste/ rubbish along boundaries next to houses/gardens.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The long term objective is to maintain public access at current levels through annual maintenance of the footpath, public access points, access infrastructure and signage. The site will be made as safe as practicable for visitors and neighbours through regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones and site hazards. Threats to the wood arising from public recreation or misuse will be monitored and appropriate measures taken where

necessary.

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

During the current 5 year plan period the short term objectives to achieve this are:

Cut back/ strim vegetation and remove branches encroaching onto the 2km of footpaths x2 times a year.

Entrances, access infrastructure, and signage will be inspected and maintained annually.

Clear litter and fly tipping to prevent accumulations of rubbish x 3-4 times a year.

Inspect trees in high risk zones (i.e. next to houses, roads and footpaths) and site hazards (as per the SRA inspection regime) to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertake any remedial safety work identified.

Monitor access infrastructure, condition and usage of footpaths and any other issues caused by public misuse (e.g. fires/ vandalism, creating bike trails, bicycles riding on footpaths) and take appropriate action to address them if necessary.

4.2 f2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

The two main compartments of the wood (The Dingle which lies to the north of Dingle Lane and Fords Rough to the south of the lane) are Ancient Semi Natural Woodland comprising predominantly oak, sycamore, ash, wild cherry, silver birch, with beech, field maple, alder, willow and occasional horse chestnut, lime and pines (Corsican and Scots). New planting of oak, ash, cherry, rowan, alder, holly and elder was done in the 1980's mainly near to boundaries with new housing estates and road. The understorey includes natural regeneration and woody shrubs particularly hazel and elder. There is some rhododendron regeneration in parts of The Dingle on the north bank of the stream and within Long Wood although large amounts have been cleared in recent years. A small amount of Snowberry is located in The Dingle to the east of the stream on the higher ground with younger trees. There is a good ground flora with ancient woodland indicator species including English bluebell, lesser celandine, dogs mercury, wood anemone, although in some areas particularly where dominated by mature beech the ground layer is bare ground.

Significance

Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England with less than 5% woodland cover. Lumb Brook Valley is located in an increasingly urban area and as such is a significant woodland habitat and important for wildlife in the local environment.

It is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) which makes up less than 2% of woodland cover in the UK. Therefore this area of ASNW provides local people a unique opportunity to interact with a very rare habitat. It also provides an ecologically rich habitat in an increasingly urbanised area and is designated as a Local Wildlife Site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: The woodland is relatively small, narrow and vulnerable to external development pressures. The plateau area to the west has been developed for housing resulting in changes to the drainage into the woodland. Large amounts of inappropriate boundary edge planting has taken place and needs regular coppicing to manage this. The spread of sycamore, beech and rhododendron has severely undermined the diversity of the ground flora particularly in Long Wood and parts of the Dingle. Future housing development pressure is great in this area and input into any future planning applications on adjoining land will be required where possible to reduce the impacts of developments. The

woodland is broken up into a number of different ownerships including areas owned by Warrington BC, the Land Trust and some private domestic gardens.
Factors Causing Change
Increasing visitor pressures will impact more on the woodland and wildlife . Vandalism causing damage to trees and ground flora. Fires causing damage to mature trees, natural regen and ground flora. Rhododendron is present in the wood. It is non-native, invasive and will spread and suppress ground flora layer and natural regeneration. Snowberry is present (handful of bushes) in the eastern raised area of land in The Dingle - it is non-native, invasive and will spread. Ash dieback.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The long term objective is to maintain the diversity and richness of the ASNW to retain a high forest canopy with predominately native, mixed broadleaves, but with non-natives including sycamore permitted. The woodland should have a diverse structure in terms of species composition, age and size classes. The wood will be allowed to develop as naturally as possible with standing and fallen dead wood retained where safe to do so and natural regeneration encouraged. Tree safety along boundaries next to houses, roads and footpaths will be a priority due to the urban setting of the woodland and this may provide opportunities to promote natural regeneration of desirable species for future canopy trees. This may provide opportunities through selective felling to create gaps in the canopy to promote natural regeneration and encourage the development of woodland ground flora. Non-native invasive species such as Rhododendron and Snowberry will be controlled to prevent them becoming a threat to the woodland.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
During the current plan period the short term objectives are: Monitor for invasive species (in particular rhododendron and snowberry) and take action to control the spread if necessary. Carry out annual coppicing to focus on woodland/ path edges to create a more varied, uneven aged woodland structure and improve path sight lines. Undertake a woodland condition assessment to observe the general health of the woodland and identify any threats from tree diseases, pests, mammals or human impacts.

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	0.17	Oak (pedunculate)	1998	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Community Forest
Woodland extension planted in 1998 with mixed broadleaves under WGS to buffer the ASNW to the west in sub-cpt 1h. Mixed broadleaved plantings of oak, ash, alder, hazel, willow, hawthorn.						
1b	2.7	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	High forest	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, Tree Preservation Order
This is the northern section of The Dingle bounded to the north by farmland, to the south by Dingle Brook. A road bridge was built through the northern section of the sub-compartment in 1997. The sub-compartment contains mature sycamore, pedunculate oak, ash, scots pine with some beech. The understory contains rowan, wild cherry, beech, oak, ash with small patches of rhododendron ponticum. The woodland edge to the north of the sub-compartment was planted by Warrington Development Corporation in the early 1980's. It consists of ash, beech, oak, cherry, rowan with hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn. Some of this has been periodically coppiced in the past.						
1c	1.26	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order
This narrow sub-compartment is to the south/ west of Dingle Brook and is bounded by the stream to the north / east and the surfaced footpath to the south (the path is outside the WT ownership). It is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and the main canopy species are oak, sycamore, silver birch, alder, cherry and Scots pine. The understory comprises holly, hazel, hawthorn and some natural regeneration of native tree species. There is some rhododendron ponticum but this has been reduced and only a few plants remain in this compartment. The ground layer is dominated by bramble and bracken.						
1d	0.6	Oak (pedunculate)	1980	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Mixed broadleaved woodland edge plantings carried out in early 1980's by Warrington Development Corporation. Woodland blocks contain ash, oak, beech, rowan, alder, birch, field maple with hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and dog rose. In the past these have been coppiced periodically. A limited amount of thinning of these blocks has taken place in the past.						
1e	0.87	Beech	1880	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site, Tree Preservation Order
This sub-compartment lies centrally within The Dingle and is bounded by Dingle Brook to the west, and north, a drainage ditch to the south and densely planted mixed shrub coppice to the east. The main canopy species are mature/ over mature beech, Scots pine, sycamore and occasional oak. The understory is sparse but restocking of beech, oak, rowan, wild cherry has taken place in suitable canopy gaps.						
1f	0.65	Mixed native broadleaves	1980	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order
This sub-compartment is bounded by farm land to the east, Dingle Brook to the north and a steep slope / bank to the west. It is a mixed broadleaf plantation dating back to the early 1980's planted by Warrington Development Corporation. This plantation is now well established with natural competition leading to a process of self thinning.						
1g	0.65	Mixed native broadleaves	1880	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order
This narrow sub-compartment lies to the south of The Dingle and is bounded by Dingle Brook to the west and farmland to the east, and abuts Dingle Lane for approximately 120m on its southern boundary. It has been heavily grazed in the past.						
1h	0.03	Mixed native broadleaves	1880	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
This small triangle of woodland is known as the Dingle extension and lies at the junction of Dingle lane with Cann Lane North/ Lyons Lane. It is abutted by houses/ gardens on the north western boundary. It contains a number of mature sycamore, ash and oak and has a sparse understory of bramble and hawthorn.						
2a	2.15	Sycamore	1880	High forest	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	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site, Tree Preservation Order
This linear narrow compartment is known as Fords Rough. It runs between The Dingle Lane bridge and Dood's Lane bridge and has a narrow surfaced footpath that links the two roads at either end, with several small culverts and a footbridge bridge along the route of the path. The compartment is bounded to the north east by farm land, and the western boundary abuts rear gardens and open space in Mentmore Gardens and sub-cpt 2b (Julia's Wood). A stream Doods Brook, flows through the compartment from the southern end towards Dingle Lane bridge. It is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland containing sycamore, oak, wild cherry, alder, ash and beech, with a reasonably well developed understorey of wild cherry, oak, ash, beech, alder, rowan, hazel, hawthorn, elder and holly. The ground layer contains bramble and some large patches of ancient woodland flora including bluebells, wood anemone and lesser celandine. There are areas of bare ground where the canopy is dense or as a result of trampling from visitors. Most of the understory species were group planted in the early 1980's with limited natural regeneration mainly of sycamore and ash.						
3a	0.63	Mixed native broadleaves	2005	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site	Community Forest
This compartment is called Julia's Wood and was planted in 2004/5 with a mix of native broadleaves, including oak, ash, silver birch, wild cherry and rowan. The land was donated to the Trust by David Ashall and family. It lies adjacent to Ford's Rough and serves as a buffer for the Ancient Semi Natural Woodland which is separated by the stream. It is bounded to the west by Green Lane (a disused road which is open to walkers and cyclists/ horse riders), the stream to the east, a residential property and garden to the north and Doods Lane to the south.						
4a	0.85	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Legal issues, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	
This compartment is called Long Wood and is separated from the Dingle by Cann Lane North and houses. It would have originally been part of the main woodland block in Lumb Brook Valley, but has been cut off by development and is now entirely surrounded by houses and gardens on all sides. There is a single width access track (tarmaced) on the eastern boundary off Cann Lane North/ Longwood Road. The woodland canopy is mature oak and sycamore with some horse chestnut, ash and alder. The understory was dominated by rhododendron ponticum, but this has been largely removed and there is a poorly developed understory comprising hazel, hawthorn and holly. The ground flora is quite sparse although there are patches of bluebells. An open drainage ditch runs through the northern part of the woodland from the west to east and there is a heavily silted pond on the south western boundary						

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.

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