



# Mousecastle Wood

## Management Plan 2018-2023

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## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

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## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://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.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, 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.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on 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 heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential 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 allow our woods to be used to support 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. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

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## SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Mousecastle Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Cusop
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SO246424, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 148
<b>Area:</b>	21.25 hectares (52.51 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Scheduled Ancient Monument

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Mousecastle wood is a predominately native broadleaved ancient woodland site, located approximately 1 mile north-east of Hay-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

The wood is crowned by the remains of a medieval motte and bailey scheduled monument known as Mouse Castle. A well known feature of the local landscape, Mousecastle can be seen from Hay on Wye.

The site is well served with permissive and public rights of way, providing walkers with a linear route through the woodland.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Mousecastle wood is a predominately native broadleaved ancient woodland site located approximately 1 mile north-east of Hay-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Situated on steep west and south facing slopes the wood is crowned by the remains of a medieval motte and bailey scheduled monument known as Mouse Castle. The site is located within the National Character Area (NCA) 100 Herefordshire Lowlands and is a typical landscape feature within the NCA dominating the views from Hay-on-Wye; it is bordered by open fields to the south, west and east and mixed woodland to the north.

All of the existing woodland area other than the monument (cpt 1e&f), is classified as ancient woodland, although some areas (cpt 1b, 2b, 2d) have been classified as a plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS). The semi-natural element of the wood is dominated by mature, largely even-aged sessile/pendunculate oak maidens. Pendulous birch, ash, wych elm, sweet chestnut and sycamore also occur. The PAWS areas (1b, 2b, 2d) were previously planted with larch and Norway Spruce - as part of the Woodland Trust's ancient woodland restoration programme these were removed in 2001; there are a number of mature Scots Pines retained on the southern boundary of cpt. 3a

Although there is no public vehicular access/parking serving the site, Mousecastle can be accessed by permissive and public rights of way providing linear routes through the woodland which connect with the wider public rights of way network outside of Woodland trust ownership.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Mousecastle woodland offers a woodland walk through a mature oak landscape. The pedestrian routes through the site are well connected to the local public right of way network. A Scheduled Ancient Monument, an excellent example of a motte and bailey castle can be explored at the summit of the site.

Mousecastle wood occupies a hillside location overlooking the town of Hay-on-Wye. It is approximately 1 mile from the site to the centre of the town. The paths within the woodland are often wet and slippery and always steep. Most of the paths through the wood are permissive but they do link into the wider network of public rights of way through the landscape. It is pedestrian access only at Mousecastle as the paths and ground conditions do not suit horse access.

There are no parking facilities for Mousecastle wood.

A bus service running between Hay and Hereford provides access to the

There are public conveniences run by Powys County Council at the top of the main car park in Hay-on-Wye.

### 3.2 Access / Walks



## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

PAWS and ASNW areas will be managed seamlessly through a Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) approach utilising regular selective thinning interventions to create and maintain an irregular woodland structure with a diverse range of predominantly native broadleaved species supporting the highest levels of biodiversity. Sustainable deer populations will be maintained at levels enabling natural regeneration processes unimpeded by browsing. Temporary open space will be maintained through a network of rides and small glades promoting transitional woodland habitat and associated species. Existing veteran trees and future veterans of the future will be protected and actively managed for as part of the adopted silvicultural strategy through halo and selective thinning.

To secure the survival of the SM and to maintain it in a visible and appreciable condition

The site will be managed to a high quality but low-key standard ensuring visitors feel safe and welcome to this wonderful wood. Management should avoid overly intrusive interpretation or access infrastructure.

## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

### 5.1 Historic Features

#### Description

The scheduled monument area List entry Number: 1019488 (cps 1e and 1f) includes the earthwork and buried remains of a motte and bailey castle known as Mouse Castle, located on a natural headland with steeply sloping sides in all directions except to the north east where the land falls away more gently. The castle includes a motte standing 4m to 5m high and measuring 15m to 20m in diameter on the summit and approximately 50m in diameter around the base. This is surrounded by a ditch 4m to 5m wide and 1m to 3m deep which is best preserved on the northern side, with traces of a counterscarp bank on the north side. A further outer rampart measuring 10m to 12m wide and up to 3m high survives to the north and east. To the south east of the motte are the remains of the entrance to the complex including a large hollow way cutting through the outer ramparts. The monument is one of a number of medieval defensive sites located in strategic positions above the Wye Valley and is believed to have been constructed by Roger De Lacy, although its unusual form has led to suggestions that the castle may have been remodelled from a pre-existing Iron Age hill fort. The natural topography, however, suggests that the motte is formed from an outcrop enhanced by quarrying and the construction of the earthen ramparts.

Much of the area around and on top of the monument remains dominated by mature oak and ash broadleaved high forest. The very summit of the Motte has traditionally been kept clear of vegetation growth. The very steep sides of the Motte have been prone to scrub development. There are 2 pedestrian paths up the steep sides of the Motte that are infrequently used but tend to erode the Motte sides.

Past management agreed with Historic England and supported via the Forestry Commission through woodland grants has focused on scrub management and coppicing the understory growth on the Motte side to prevent further root development.

#### Significance

The remains at Mouse Castle preserve an unusual Norman motte, in good condition with little evidence of recent disturbance. The castle will preserve evidence for the internal composition of its earthworks, as well as for the accommodation provided on the motte and within the bailey. This will help further study of the functions and the relationships of high status and defensive settlements within a frontier region during the early years of the Norman Conquest. Surviving environmental deposits will provide insights into the landscape in which the monument was constructed.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

To secure the long term survival of the monument through management intervention

#### Factors Causing Change

Level of visitation causing erosion  
On-going mortality of mature trees  
Threat from pests and disease to the existing tree cover within the monument boundary

**Long term Objective (50 years+)**

To secure the survival of the SM and to maintain it in a visible and appreciable condition

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

-Prevent damage to underground archaeology by limiting new root growth, coppicing understorey species within 1e and 1f that have colonised the outer ramparts and Bailey portion of the monument

-Maintain monument visibility within its woodland setting by managing vegetation growth, continue yearly cutting of vegetation on summit and sides of the Motte (cpt 1e and 1f) portion of the Scheduled Monument

-Reduce chance of damage to the monument from windthrow and root plant lifting by removing all hazardous trees and those with exposed roots or showing signs of root heave within the Scheduled Monument boundary

-Manage erosion on and around the feature by maintaining the pathway along the boundary of the site behind the Scheduled Monument to channel foot fall away from the monument itself

## 5.2 Ancient Woodland Site

### Description

All of the existing woodland area other than the monument (cpt 1e and 1f), is classified as ancient woodland, although some areas (cpt 1b, 2b, and 2d) have been classified as a plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS).

The semi-natural element of the wood is dominated by mature, largely even-aged sessile/pendunculate oak maidens. Pendulous birch, ash, wych elm, sweet chestnut and sycamore also occur. Most of the woodland type is W10a and e, the areas of NVC W8e (C6 on the conservation features map) and small pockets of W7b (C7) are less common and add a diversity in Herefordshire woodlands. The shrub layer is both abundant and diverse including the rare Wayfaring tree (C2). Open - scrubby areas (conservation map features C1) and water courses (C5) further add to the diversity. The ground layer is abundant, diverse and locally typical, a total of 78 species were recorded in the 2000 NVC. Deadwood is present both standing and lying on the ground. The areas of woodland in the south east of the site have the oldest mature Oaks at over 100 years old. Hazel is very widespread in the shrub layer with spindle occurring rarely along the boundaries; there is occasional yew. Bramble dominates the ground flora with some locally typical ancient woodland flora. Great wood rush is patchily dominant on the steepest slopes and dog's mercury is frequent on the banks of the monument at the top of the slope. Beech and Wild service also occur but both are rare.

Other than management focused on ancient woodland restoration described below, the only major intervention since WT ownership (cpt 3a) was a crown thin in 1988 to let light onto the canopy floor for regeneration purposes.

The areas classified as PAWS on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (cpt 1b, 2b, 2d) don't quite match the past sub-cpts where conifer was previously dominant however this is not unusual. The northwestern corner of 1a previously planted with Norway spruce was cleared in 1986 - the area was replanted with sessile oak and sweet chestnut in 1987. In 1b, 1d, 2b, and 2c P55 larch was removed in 2001 leaving a number of areas of open ground which have tended to be dominated by bracken. Some areas have been restocked with a mix of native broadleaved species although establishment has been slow.

The deer population are currently managed on site under contract via the Deer Initiative along with an ongoing impact assessment.

### Significance

The woodland is classified as ancient woodland and plays an important role within the wider landscape as an irreplaceable refuge of ancient woodland associated fauna and flora.

### Opportunities & Constraints

There is an opportunity to re-engage active management of the stands to diversify the largely uniform age structure following significant periods of inactivity which have led to heavy shading and a likely loss of ground flora richness.

Due to the terrain and relative lack of suitable tracks, much of the site tends to be inaccessible. The majority of harvesting will involve extraction by winch making interventions more difficult and costly.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Increase in deer population leading to browsing of natural regeneration  
Increased pest and diseases notably ash dieback  
Damage from squirrels on young broadleaved trees

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

PAWS and ASNW areas will be managed seamlessly through a Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) approach utilising regular selective thinning interventions to create and maintain an irregular woodland structure with a diverse range of predominantly native broadleaved species supporting the highest levels of biodiversity. Sustainable deer populations will be maintained at levels enabling natural regeneration processes unimpeded by browsing. Temporary open space will be maintained through a network of rides and small glades promoting transitional woodland habitat and associated species. Existing veteran trees and future veterans of the future will be protected and actively managed for as part of the adopted silvicultural strategy through halo and selective thinning.

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

As part of a regular thinning programme, selectively thin/coppice understory within cpts 1a, 1c, 2a 2d and 3a areas removing approximately 20% basal area to open canopy, create more light reaching the ground to benefit woodland flora, diversify stand structure and provide natural regeneration opportunities

-Actively protect existing veteran and/or feature trees, veteran trees of the future by halo thinning around suppressed/threatened trees as part of the above process through selective thinning (1a, 1c, 2a, 2d and 3a)

-Increase and maintain level of deadwood as part of the above thinning operations (cpts 1a, 1c, 2a, 2d and 3a)

-In order to create and maintain temporary open/transitional woodland edge habitat, create and maintain 2 zone ride management along the main tracks separating cpts, initially by coppicing and felling trees back 3metres from the track edge, annually mowing track and track edges, develop cutting plan and re-coppice track rides back 3metres on cyclical basis covering whole network within the management plan period.

-Enhance existing track network to better enable harvesting activities by opening up historic track (boundary between 1a and 1c) currently suffering from neglect which has become largely inaccessible, scrape off turning area within western entrance for lorry access

-Maintain deer management across all ASNW and PAWS areas working with the Deer Initiative to co-ordinate activity and seek out opportunity for potential collaboration with neighbours and other landowners

-Develop deer management plan and maintain ongoing deer impact assessment

-Restock gaps created by previous conifer fellings (cpts 1d, 2c) with native broadleaved mix both to ensure compliance with felling licence conditions and to maintain long term canopy cover - ground preparation likely to include cutting and removing dense areas of bracken/bramble and future weeding to ensure establishment

### 5.3 Informal Public Access

#### Description

Mousecastle is an enjoyable woodland site to visit. The entrances display welcome/ownership signs but no interpretation panels. The trees are imposing and the motte and bailey castle worthy of exploration. Lack of parking and no circular walks mean it is not a regular visitor destination. Local residents visit regularly enough to report any issues and more adventurous people exploring the PROW network will visit on through walks. A great deal of local people know about and have visited the wood, but on a very infrequent basis. The permissive and PROW are kept clear with annual mowing and entrances are kept signed and maintained.

Footpaths can be slippery and muddy, especially where they cross streams. The vegetation is managed by strimming rather than tractor mounted equipment so as to avoid regular vehicular damage to these wetter areas.

#### Significance

The Woodland Trust believes that everyone should recognise that trees and woods are an essential part of a healthy environment and that there should be a wood with open access close to everyone's home. We aim to achieve that through the provision of public access to Mousecastle Wood.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Lack of parking and circular routes.  
Steep paths and slippery/muddy terrain.

#### Factors Causing Change

Potential change in levels of visitor numbers  
Development of anti-social activity

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site will be managed to a high quality but low-key standard ensuring visitors feel safe and welcome to this wonderful wood. Management should avoid overly intrusive interpretation or access infrastructure.

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

Enhance current signage by ensuring compliance with current WT branding - refresh all signage on access points across the site  
 -All paths and access routes should be maintained to a high standard being regularly cut with any obstacles removed well away from the path/track edges - any informal non-permissive paths should be managed to discourage and prevent increased access and potential damage to sensitive flora  
 -Ride management should ensure increased light levels reaching the main tracks which will help to dry out current wet areas and improve the quality of access  
 -Other than for management purposes access should be pedestrians only

## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	September maintenance: 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate and avoiding concentrations of wild flowers; prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	30/09/18
2018	PE - Interpretation & Signage	For production of new WT branded signage.  3 x large welcome 2 x large exit 2 x small welcome 2 x small exit	31/10/18
2018	WMM - Ride Management	In order to create and maintain temporary open/transitional woodland edge habitat, create and maintain 2 zone ride management along the main track running NW>SE from main vehicle gate to junction where it becomes inaccessible for vehicles. Coppice all trees up to approx, 10-15cm dbh and clear all vegetation to ground level 3m back from track edge; cut/remove existing fallen logs/debris to enable future flailing operations 3m wide either side of main track.	31/10/18
2018	PE - Interpretation & Signage	For installation of new WT branded signage & fixtures/fittings:  3 x large welcome 2 x large exit 2 x small welcome 2 x small exit	01/11/18

2018	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Price for cutting clearing and making safe the 2 windblown trees and repair of fence	14/12/18
2019	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Tree surgery and step repair as per quote 3354	28/02/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	May/June maintenance (consult with SM regarding Hay Festival): 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate and avoiding concentrations of wild flowers (inc new path); prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	23/05/19
2019	WMM - General Site Management	For mechanical scraping of the turning/stacking area at the western vehicle entrance to facilitate forestry lorry access.	30/06/19
2019	WMM - Ride Management	Preparation of roading feasibility for Mousecastle Wood. Figures based on PRM estimate number: E03.	30/06/19

2019	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	<p>As part of a regular thinning programme, selectively thin/coppice understory within cpts 1a, 1c, 2a 2d and 3a areas removing approximately 20% basal area to open canopy, create more light reaching the ground to benefit woodland flora, diversify stand structure and provide natural regeneration opportunities</p> <p>-Actively protect existing veteran and/or feature trees, veteran trees of the future by halo thinning around suppressed/threatened trees as part of the above process through selective thinning (1a, 1c, 2a, 2d and 3a)</p> <p>-Increase and maintain level of deadwood as part of the above thinning operations (cpts 1a, 1c, 2a, 2d and 3a)</p> <p>As part of thinning operation, coppice 3m either side of ride which separates cpts 1a &amp; 1b, from its junction with main east&gt;west ride, heading north-east to where it becomes inaccessible for vehicles.</p>	31/07/19
2019	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	<p>Coinciding with the 2019 site thinning, proactive ADB felling of all ash within safety zone-A + strike distance (2 x tree length). Constitutes pole-stage ash in north-western corner of site (cpt 1a).</p>	31/07/19
2019	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	<p>For second annual cut of bracken/bramble previously topped in June, to prepare area for supplementary planting in Jan'-March 2020.</p>	31/08/19

2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	September maintenance: 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate, inc new path; prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3)Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	25/09/19
2019	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Cut and remove dense areas of bracken/bramble from previously cleared/planted cpts 1d & 2c to prepare for Jan'-March 2020 supplementary planting of native broadleaf mix following 2019 thinning of other cpts. Mechanical or manual weeding around tubed stock in 1d & 2c, record beating up requirement and report to site manager.	30/09/19
2019	WMM - Ride Management	Flail/cut both sides of rides and ride edge whole length from western entrance as per ride map at least 1m back from the edge of the track on the banks	01/10/19
2020	WMM - General Site Management	Removal of all tree guards, shelters and stakes from planted areas. Details to be mapped and provided by site manager.	28/02/20
2020	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Maintain monument visibility within its woodland setting by managing vegetation growth, continue yearly cutting of vegetation and coppicing on summit and sides of the Motte, Bailey and Ramparts (cpt 1e and 1f) portion of the Scheduled Monument. All arisings to be removed from SAM and disappeared into woodland.	28/02/20

2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	May/June maintenance (consult with SM regarding Hay Festival): 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate and avoiding concentrations of wild flowers (inc new path); prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	01/06/20
2020	WMM - General Site Management	For mechanical scraping of the turning/stacking area at the western vehicle entrance to facilitate forestry lorry access.	30/06/20
2020	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Halo thinning of selected veteran trees and future veterans. Felling to waste of marked trees - Site manager to provide maps showing locations.	31/07/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	September maintenance: 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate, inc new path; prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	25/09/20
2020	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	For second annual cut of bracken/bramble previously topped in June, to prepare area for supplementary planting in Jan'-March 2020.	30/09/20

2020	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Cut and remove dense areas of bracken/bramble from previously cleared/planted cpts 1d & 2c to prepare for Jan'-March 2020 supplementary planting of native broadleaf mix following 2019 thinning of other cpts. Mechanical or manual weeding around tubed stock in 1d & 2c, record beating up requirement and report to site manager.	30/09/20
2020	WMM - Ride Management	Flail/cut both sides of rides and ride edge whole length from western entrance as per ride map at least 1m back from the edge of the track on the banks	01/10/20
2020	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Proactive ADB felling to waste of all ash within safety zone-A + strike distance (2 x tree length). Constitutes pole-stage ash in north-western corner of site (cpt 1a).	30/11/20
2021	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Prevent damage to underground archaeology by limiting new root growth, coppicing understorey species within 1e and 1f that have colonised the outer ramparts and Bailey portion of the monument. Arisings to be removed from SAM and disappeared into surrounding woodland. Potential for volunteers to assist.	31/01/21
2021	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Restock gaps created by previous conifer fellings (cpts 1d, 2c / 0.85ha) with native broadleaved mix both to ensure compliance with felling licence conditions and to maintain long term canopy cover. Recommend 1000 stem/ha ~ 1600/ha (0.85ha = 850 ~ 1360 minus existing planted trees). Potential for volunteers to assist.	28/02/21
2021	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Maintain monument visibility within its woodland setting by managing vegetation growth, continue yearly cutting of vegetation on summit and sides of the Motte (cpt 1e and 1f) portion of the Scheduled Monument. All arisings to be removed from SAM and disappeared into woodland.	28/02/21

2021	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	For weeding around tubed stock in cpts 1d & 2c. Note of beating up requirement to be noted and forwarded to site manager.	31/05/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	May/June maintenance (consult with SM regarding Hay Festival): 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate and avoiding concentrations of wild flowers (inc new path); prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	01/06/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	September maintenance: 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate, inc new path; prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	25/09/21
2022	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Maintain monument visibility within its woodland setting by managing vegetation growth, continue yearly cutting of vegetation on summit and sides of the Motte (cpt 1e and 1f) portion of the Scheduled Monument. All arisings to be removed from SAM and disappeared into woodland.	28/02/22
2022	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	For weeding around tubed stock in cpts 1d & 2c. Note of beating up requirement to be noted and forwarded to site manager.	31/05/22

2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	May/June maintenance (consult with SM regarding Hay Festival): 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate and avoiding concentrations of wild flowers (inc new path); prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	01/06/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	September maintenance: 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate, inc new path; prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	25/09/22
2022	WMM - Ride Management	Maintain 2-zone ride management along the main track running east>west from main western vehicle gate to junction where it becomes inaccessible for vehicles. Coppice 3m either side of ride edges and cut vegetation to ground in same area.	31/10/22
2023	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Maintain monument visibility within its woodland setting by managing vegetation growth, continue yearly cutting of vegetation on summit and sides of the Motte (cpt 1e and 1f) portion of the Scheduled Monument. All arisings to be removed from SAM and disappeared into woodland.	28/02/23

2023	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	For weeding around tubed stock in cpts 1d & 2c. Note of beating up requirement to be noted and forwarded to site manager.	31/05/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	May/June maintenance (consult with SM regarding Hay Festival): 1) Cut centre of all paths marked yellow on EMC map to a width of 1-2m as appropriate and avoiding concentrations of wild flowers (inc new path); prune back any encroaching vegetation to above head height (spec. 2.1). 2) Clear vegetation from the timber stacking area indicated on the map. 3) Inspect, clean and repair (minor damage) as necessary all entrances, signage and site furniture (spec 1.1). 4) Collect and remove any litter (spec 2.13). 5) Report any issues to the site manager (spec. 5.2).	01/06/23

## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	2.84	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	High forest		Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

old 1a, 1b, 1c with PAWS area removed (now 1b)

North west corner boundary with the residential property adjoining, formerly planted with Norway spruce that was cleared in 1986 (under BWGS 3/8/1028). Replanted with Sessile oak and sweet chestnut in 1987 this subsequent planting has been badly damaged by squirrels. The area freely regenerated (birch and goat willow) through the establishment phase and some clearing of natural regeneration was completed through strimming to favour planted species. Coppice natural regeneration has also been badly squirrel damaged. Bracken, creeping soft-grass, honeysuckle and bramble dominate the tall field layer that has developed below the rather open, shrubby canopy.

Area north of main entrance -

Entered by the main (western) management access point, just inside the boundary is a small turning area (30x30metres) that is adequate to turn articulated vehicles. Moist base rich soil over gently sloping ground with a westerly aspect. The tree canopy comprises mature sessile/pendunculate oak which covers 70% of the compartment area. Larch removed in spring 2001 has left an area circa 0.3Ha of open ground that will support viable natural regeneration or planted stock at >1100 stems/Ha by 2006. Shrub layer is dominated by hazel with occasional yew, rowan, hawthorn and holly. The field layer is dominated by community NVC W10a constants bramble, bracken and honeysuckle. Prior to Larch removal the ground flora over PAWS was densely covered with bramble. The spring flowering bluebell is scattered throughout.

Area east of 1b, - moist base rich soil over sloping ground with a westerly aspect. The tree canopy comprises mature sessile/pendunculate oak which covers 70% of the compartment area. Occasional Beech and sweet chestnut can be found. The northern area towards the water course boundary gully supports no real tree cover. This area is approximately 0.15Ha and is thought to have been cleared for planting at the same time as the Norway spruce crop in the NW corner. Either planting was not carried out or planting died the result is the area has been slow to regenerate trees naturally and provides a welcome open glade within the woodland. Shrub layer is dominated by hazel with occasional yew, rowan, hawthorn and holly. The field layer is dominated by community NVC W10a constants bramble, bracken and honeysuckle. Other species typical of W10a woodland include broad-buckler fern, male fern, yellow archangel, creeping soft-grass and wood millet. The spring flowering bluebell is scattered throughout 1C. The southern internal boundary of 1a is made up of the main management access track and the PAWS classified area of 1b.

1b	0.42	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest		Informal Public Access	
Area identified as PAWS on AWI - as 1a but classified as PAWS - likely to include the area referred to concerning larch clearance							
1c	5.80	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest		Informal Public Access	
<p>Lower slopes- moist base rich soil over steeply sloping ground with a westerly aspect. The tree canopy comprises mature sessile/pedunculate oak which covers 70% of the compartment area. Occasional Beech and sweet chestnut can be found. Shrub layer is dominated by hazel with occasional yew, rowan, hawthorn and holly. The field layer is dominated by community NVC W10a constants bramble, bracken and honeysuckle. Other species typical of W10a woodland include broad-buckler fern, male fern, yellow archangel, creeping soft-grass and wood millet. The spring flowering bluebell is scattered throughout 1E. Small sections of 1E along the upper-sides of the management access route display NVC W7b communities. This vegetation type occurs along wet flushes associated along seepage lines or springs. Examples of pendulous sedge, dog's mercury, soft rush, remote sedge, tufted hair grass, bugle, creeping buttercup and herb robert can occur. short section of permissive path way running along its external eastern boundary and exiting at the pedestrian access point at SO248427.</p> <p>east of path - moist base rich soil over very steeply sloping ground with a westerly and southerly aspect. The tree canopy comprises mature sessile/pedunculate oak which covers 80% of the compartment area. Occasional Beech and sweet chestnut can be found. Shrub layer is dominated by particularly dense hazel on the steep south facing slopes indicating coppice management in the past. Hazel is complimented by occasional yew, rowan, hawthorn and holly. The field layer is dominated by community NVC W10a constants bramble, bracken and honeysuckle. Other species typical of W10a woodland include broad-buckler fern, male fern, yellow archangel, creeping soft-grass and wood millet. The bluebell is scattered throughout 1F. NVC W7b community type has been recorded around the small toofa forming spring on the PROW forming the south east boundary of 1c. This vegetation type is normally associated with wet flushes. Examples of pendulous sedge, dog's mercury, soft rush, remote sedge, tufted hair grass, bugle, creeping buttercup and herb robert can occur. The very upper slopes of 1F support NVC W8e. Here the canopy is a mixture of pedunculate oak, ash, pendulous birch and sycamore. Field maple, hazel, hawthorn and holly are common within the shrub layer. Spindle is associated with this vegetation type but is rare throughout the site, confined only to the external boundaries of 1F, 1G and 2B. There is a permissive footpath along much of the length of the external eastern boundary of 1c this enters at the secondary management access point (eastern boundary) at SO249424 that is served by two small wooden management gates. A PROW also enters at this location and forms the internal south eastern boundary of 1c</p>							
1d	0.35			High forest		Informal Public Access	

An area planted with Larch circa 1955 and removed in spring 2001. 1D is supported by a moist base rich soil over gently sloping ground with a southerly aspect. A sparse shrub layer is dominated by hazel stools. Bracken and bramble are very abundant, forming a tall dense species poor field layer. Greater stitchwort, yellow archangel, broad-leaved buckler fern, nettle, wood speedwell, bluebell and red campion are occasional. Scattered blue bell are present though light levels underneath vigorous vegetation must be prohibitive. The southern internal boundary of 1D is made up of the main management access track, there are no other maintained paths, tracks or access routes.

1e	0.13	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	High forest		Informal Public Access	Scheduled Ancient Monument
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is the inner ring of the designated Scheduled Monument and represented by the motte (raised area of ground 15m to 20m in diameter on summit and approx 50m in diameter around the base). The area is thus made of the steep sided banks and summit of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Scrub of naturally regenerating and locally typical broadleaves is developing on the steep banks of 1f. The occasional mature Oak and Ash are growing from within the steep sloped sides of the monument. The summit has been annually cleared and is dominated by bramble and scrub stumps. A management agreement for the preservation of the feature was agreed with English Heritage in 2011.

1f	0.58	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest		Informal Public Access	
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1f is the outer area of designated Scheduled Ancient Monument within the site. Mature oak dominates the tree canopy though the local transitions to NVC W8e (found on freely draining steep banks throughout site) result in an element of mature ash canopy trees. Local transitions to leached brown earths lead to an increase in the frequency of great wood-rush but bracken and bramble still dominate the W10a community. There are a number of permissive routes through and around 1f. Only the route to the south of the monument is maintained by annual clearance, visitors create other routes (notably following the northern boundary).

2a	3.80	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest		Informal Public Access	
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Previously 2a and 2b mostly  
 Northern area - moist base rich soil over gently sloping ground with a south westerly aspect. mature sessile/pedunculate oak which covers 50% of the compartment area. A conifer element (larch and Scots pine) has been retained along the external boundary of 2A/2d to maintain the character and appearance of this visible boundary edge. Shrub layer is dominated by hazel with occasional wych elm. Community NVC W10a constants bramble, bracken and honeysuckle dominate the field layer. The planting of Larch has had a detrimental effect on ground flora diversity; bluebells are scattered throughout but there is a noticeable absence of other herbs throughout much of 2A. The main management access route through the site creates the northern internal boundary of 2A. There are no other maintained paths, tracks or access routes.

southern area (below 2b) is supported by a moist base rich soil over sloping ground with a south westerly aspect. The tree canopy comprises mature sessile/pedunculate oak which covers 70% of the compartment area. Shrub layer is dominated by hazel with occasional yew, rowan, hawthorn and holly. The field layer is dominated by community NVC W10a constants bramble, bracken and honeysuckle. Other species typical of W10a woodland include broad-buckler fern, male fern, yellow archangel, creeping soft-grass and wood millet. Bluebell can be found scattered throughout the body of the site. Spindle is associated with this vegetation type but is rare throughout the site, confined only to the external boundaries. The PROW that enters the site at SO245423 makes the easterly internal boundary of 2a.

2b	1.15	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest		Informal Public Access	
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PAWS area according to AWI as 2a likely to include: Much of the area was planted with Larch in circa 1955 and this was removed in spring 2001 (likely forming 2b). Open areas formerly under larch canopy cover circa 0.7Ha. Vigorous ground vegetation has spread quickly since larch removal. May not align with classification.

2c	0.50			High forest		Informal Public Access	
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An area planted with Larch circa 1955 and removed in spring 2001. 2C is supported by a moist base rich soil over gently sloping ground with a southerly aspect. A sparse shrub layer is dominated by hazel stools. Bracken and bramble are very abundant, forming a tall dense species poor field layer. Greater stitchwort, yellow archangel, broad-leaved buckler fern, nettle, wood speedwell, bluebell and red campion are occasional. Scattered blue bell are present though light levels underneath vigorous vegetation must be prohibitive. The northern internal boundary of 2C is created by the main management access track

2d	1.51	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest		Informal Public Access	
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part of 2a and 2b - PAWS area according to AWI - as 2a in addition a small tract of woodland on the external boundary in the south west corner has been recorded as NVC W8e.(2d) Here the canopy is a mixture of pedunculate oak, ash, pendulous birch and sycamore. Field maple, hazel, hawthorn and holly are common within the shrub layer.

3a	4.17	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest		Informal Public Access	
<p>3A is predominately supported by a moist base rich soil over sloping to steeply sloping ground with a south easterly aspect. 3A has been crown thinned in 1988 to let light onto the canopy floor for regeneration purposes. This prescription seems to have worked as the shrub layer is on the whole more advanced than other areas of the site and it is possible to find occasional oak regeneration. The tree canopy comprises mature sessile/pendunculate oak which covers 70% of the compartment area. Occasional Beech and sweet chestnut can be found. Shrub layer is dominated by hazel with occasional yew, rowan, hawthorn and holly. The field layer is dominated by community NVC W10a constants bramble, bracken and honeysuckle. Other species typical of W10a woodland include broad-buckler fern, male fern, yellow archangel, creeping soft-grass and wood millet. The spring flowering bluebell is scattered throughout. NVC W7b communities have been recorded along the PROW forming the internal boundary of 3A. This vegetation type occurs along wet flushes associated along seepage lines or springs. Examples of pendulous sedge, dog's mercury, soft rush, remote sedge, tufted hair grass, bugle, creeping buttercup and herb robert can occur. There is also a small area of NVC type W8e on the boundary of the compartment to the south of the secondary management access point SO249424. Here field maple appears in the shrub layer and ash helps to form a more mixed broadleaf canopy. The PROW that enters the site at SO245423 forms the internal boundary of 3A in part and then cuts through the compartment to exit on the eastern boundary at SO249423.</p>							

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	2.84	20	56
2020	1c	Thin	5.80	21	120
2020	2a	Thin	3.80	21	80
2020	2d	Thin	1.51	20	30
2020	3a	Thin	4.17	24	100

## 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. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

## **Windblow/Windthrow**

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