



New Moss Wood

Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 or contact the Woodland Trust (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.

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. 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.

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

Site name:	New Moss Wood
Location:	Cadishead
Grid reference:	SJ701931, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 109
Area:	30.79 hectares (76.08 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Green Belt, Special Area of Conservation

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

The native woodland was planted in 1998/99 and is part of the Red Rose Forest. It provides an interesting contrast with the surrounding cultivated flat, farmed landscape and supports a wide range of plants and wildlife, including many bird and butterfly species. There is an extensive network of unsurfaced footpaths that cross the site, with a public car park on Moss Road.

2.2 Extended Description

New Moss Wood is located on the outskirts of Cadishead and Irlam in the borough of Salford, Greater Manchester and is about 5 miles east of Warrington. The site is new native woodland created in 1998/99 and is within the Manchester City of Trees Community Forest area (formerly called the Red Rose Forest). It provides an interesting contrast with the surrounding cultivated flat, farmed landscape and supports a wide range of plants and wildlife.

The underlying substrate of the area is peat and originally there was 2,650 hectares lowland raised bog covering the overall area now known as Chat Moss. Over the last few hundred years most of this habitat has been lost through development, farming and peat extraction. There are remnants of relatively undamaged deep peat in the local landscape and restoration of bog habitat is underway at several sites including Little Woolden Moss and Chat Moss.

The site was previously used for market gardening to grow lettuce, celery, cereal crops and potatoes and was known as Ellesmere Farm from 1908. The family farm also kept hens, pigs and shire horses and were in fact the first to have a motorized wagon on the mossland. Farming activities ceased on the site around 1990 prior to the Woodland Trust purchasing the land in 1996.

New native woodland is a key feature and covers approximately 70% of the site. It was planted in 1998/99 with a mix of native broadleaves (silver birch, downy birch, oak, willow, alder, ash, wild cherry and hazel) and some open areas left to develop through natural succession by silver birch, willow and alder. The composition of tree species varies with the north section being much more scrubby with willow, oak and birch compared to the south section which is made up of higher canopy trees, mainly birch, oak, ash, alder and cherry.

Approximately 30% of the site was kept as open ground habitat (another key feature) which is dominated by nettles, rosebay willowherb, dock, thistles, bramble, grasses and Himalayan Balsam which occurs in abundance in the north section.

There is a network of old drainage ditches criss-crossing the site which are now drying up and becoming overgrown with vegetation and scrub.

The site supports a range of wildlife from woodland bird species (including a breeding pair of willow tits), small mammals (bank vole, field vole and wood mouse), butterflies, moths and insects. In March 2019 three small ponds were dug and old drains/ ditches blocked in a part of the site to retain more water and create new wetland habitat, funded by Natural England.

New Moss Wood offers considerable potential to enhance existing and create new wildlife habitats. The Woodland Trust is currently working in partnership with The Carbon Landscape Partnership, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Salford City Council to seek funding to improve biodiversity and visitor access/ interpretation on the site.

Informal public access is another key feature of the site and there is an extensive network of nearly 4km of permissive footpaths across the site which is used mainly by local dog walkers. The paths are not surfaced and sections can become muddy in the winter. There are two public access points from Moss Road, one of which has a small car park and is the main entrance to the site with a visitor information board.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By car: From Manchester, take the A57 Regent Road and join the M602. After 6.5km (four miles), keep left at the Eccles Interchange and take the M60 to Manchester Airport. At junction 11, take the A57 to Irlam and follow Liverpool Road for 6.5km (four miles). At the next roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto the B5471 Brinell Drive. Turn left at the next junction onto Liverpool Road followed by a right onto New Moss Road. Follow this road for about 1km (0.5mile) passing over a railway bridge onto Moss Road, which is an unsurfaced, rough track and continue along the road for another 1km (0.5mile) past several houses and farms until you come to the main entrance and car park for New Moss Wood on the left-hand side. The car park at the entrance to the site has space for around ten cars.

From Warrington/ M6 Junction 21, take the A57 (Manchester Road) signposted for Salford/ Manchester. After about 6km (3.5 miles) turn left for Cadishead onto Liverpool Road and follow this for around 1.6km (one mile), until you pass under the railway bridge, then turn left onto New Moss Road. Follow this road for about 1km (0.5mile) passing over a railway bridge onto Moss Road, which is an unsurfaced, rough track and continue along the road for another 1km (0.5mile) past several houses and farms until you come to the main entrance and car park for New Moss Wood on the left-hand side. The car park at the entrance to the site has space for around ten cars.

By bus: Cadishead bus stops, nos. 67 and 100 from Transport for Greater Manchester in Cadishead on Liverpool Road, by the George Hotel. It is about 15 minutes to walk to the wood, along New Moss Road to Moss Road.

By train: the nearest train station is at Irlam, on Station Road, about 25 minutes' walk to the wood, along Liverpool Road, turning right onto New Moss Road to Moss Road.

For up-to-date information on public transport, visit traveline.info; or telephone 0871 200 22 33.

3.2 Access / Walks

There are two public access points to the site from Moss Road, both entrances are open pedestrian access with vehicle management access gates to the side. The site is flat throughout with a network of grass footpaths around the entire site which can become muddy in winter. There is an extensive network of drainage ditches across the site and in two locations there are wooden footbridges where the footpaths cross over large drainage ditches.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention for New Moss Wood is to manage the site as a high forest of native broadleaves with a mosaic of other habitats including areas of scrub, open ground, ponds, ditches and seasonal wet scrapes to provide a conservation and amenity feature within the local landscape.

Guided by the Woodland Trust's woodland management approach, the long term management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The key drivers for management operations will be for public safety, visitor access and nature conservation. Woodland biodiversity will be enhanced by retaining standing and fallen deadwood where safe to do so. Silvicultural intervention through thinning operations will be undertaken to create a more diverse woodland structure and to ensure the site is resilient to future threats such as tree disease and climate change.

Non-woodland habitats such as open ground areas, ditches, ponds and seasonal wet scrapes will be managed to enhance the biodiversity value of the site. Path rides will be maintained through regular annual mowing and a cyclical programme of ride edge coppicing to maintain sight lines, increase sunlight reaching the ground and to create a more diverse woodland ride edge structure. Ditches will be maintained where there is a legal obligation to keep them open for drainage and water flow.

Working in partnership with The Carbon Landscape Partnership/ Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Salford City Council we will seek funding to improve the site for biodiversity and visitor access/ interpretation, including the creation of ponds and wetland areas, restoring and re-profiling some ditches, and creating an area of raised peat bog.

The existing level of public access with nearly 4km of grass footpaths and access infrastructure including the car park will be maintained in the long term. The Trust's duty of care to neighbours and visitors will continue to be addressed through on-going tree safety and site risk assessment inspections.

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 Informal Public Access

Description

There is approximately 4km of unsurfaced grass path rides with two public access/ management access points into the site on the eastern boundary from Moss Road. There are two wooden footbridges next to the western boundary where the footpath crosses over ditches. A small car park off Moss Road is owned by the Woodland Trust and has space for 10 cars. Moss Road is an unadopted road but is a PROW (Bridleway).

Significance

Increasing access to and enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes and the informal network of footpaths provided at the wood provides opportunities for quiet informal recreation for local people from Cadishead and Irlam. Prior to Woodland Trust ownership there was no public access to this land.

The wood is a prominent landscape and amenity feature within a flat, agricultural landscape. It is part of the Manchester City of Trees (previously Red Rose Community Forest).

Opportunities & Constraints

The ground and soil conditions of the local area (peaty soils, seasonally wet ground) can result in waterlogged/ muddy paths particularly in winter, which is a constraint to vehicle access to carry out management work at these times.

The cost of constructing & maintaining hard surfaced paths would be prohibitive.

The ground conditions makes the site unsuitable for horse access.

Factors Causing Change

Rapid annual vegetation growth along that path rides can result in them becoming overgrown by tall herbage such as nettles, thistles, willow herb, etc.

In the past horses and motorbikes have used the footpaths which has caused damage due to the soft ground conditions, but currently this is not a problem.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term objective is to maintain public access at the current level with 4km of informal footpaths, two access points and car park.

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.

Public use of the site will be monitored during the plan period to identify if there any issues and appropriate measures taken where necessary.

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

During the current plan period the short term objectives are to:

- Mow the grass path rides 4 times a year. Clear litter and fly tipping two times a year.
- Inspect and maintain entrances, the car park and on site access infrastructure (signs, info panel, gates, bridges) annually.
- 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 the condition of the footpath and access infrastructure once during the plan period to assess whether the current access provision is adequate, identify any issues or threats from public use of the wood, and take appropriate action to address them if necessary.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

Approximately 10 ha of the site was planted in 1997/98 mostly with Willow, Alder, Birch but with some Oak, Ash and Cherry. There is also approximately 9ha of naturally regenerating scrub woodland predominately Sallow (Goat Willow) and Birch. In 2011 an area of approximately 0.5ha was planted with trees in the north east corner of the site to encourage more trees to develop in this area where trees had failed to grow from the original planting.

Significance

The woodland is a notable feature in the surrounding flat, largely agricultural landscape. It provides a visual amenity and important publicly accessible open space for local people living in the nearby towns of Cadishead and Irlam, on the edge of the Greater Manchester conurbation. The new woodland along with the other habitats on site are an important refuge for wildlife in the local landscape. The areas of wet willow scrub, both planted and natural regeneration, support richer assemblages of moths and other insects than any other species except oak.

Opportunities & Constraints

Good opportunity for the development of natural woodland succession and the consequent changes in associated habitat, flora and fauna across the site. The surrounding land use is predominantly farming which limits opportunities for the movement of biodiversity to and from the site in the wider landscape.

Factors Causing Change

The growth of the young trees will lead to canopy closure overtime, and appropriate woodland management intervention will be required. The development and encroachment of scrub along rides is leading to the loss of open ground areas. Ash dieback is likely to result in the loss of a significant proportion of trees, but may also provide opportunities for natural regeneration of other species. Himalayan balsam is now well established in the northern section and if not controlled will spread further into the wood. Future house building developments in the local area may have a direct or indirect impact on the wood and other nearby habitats.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term aim is to establish a high forest canopy of mixed native broadleaves with diverse structure (in terms of age/size/species composition), shrub and ground layers. The amount of dead wood, both fallen and standing, will increase overtime to enhance biodiversity habitat particularly for invertebrates and birds. The wood will require management intervention to manage threats such as tree disease (particularly ash dieback), but where possible it will be left to develop naturally and succession promoted through natural regeneration. The site will contain a mosaic of habitats including scrub, open ground, wetland (ponds, ditches, scrapes) to enhance biodiversity. Threats from non-native species such as Himalayan balsam will be controlled where it is practicable and achievable.

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

During the current plan period the short term objectives are to:

-undertake a programme of himalayan balsam control between 2019 and 2022 to reduce the invasive area, and to allow the development of a robust ground flora. Concentrating on the wetland areas and the ride edges.

-undertake a thinning operation to restructure the woodland in 2022.

-carry out coppicing in 2023 along path ride edges to improve sightlines for public access and restructure woodland edges to enhance biodiversity.

-to undertake a general woodland condition assessment once during the plan period to monitor the health and resilience of the wood to identify any threats from tree diseases, pests, mammals or people.

5.3 Open Ground Habitat

Description

Approximately 40% of the site (12.3 ha) is open ground, mainly along the northern and eastern boundaries and the south east corner with smaller areas throughout the site. The rich peaty soils has resulted in rapid growth of mainly coarse vegetation in these areas. The vegetation is a mixture of acidic grassland and tall herb species typical of disturbed ground (thistle, nettles, dock and willow herb being dominant) with Himalayan balsam beginning to spread on site.

Large areas of open ground were retained following the community consultation at the time of acquisition of the site when it was highlighted that the open ground areas were used by ground nesting birds, particularly skylark and lapwing, and to keep an open buffer zone between the woodland and neighbouring properties.

Significance

The landscape is predominantly agricultural farmland interspersed with towns and villages with limited spaces managed as wildlife habitats meaning that areas such as New Moss Wood are important for wildlife in the local area. The unmanaged open ground areas and transitional zones on the site, along with the new woodland areas provide a mosaic of habitats which enhances the biodiversity value of the site. There have been sightings of ground nesting birds including lapwings and skylarks using the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Some open ground areas can be left to succession through natural regeneration to become areas of scrub habitat.

Working in partnership with The Carbon Landscape Partnership/ Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Salford City Council to develop a biodiversity and access project to deliver biodiversity improvements including: the creation of more ponds and wetland areas, restoring and re-profiling some ditches, creating an area of raised peat bog (subject to securing grant funding).

Factors Causing Change

Growth of young trees; development of scrub on open ground; competition and dominance of coarse vegetation weeds (thistle, dock, nettle, willow herb); spread of Himalayan balsam.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In the long term, the site will have a mosaic of non-woodland habitats including open ground areas, ditches, ponds and seasonal wet scrapes. These will be managed to enhance the biodiversity value of the site. Path rides will be maintained through regular annual mowing and a cyclical programme of ride edge coppicing to maintain sight lines, increase sunlight reaching the ground and to create a more diverse woodland ride edge structure. Ditches will be maintained where there is a legal obligation to keep them open for drainage and water flow.

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

During the current plan period the short term objectives are to:

- mow areas of open ground annually (at the end of summer after nesting season to avoid disturbance to any ground nesting birds).
- submit funding applications by the end of 2019 to deliver biodiversity habitat enhancements through the creation of new wildlife habitats including ponds, wetlands and seasonal wet scrapes.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/07/19
2019	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Remove Himalayan balsam growing on site, focusing on area marked on map.	31/07/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Additional path cut to cut all paths and rides to 6m width where possible. Where Himalayan balsam is growing next to paths, strim all balsam.	31/07/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Rides highlighted on map are to be cut to full width. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/08/19
2019	NWH - Maintenance Work	Cut all open ground areas across the site.	30/09/19
2019	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	30/10/19
2019	WC - Site Maintenance	Tree guard removal and disposal. 5 days including cost of disposal. If any days left over they can be used for coppicing trees - location to be agreed with site manager.	31/10/19
2019	WMM - General Site Management	Ditch maintenance - strim vegetation/ clear trees along ditch lines.	31/10/19
2019	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Contribution towards the maintenance of Moss Road for access to New Moss Wood.	31/12/19
2020	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect safety fencing, culverts & bridges at ditch crossings and report on condition.	31/03/20
2020	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	31/03/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park perimeter to maintain visibility. Entrance maintenance.	31/05/20

2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	30/06/20
2020	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Remove Himalayan balsam growing on site.	10/07/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/07/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Rides highlighted on map are to be cut to full width. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/08/20
2020	WMM - General Site Management	Repair post and wire/stock fencing on northern boundary and replace rotten posts.	31/08/20
2020	NWH - Maintenance Work	Cut to mulch the open ground areas marked on map.	30/09/20
2020	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	30/10/20
2020	WMM - General Site Management	Ditch maintenance - strim vegetation/ clear trees along ditch lines.	31/10/20
2020	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Access improvements as part of Mossland Gateway project, including car park resurfacing/ enlargement work, new signage/ access work, new information boards. May include adventure trail signs/posts and gateway art features for entrances, Funding from Salford CC/ Carbon Landscape HLF, although some elements of this may be funded by a separate grant application by Carbon Landscape.	31/12/20
2020	NWH - Initial Creation Work	Biodiversity enhancement project in partnership with Carbon Landscape and Natural England. Project requires funding with an application being submitted to Enover Landfill by end of August 2019.	31/12/20

2020	NWH - Initial Creation Work	Habitat creation work (peat bog creation) with funding from Salford CC S106.	31/12/20
2020	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Contribution towards the maintenance of Moss Road for access to New Moss Wood.	31/12/20
2021	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	31/03/21
2021	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect safety fencing, culverts & bridges at ditch crossings and report on condition.	31/03/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park perimeter to maintain visibility. Entrance maintenance.	31/05/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	30/06/21
2021	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Remove Himalayan balsam growing on site.	10/07/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/07/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Rides highlighted on map are to be cut to full width. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/08/21
2021	NWH - Maintenance Work	Cut to mulch the open ground areas marked on map.	30/09/21
2021	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	30/10/21
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Ditch maintenance - strim vegetation/ clear trees along ditch lines.	31/10/21
2022	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	31/03/22
2022	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect safety fencing, culverts & bridges at ditch crossings and report on condition.	31/03/22

2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park perimeter to maintain visibility. Entrance maintenance.	31/05/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	30/06/22
2022	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Remove Himalayan balsam growing on site.	10/07/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/07/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Rides highlighted on map are to be cut to full width. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/08/22
2022	NWH - Maintenance Work	Cut to mulch the open ground areas marked on map.	30/09/22
2022	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	30/10/22
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Ditch maintenance - strim vegetation/ clear trees along ditch lines.	31/10/22
2022	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Contribution towards the maintenance of Moss Road for access to New Moss Wood.	31/12/22
2022	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Thinning work for long term stand stability to diversify woodland structure, age/ species mix and encourage natural regeneration. All marked trees to be felled to ground level, brush to be chipped on site & timber extracted. To be done as part of a Cheshire/ NW woods thinning contract. Note: Access only available via railway road bridge - need to confirm weight limit of bridge over railway.	31/12/22

2023	WMM - Ride Management	Coppicing to widen and open up rides and increase light levels. Arisings to be chipped on site. This work may be tied in with the thinning work scheduled for 2021/22 so may not be required.	28/02/23
2023	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect safety fencing, culverts & bridges at ditch crossings and report on condition.	31/03/23
2023	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	31/03/23
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Replace fencing & gates at main entrance and second entrance.	30/04/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park perimeter to maintain visibility. Entrance maintenance.	31/05/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	30/06/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/07/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Rides highlighted on map are to be cut to full width. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	31/08/23
2023	NWH - Maintenance Work	Cut to mulch the open ground areas marked on map.	30/09/23
2023	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	30/10/23
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Ditch maintenance - strim vegetation/ clear trees along ditch lines.	31/10/23
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Maintenance work on ditches to keep clear for water flow (refer to map for location of ditches requiring clearance of vegetation). (Need EIA for water voles.)	30/11/23

2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	ASH - Tree safety work for ash dieback focusing next to footpaths.	31/12/23
2023	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Contribution towards the maintenance of Moss Road for access to New Moss Wood.	31/12/23
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter and fly tipping clearance across whole site including car park.	31/03/24
2024	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect safety fencing, culverts & bridges at ditch crossings and report on condition.	31/03/24
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park perimeter to maintain visibility. Entrance maintenance.	31/05/24
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut all paths and rides to 3m wide. Entrance maintenance. Strim around fences by path ditch crossings and around car park fence. Entrance maintenance.	30/06/24
2024	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Replace 2x footbridges with concrete culverts topped with stone to improve access for visitors and also to be suitable for vehicles to drive over.	30/06/24

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	30.47	Birch (downy/silver)	1998	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Special Area of Conservation

The compartment is roughly rectangular shaped, approximately 600m x 500m in size. It is flat and low lying with deep peat soils which can become wet in the winter after prolonged periods of heavy rainfall. To the west and north of the wood is grassland and horse paddocks, separated from the site by a deep drainage ditch. The southern boundary is fenced alongside a railway line and the eastern boundary has another deep drainage ditch alongside Moss Road. There is an extensive network of drainage ditches across the site which have not been maintained for many years and are mostly dry and overgrown with scrub and vegetation.

The site had some existing natural regeneration, mostly willow scrub, and was planted in 1997/98 predominantly with NVC Type 2 species (birch, willow, alder, ash and oak). Woodland cover is approximately 80-85% with the remaining 15-20% left as open ground including some wide grass path rides. The areas retained as open ground arose from the community consultation at the time of acquisition when it was highlighted that some areas of open ground were used by ground nesting birds, particularly skylark and lapwing. In addition the open ground was left to form a buffer zone between the woodland and neighbouring properties. The open ground vegetation is a mixture of acidic grassland and tall herb species typical of disturbed ground (thistle, nettles, dock and willow herb being dominant). Most of this is being left to succeed to scrub through natural regeneration and small numbers of trees are beginning to establish here, mostly willow and birch. Heavy weed competition has led to difficulties in scrub and regeneration becoming established in some areas. In 2011, 0.5ha of new planting was carried in the north east corner of the site to encourage more trees to develop in this area.

There is an extensive network of wide footpaths with wide rides across the site and two public access points and a car park from Moss Road.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2022	1a	Thin	14.00	8	110
2023	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	4	2
2035	1a	Thin	14.00	7	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.