



Spud Wood

Management Plan 2015-2020

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Secondary Woodland	
5.3 Open Ground Habitat	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)	
Glossary	
MAPS	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Spud Wood
Location:	Lymm
Grid reference:	SJ701871, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 109
Area:	17.22 hectares (42.55 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Spud Wood is a thriving mix of broadleaf woodland and grassland meadow with abundant birdlife and wonderful views over the surrounding area, stretching to the Pennines in the east. The wood is bordered by the historic Bridgewater Canal - a great place to wander along the bank, watch the boats and perhaps catch sight of a kingfisher.

2.2 Extended Description

Spud Wood is a 17.27ha woodland creation site that was planted in 1997/98 on former arable farmland used for growing potatoes, hence the name. It is located on the edge of the village of Oughtrington, about a mile to the east of Lymm in Cheshire. The local landscape is predominantly flat, low-lying with the main land use arable farmland with hedgerows and small wooded copses. The wood lies adjacent to farmland and Helsdale Wood to the south, the Bridgewater Canal to the north and roads adjacent to the western and eastern boundaries.

The site was purchased from Cheshire County Council in 1997 and was designed, named and planted with the help of the local community as part to the Woodland Trusts millennium project "Woods On Your Doorstep" (WOYD). The site has a slight gradient with a northerly aspect that affords views across Warrington & Greater Manchester towards Winter Hill and the Pennines to the east. The soils on the site prior to Trust ownership were subject to intensive cultivation and have a high sand content derived from the sandstone substrate. This makes the site mostly free draining but variable in places of high silt content.

Spud Wood is now well established as a secondary broadleaved woodland which his a key feature for the site. Approximately 55% of the site was planted with native broadleaf trees (Oak, Ash, Birch and Rowan, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple and Holly) and the remaining 45% of the site was seeded with a low vigour fescue grass mix and left as open ground and wide grass rides for public access, which are both key features of the site. There is a small pond/ wetland area in the south eastern corner of the site. With the exception of approximately 900m of boundary hedge and some semi-mature trees and herbage located along Helsdale Brook and the site boundary on Buford Lane all the vegetation on site has been introduced as part of the woodland creation project.

The site is close to a number of established wildlife habitats and corridors including three mature woodlands, the largest of which Helsdale Wood is Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW). Helsdale Brook runs through the wood and passes through Spud Wood before it goes into a culvert. Lower Helsdale Wood contains a number of ponds close to Spud Wood.

Spud Wood is very well used by local people due to its proximity to the town of Lymm, less than a mile away. There is a car park on Stage Lane on the northern boundary of sub-compartment 1A which is linked to the main part of the site over the Bridgewater Canal via a canal bridge and surfaced footpath. There is a network of 2 km of permissive grass footpaths around the site and the canal provides a links to the wider countryside in the area. The wood lies within the Mersey Forest area.

The historically important Bridgewater Canal runs along the northern boundary of the site and acts as a wildlife corridor as well as being a very well used recreational route which links the site to nearby Dunham Massey and Lymm Dam. Along the boundary with Burford Lane there is a culvert for Helsdale Brook where it goes under the canal and a roadside retaining wall both of which are within the Woodland Trust's ownership. Helsdale Brook is crossed on site by a wooden pedestrian footbridge constructed in 1999 and further downstream by a management track/ footpath where the stream enters a culvert.

There is a group of local volunteers called the Friends of Spud Wood who work closely with the Trust to manage and care for the site. The group have a licence with the Trust to manage part of the site for wood allotments which allows local people to get involved in the management of the wood and get some firewood in return

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By bus:

The nearest bus stop is on Stage Lane to the west of the main entrance. It is then a ten-minute walk to the wood.

By train:

Warrington's Bank Quay and Central railway stations are just under 8km (five miles) away.

For up-to-date information on public transport, visit traveline.org.uk or telephone 0871 200 2233.

By car:

Follow the M6 to junction 21 then take the A57 towards Manchester. Turn right at Warburton Bridge Road (B5159) and head towards Lymm, turning right when you reach the A6144. Before you reach Lymm centre, turn left down Sandy Lane (opposite a large white house). When the road swings to the right, turn left onto Stage Lane. The car park is on the right after the houses.

3.2 Access / Walks

The main entrance is from Stage Lane to the north, where there is a 10-space car park leading to a surfaced footpath which crosses Grantham's Bridge over the Bridgewater Canal into the woodland. The site has 2km of unsurfaced paths accessed through four pedestrian entrance points with either metal kissing gates or squeeze stiles. Entrances are on Oughtrington Lane and Burford Lane, and there is an unofficial access point on the southern boundary from Helsdale Wood via a well-worn footpath. There is a wooden footbridge with two small flights of steps crossing Helsdale Brook.

The wood is linked to the wider countryside and a network of public footpaths via the Bridgewater Canal. The 22-mile way-marked Mersey Valley Timberland Trail starts at the car park. You can also enjoy a canal-side walk from Spud Wood to Lymm Village centre before returning on part of the Trans-Pennine Trail. The village of Dunham Massey, with its 17th century Dunham Massey Hall, is around an hour's walk alongside the canal.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention for Spud Wood is to create a mixed broadleaved woodland with a diverse species and age composition. It will be managed as high forest, primarily as a recreational and landscape feature. The new woodland will be allowed to develop by natural processes where possible, but intervention in the form of thinning and coppicing may be necessary in order to diversify the species mix, age and structure as the wood matures. In the long term the site should contain an increasing volume of dead wood, both standing and fallen, which serve as important habitat for invertebrates.

The key drivers for any woodland operations will be for public access, tree safety and to promote a more diverse and resilient woodland for the future capable of withstanding pressures from climate change, pests and diseases.

Path ride edges will be managed to develop a graduated woodland edge structure to maintain sight lines for visitors and to benefit biodiversity. The grassland areas will be managed to retain the mix of open ground and transitional scrub habitat. The small pond will be left to minimal intervention unless necessary to maintain it as a conservation feature.

Public access will be maintained at current levels to provide safe enjoyable access for visitors with approximately 2 km of permissive grass unsurfaced footpaths and four public access points, signs, benches, footbridge and the car park.

The local community and volunteers will be encouraged to get involved in helping care for the woodland, primarily through the involvement of the Friends of Spud Wood group.

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

Spud Wood is very well used particularly by local people for dog walking. There is approximately 2 kms of unsurfaced grass footpaths with 4 pedestrian access/ management access points and a small car park (tarmac surface) with space for about 10 cars on Stage Lane. An unofficial access point enters the site on the southern boundary from Helsdale Wood via a well worn footpath through the wood (not a Public right of way) that has been used for many years. Pedestrian access is also available from the adjoining Bridgewater Canal towpath by crossing over the canal bridge near to the car park.

Significance

The site was created as a community woodland through the Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) project and allowed the public to walk on this land for the first time. It is close to the town of Lymm and provides a popular and well used site for local people to enjoy. The wood is linked to the wider countryside public footpath network, the Bridgewater Canal and it is the starting point for the 22 mile Mersey Valley Timberland Trail which goes to Runcorn.

Opportunities & Constraints

The popularity of the site means that in winter especially some of the footpaths become muddy, however visitor surveys have shown that visitors do not want the paths to be surfaced. The paths will need to be monitored to see if future surfacing work is required. The small size of the car park means it is often full and an adjacent grassed area may need to be used as an overspill area if present usage levels continue or increase.

Factors Causing Change

Increased usage of the wood by visitors leading to greater wear on footpaths; illegal use of site by cyclists or horse riders in the past has caused damage to path surfaces.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site will continue to be well used and valued by local people and visitors from further afield. Public access will be maintained to ensure the site is welcoming and safe for people to visit with four access points, appropriate infrastructure and signage, 2km of grass mown paths and car park being maintained for year round use. Consultation and involvement of local people will continue to be important.

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

Paths will be cut (3 times a year) to maintain easy public access. Visitor access fixtures (gates, signs, fences) will be inspected annually and maintained. Litter and fly tipping will be removed including at the car park at least once a year.

Path edge coppicing and clearance will be carried out during the plan period to improve access/ sight lines, including around entrances and the car park.

An audit of entrances (part of the Welcoming Sites Project) will be undertaken during the plan period to identify any improvements that may be required.

The Trust's duty of care to visitors will continue to be addressed through on going tree safety and site risk assessment regimes.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Spud Wood is a woodland creation site that was planted in 1997/98 with a mix of native broadleaved species. The site was previously farmland used for growing potatoes, hence the name given to the wood which was chosen by the local community. Approximately two thirds of the site was planted with trees and the rest kept as open space and seeded with native wildflower mixes. There were few existing trees on site when the Woodland Trust acquired the site apart from some semi-mature trees along the canal bank and roadside and trees in hedgerows around the boundary of the site.

Significance

Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England with less than 4% woodland cover and only a small proportion of this is Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW). Spud Wood adjoins Helsdale Wood which is an ASNW and so the new woodland acts as a buffer to this rare habitat. Over time it is hoped the ASNW flora indicator species found in Helsdale Wood will spread into Spud Wood. As the site matures it should provide a range of diverse habitats linked to existing wildlife corridors adjacent to the wood including the Bridgewater Canal, Helsdale Wood and the network of field hedgerows in the local landscape. Helsdale Wood is also a grade C Site of Biological Importance (SBI) due to its population of mosses and liverworts and contain several ponds.

Opportunities & Constraints

Initial tree growth has been very rapid with a high survival rate of the trees planted. Whilst the site was previously farmland with little biodiversity value, the adjoining wildlife corridors and habitats including ASNW provide good opportunities for the flora and fauna on site to be enhanced through spread of species. There are no significant constraints on the site.

Factors Causing Change

Growth of young trees leading to canopy closure.
 Damage to trees and fires in the wood occurs occasionally but is not a significant problem.
 Chalara will lead to the loss of Ash trees in the wood. Squirrel damage to trees.
 Rhododendron (invasive species) could spread on site from neighbouring Helsdale Wood where it occurs frequently.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term aim is to create a high forest of mixed native broadleaf woodland with a mix of species, structure and age composition along with a diverse ground flora. There should be an increasing volume of deadwood (both fallen and standing) across the site.

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

During the plan period, the new woodland blocks will be under active woodland management to create a more diverse structure, age and species composition in the wood.
 Coppicing will be carried out along path edges, entrances and around the car park during the plan period to improve sightlines for public access and safety.
 The Trust's duty of care to neighbours and visitors will continue to be addressed through on going tree safety inspections.
 We will work with the Friends of Spud Wood and other volunteers and groups where opportunities arise to carry out work including coppicing and thinning for wood fuel and other woodland products.

5.3 Open Ground Habitat

Description

Approximately 45% of the site was left as open ground and seeded with a low vigour fescue grass mix and are dominated by grasses, thistles, nettles, dock and willow herb. There is a small pond/ wetland area (approximately 20m by 10m) in the south eastern corner of the site which was excavated in 2000 and is now well established with marginal vegetation.

Significance

The retention of large areas of open ground was an outcome of the public consultation for the site to maintain a more open feel to the new woodland. Having a mix of open ground habitat and transitional zones as well as native woodland on site creates a mixed mosaic habitat that will enhance the biodiversity of the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Regular cutting of the open ground areas needs to be sustainable as this can be a significant cost but was identified as a feature requested by the local community to be maintained for the site. High usage of the site by dog walkers and deposits of dog faeces left on site means that the cut grass is not suitable for any other use e.g. hay crop, etc.

Factors Causing Change

Development of scrub and loss of open ground through natural succession. Invasive grassland species (thistle, dock, ragwort, nettle, Himalayan balsam) could dominate the open ground habitat if left unmanaged reducing the biodiversity of these areas.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The permanent areas of open ground will be maintained as part of the mosaic of habitats, with other areas of open ground left to develop as transitional zones and scrub to enhance the biodiversity value on site. The pond/ wetland habitat will be maintained on the site, although will be subject to minimal management unless necessary to prevent it from being lost.

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

The permanent open ground areas will be mown (annually) with the arisings finely mulched and left on site. Other open ground areas will be left to develop naturally into scrub/ transitional areas.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2018	WMM - Coppice Management	2 task days 11th Feb and 18th March with Sale and Altrincham Conservation volunteers coppicing and hedgelaying.	18/03/18
2018	WMM - Coppice Management	2 task days 11th Feb and 18th March with Sale and Altrincham Conservation volunteers coppicing and hedgelaying.	18/03/18
2018	WMM - General Site Management	Inspect culverts, wooden footbridge, boundary fencing & access infrastructure (benches, picnic tables, gates, car park barrier, etc.) across site.	30/04/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and maintenance including car park perimeter, strim around bollards and all benches/ picnic tables and areas marked on map. Entrance maintenance.	31/05/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut open ground areas by car park and canal towpath. Trim roadside hedge and cut back vegetation around car park, fisherman's entrance gate and access track from Oughtrington Lane entrance. Inspect culverts/bridge/steps/access gates and stiles.	30/06/18
2018	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Install legacy post in concrete and fit banner at entrance by car park.	30/06/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and maintenance including car park perimeter, strim around bollards and all benches/ picnic tables and areas marked on map. Entrance maintenance.	31/07/18
2018	WMM - General Site Management	Remove and dispose of rubbish and den timber. Cut back vegetation along the path to Helsdale Wood	31/07/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and maintenance including car park perimeter, strim around bollards and all benches/ picnic tables and areas marked on map. Entrance maintenance.	30/09/18
2018	NWH - Maintenance Work	Cut to mulch all open ground areas across site.	31/10/18

2018	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Cut roadside hedges including beside Burford Lane, by car park and fisherman's entrance gate. Trim top, front and inside of hedges. Cut back bramble growth on path/ access track from Oughtrington Lane entrance.	31/10/18
2018	WMM - General Site Management	Hedge cutting which had not been done last year.	30/11/18
2018	WC - Site Maintenance	24 cans of Fluo tree marker spray @ £4.73 each (excl. VAT). Hi-vis colour Cerise. SKU: 180340. Free delivery. Please deliver to address shown in Remarks section.	14/12/18
2018	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Tree safety work - cut back/ crown lift trees along roadside, coppice trees around car park and fell dead trees next to footpath. All arisings to be chipped. 2 days tree work with chipper including traffic management on roadside.	28/12/18
2019	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	c/f to 2020. Supply and install 1no. removable wooden bollard at car park to enable management access.	28/02/19
2019	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Tree work including removal of marked trees and cutting back branches next to footpath. Arisings to be stacked in habitat piles on site. 1 day.	28/02/19
2019	WMM - General Site Management	Cut back hedge and crown lift trees alongside footpath on southern perimeter and by car park.	28/02/19
2019	WMM - General Site Management	2 days with chipper to chip brush arisings from hedge laying and other tree work.	31/03/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Repair damaged picnic tables.	31/03/19
2019	WMM - General Site Management	Inspect culverts, footbridge, fencing & access infrastructure (benches, picnic tables, gates, car park barrier) across site.	30/04/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and entrance maintenance including car park. Strim around bollards and benches/ picnic tables.	31/05/19
2019	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	Delivery charge for 900 cell grown trees (300 each of alder, grey willow, downy birch) as per email from Neil Oxley 6/6/2019.	30/06/19

2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut open ground areas by car park and canal towpath. Trim roadside hedge by car park, hedge by the fisherman's entrance gate and along path from entrance off Oughtrington Lane. Refer to map.	31/07/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and entrance maintenance including car park. Strim around bollards and benches/ picnic tables.	31/07/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and entrance maintenance including car park. Strim around bollards and benches/ picnic tables.	30/09/19
2019	NWH - Maintenance Work	Cut all open ground areas.	30/09/19
2019	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Design and supply information panel with pinboard for entrance at car park to Spud Wood from Border Signs & Graphics Quote Number BSGQ 13636 Delivery address to follow.	30/09/19
2019	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Supply ladderboard sign for car park. Not required now so forecast put to zero.	30/09/19
2019	PE - Interpretation & Signage	c.f. Design and supply information panel with pinboard for entrance at car park to Spud Wood from Border Signs & Graphics Quote Number BSGQ 13636 Delivery address to follow.	30/09/19
2019	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Install new information board at car park, reposition noticeboard from car park to entrance near church, remove old timberland trail wooden sign at car park.	31/10/19
2019	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Flail roadside hedges (top, front and inside) along Burford Lane and Stage Lane.	31/10/19
2020	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Crown lift roadside tree on Burford Lane near canal bridge. Requires traffic management. 1 day for tree gang with climber and chipper.	28/02/20

2020	WMM - General Site Management	Inspect culverts, footbridge, fencing & access infrastructure (benches, picnic tables, gates, car park barrier) across site.	30/04/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and entrance maintenance including car park. Strim around bollards and benches/ picnic tables.	31/05/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut open ground areas by car park and canal towpath. Trim roadside hedge by car park, hedge by the fisherman's entrance gate and along path from entrance off Oughtrington Lane. Refer to map.	30/06/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and entrance maintenance including car park. Strim around bollards and benches/ picnic tables.	31/07/20
2020	NWH - Maintenance Work	Cut to mulch open ground areas marked on map.	30/09/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cutting and entrance maintenance including car park. Strim around bollards and benches/ picnic tables.	30/09/20
2020	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Cut roadside hedges (top, front and inside) along Burford Lane and Stage Lane.	31/10/20
2020	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Selective felling of ash to halo thin around oak. 2 days for tree gang with chipper. All arisings to be chipped on site.	31/10/20

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.88	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	Coppice	Legal issues, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest
<p>This sub-compartment is located between Stage Lane and the Bridgewater Canal and is the main public access point for the site with a small car park on Stage Lane. There is a management access gate on Stage Lane (also used by fishermen to gain access to the canal bank) and another pedestrian access point from Stage Lane in the NW corner of the site and access from the canal towpath. It is a flat compartment with an approximate elevation of 22m. The soils have a high sand content and are freely draining, with a history of cultivation prior to the Trusts ownership. Approximately 0.3 ha of the compartment was planted with Oak, Ash & Birch along with Hazel, Holly, Dogwood and Hawthorn. The remaining 0.58 ha was left as open ground and seeded with a low vigour fescue grass mix.</p>							
1b	11.44	Oak (pedunculate)	1997	High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest
<p>This sub-compartment forms the main body of Spud Wood. It is bounded by the Bridgewater canal on the north, Helsdale Brook & sub-compartment 1c to the east, agricultural land & Helsdale Wood to the south and domestic gardens to the west. The aspect of the site is mostly flat with a slight gradient between the elevations of 30m & 22m above sea level. The soils generally have a high sand content with occasional areas of fine silt with poor drainage these have a greater incidence to the east of the site, the soils have a history of intensive cultivation prior to Trust ownership. 5.88 ha was planted with native tree broadleaf species including Oak (45%), Ash (25%), Birch (12%) with a shrub layer of Hawthorn (5%), Rowan (5%), Hazel (4%), Holly (2%) and Blackthorn & Dogwood (2%). The remaining 5.56 ha was left as open space and seeded with a low vigour fescue grass mix. There is public & management access from sub-compartment 1a via the canal bridge, from Burford Lane crossing over Helsdale Brook and from Oughtrington Lane to the west. A small wetland scrape/ shallow pond was created in the south eastern corner of the compartment.</p>							
1c	4.95	Oak (pedunculate)	1997	High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest

This sub-compartment is the eastern block of Spud Wood. It is bounded to the north & east by Burford Lane, to the south by agricultural land and to the west by Helsdale Brook and sub-compartment 1b. It has an elevation between 20m & 30m above sea level with a slight gradient towards Helsdale Brook and the North West. The soils have a high sand content and like the rest of the site are freely draining with occasional areas of more silted ground where drainage is restricted. The site has a history of intensive cultivation prior to the Trusts ownership. The sub-compartment comprises 3.2 ha of native tree species planting (Oak, Ash & Birch) with shrubs (Rowan, Hazel, Holly, Hawthorn and Blackthorn) with a scattering of existing mature trees along the course of Helsdale Brook and the northern boundary. 1.75 ha of the sub-compartment was left as open space and seeded with a low vigour fescue grass mix. Public access and management access is available off Burford Lane and across Helsdale brook via a management track (culvert) and wooden footbridge. A line of mature trees running alongside Burford Lane and the canal underpass are in the ownership of the Trust.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2015	1b	Thin	1.00	4	4
2015	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2016	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2016	1b	Thin	1.00	30	30
2017	1b	Thin	1.00	40	40
2017	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2018	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2018	1b	Thin	1.00	40	40
2019	1b	Thin	1.00	40	40
2019	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2020	1a	Selective Fell	0.25	12	3
2020	1b	Thin	1.00	40	40
2021	1b	Thin	1.00	40	40
2021	1b	Thin	14.00	7	100
2021	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2022	1b	Thin	1.00	40	40
2025	1b	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2030	1b	Thin	14.00	4	50

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.