



Skipton Castle Woods

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Skipton Castle Woods
Location:	Skipton
Grid reference:	SD990525, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	14.88 hectares (36.77 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Great Landscape Value, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

These ancient woods have a fascinating history and lie alongside Skipton Castle in the heart of the town. They contain a wide variety of plants and amazing wildlife such as kingfishers, bats and deer, with some excellent pathways which follow the canal and the castle ramparts. Walk into a different world straight off the High Street.

2.2 Extended Description

- Skipton Castle Woods, - (also known locally as Castle woods or Springs Wood) are situated on the northern fringe of Skipton. This 36 acre (15 hectare) site is leased to the Woodland Trust for 75 years by the owners, Skipton Castle. The occupiers of the castle have, for almost 1000 years managed the woodland using it for fishing and hunting. In more recently times. during the 18th and 19th centuries the wood provided timber, building stone and most importantly, water, to feed and power the towns woollen, corn and sawmills.
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland - The majority of the woodland is broadleaved, predominantly ash, beech, oak and sycamore and is designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Some broadleaved species would not be native to the woodland including beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site - Four hectares of the woodland to the north west is designated as a Plantation on an Ancient Woodland Site,(PAWS). This contains a mixture of broadleaves but also conifer species such as Scots pine, larch and Norway spruce.
- Current Appearance -Whilst the designations indicate a more ancient appearance, the woodland has had almost 1000 years of man's influence through the Castle ownership, and retains little of the wild oak/ ash wood that would once have stood.
- Water Features -The site follows the valley of Eller Beck, with moderate to steep slopes to the east and west, which have in many places been affected by quarrying operations, resulting in steep slopes and exposed rock faces. Paths running along the north-western and eastern boundaries have excellent views over and along this wooded valley. Eller beck was dammed to create the Long Dam with a water feed into the Round Dam. From the Round Dam a mill race or leat leads through the wood alongside the main path to what once would have been a cotton mill. The mill stood near the entrance to the site, now long since demolished.
- FLora: Much of the ground flora in the woodland is representative of ancient and semi natural woodland with dense carpets of wild garlic, bluebells and dogs mercury throughout. Surveys have been undertaken and have found good numbers of species of flora and fauna associated with Semi-Natural Ancient Woodland.
- Fauna - Despite the high visitor numbers, Skipton Woods support a rich diversity of wildlife. Notable species include badgers, roe deer , at least 5 species of bat, including the large noctule bat, pipistrelle, natterers, Brown long eared, and the Daubentons bat which hunts specifically over open water. The woods also hold a population of kingfisher, spotted and green woodpeckers, spotted flycatchers and sparrow hawk.
- Public access - Access to the woodlands was first allowed by the current owners of the Castle in 1971, under restricted opening hours (9am till 5pm) and wardened. Under the management of the Woodland Trust the site has full public access at all times. Access to the wood from High Street in the town is along the towpath of Springs canal, which run beneath the impressive castle ramparts. Pedestrian access is also available from the North West, via footpaths and from The Bailey - to the east, via a permissive path owned by the castle. The woodland is signposted from the town. The Car parking is available in Skipton Castle's 'Bailey' car park as well as in several car parks within the town (All require payment).

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Maps of the town can be found at welcometoskipton.com

By train

There is an excellent train network centred on Skipton, including the celebrated Settle-Carlisle line and the equally scenic Leeds-Skipton-Morecambe line which goes through Giggleswick and Clapham. The main railway station is located along Broughton Road, approximately 1.5km from the entrance to the wood.

By bus

Bus route stops are close to the entrance to the wood at the top of the High Street.

By car

From the M1 (northbound) take the M62 west, then the M606 to Bradford, A650 to Keighley, and A629 to Skipton. From the M6 (northbound) take the M65 to its end, then the A56 to Skipton. From the M6 (southbound) take the A65 to Skipton.

Parking: Skipton Castle also offers a pay car park (Bailey Car Park - BD23 1UA) just to the north of the Castle off the A6131. Pay and Display parking is available a short walk (0.5km) from the woods off Skipton High Street to the rear of the Town Hall. Other, slightly more distant parking, is also available in the town.

Further information about public transport is available from traveline.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33.

3.2 Access / Walks

Entrances

The surfaced paths and newly reinstated bridges allow access for all the family to enjoy the features that this wonderful wood has to offer. You can enter Skipton Castle Woods from three different entrances:

Old Sawmill Entrance - from the south, access is available via Chapel Hill (a private road). Follow the driveway of the Old Sawmill (a private residence) and enter via a gateway with wheelchair access. Here, the water of Sandy Goit and Eller Beck is on either side. This walk will take you past a glorious show of bluebells and wild garlic in spring. It extends via the towpath of Springs Canal, just around the back of Holy Trinity Church and the dramatic ramparts of Skipton Castle, through to Grassington Road, close to the head of Skipton High Street.

The Bailey Entrance - following a line of Victorian-aged lime trees, this inspiring walk has steep drops to old stone quarries and a viewpoint down to the rounds' high-level walk overlooking the river valley.

Short Lee Lane Entrance - it is from here, when passing through the area of old pines and spruces among the oaks, that you are most likely to see the family of deer that make the wood their home.

All three approaches connect at the round dam, allowing different options for the return part of your walk.

Accessibility

Public access on foot is available throughout the site, while permissive paths follow Eller Beck and watercourses, and the eastern and north-western boundaries. All pedestrian formal routes within the woodland are surfaced, including a picturesque circular walk accessed via the Old Sawmill entrance, which is suitable for wheelchair and pushchair users.

Other surfaced paths run along the north-western and eastern boundaries and exit the woodland at The Bailey. They offer excellent views over and along the wooded valley, but have moderate to steep slopes, a flight of steps and are narrower.

No car parking is available on site, although the town centre car parks are only five minutes walk away.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Woodland Management

The wood is designated as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland and contains mainly a mixture of native species, most of which are mature. These areas will be managed as high forest with minimal intervention other than the removal of trees in the interest of safety.

Part of the woodland contains a mixture of native and conifer species such as Scots pine, larch and Norway Spruce which would not have been present in the original ancient woodland. Some gradual thinning of these trees will be undertaken to favour the native broadleaves but some will be retained to reflect the history of the site and maintain diversity.

Natural regeneration of tree and shrub species and potentially new enrichment planting will help to ensure the continuity of the woodland in the long term.

Public Access

The wood is exceptionally popular with visitors but due to the topography of the site access is generally restricted to the main footpaths. The river forms an attractive feature of the site and also helps to restrict access to some areas of the wood. Other water features include the Round Dam (pond), and mill races which also form important landscape and historical features of the wood.

These are the responsibility of the Castle who maintains them in working order.

The footpaths and tracks together with associated seating, signage and information boards will be maintained in good condition for all year round use reflecting the high usage of the site.

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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Current designation from Nature Conservancy Council Inventory of Ancient Woodland 1987. Predominantly high forest consisting of mainly oak and ash with some beech and sycamore. Much of the elm which once dominated the woodland has died through Dutch Elm Disease. Understorey of elm suckering with a ground flora of wild garlic, bluebells and Dogs mercury.

Significance

This is an unusual ASNW area in having almost 1000 years of recorded management history with its association with the Castle. It is also a relatively large area of ASNW in the area, being very close to population and accessible to many thousands of people. A valuable landscape feature within the local area, also important wildlife habitat with the consistency of management and woodland cover.

Opportunities & Constraints

Potential for economically viable timber production - especially some of the sycamore and ash, through thinning. Topography, difficult access and extraction routes would prevent works. Disturbance to the flora and fauna in an area untouched for many years would also be unacceptable.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback disease was first seen in the wood in 2017 and potentially this could have a large impact on the wood and its future management. The short and long term objectives will be reviewed on an annual basis until a clearer picture of how the disease will affect the wood can be seen.

Levels of browsing by deer and rabbits may also have a small impact on natural regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term objective is to secure and maintain a mixed broadleaved woodland dominated by native species. A small element of no native species would be acceptable to maintain the character of the woodland. Intervention to remove dying ash trees may be necessary during the next 5 years due to ash dieback disease. If regeneration of ash and other species is found to be unsuccessful then intervention through planting of trees may be necessary.

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

The impact and progression of ash dieback disease will be monitored annually through tree safety inspections. Depending on the impact of the disease management works to be planned and implemented to maintain a broadleaved high forest. This will be reviewed at the end of the planned period. Removal of dead and dying trees where they pose a risk to public safety to be undertaken. Replacement of trees to compensate for the lack of natural regeneration to be undertaken at a suitable level to ensure the continuity of the woodland.

5.2 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Designation from the Nature Conservancy Council Inventory of Ancient Woodland 1987. Composed predominantly of oak, ash, larch, Norway spruce, Scots pine with Red oak, beech and sweet chestnut. Poplar areas felled in first thinning in 1991 and replanted with alder in 1997. Understorey of elder with ground flora of bramble, Dogs mercury, bluebell and wild garlic. Remaining conifers and non-native tree species are to be retained through minimum intervention, to reflect the sites management history.

Significance

The reversion to a more open mixed woodland through previous thinnings, has enhanced the associated ancient woodland ground flora and maintained the woodland in the landscape which is very visible from the Skipton Northern Bypass. Retention of the remaining conifers will eventually provide additional deadwood habitat which is not as abundant in this as other compartments.

Opportunities & Constraints

Potential for further thinning although not-economical, due to the long extraction routes, difficult terrain due to seasonal waterlogging, steep slopes, and rich ground flora. Further thinning may provide increased ground flora recovery, but since thinning operations in 1992 and 1997, ground flora recovery has been very good.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback disease was first seen in the wood in 2017 and potentially this could have a large impact on the wood and its future management. The short and long term objectives will be reviewed on an annual basis until a clearer picture of how the disease will affect the wood can be seen.

Levels of browsing by deer and rabbits may also have an impact on natural regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Retention as minimum intervention woodland where health and safety allows. In the long term it is envisaged that the woodland will slowly revert to a broadleaved woodland dominated by ash and birch, although it is likely that an element of non- native species will remain.

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

Undertake small scale thinning of conifer element of the wood where the removal of the trees will enable the development of adjacent broadleaved species or give an open canopy area for the development of natural regeneration. Small scale works, potentially with the use of horse, to be undertaken with the works will link into a visitor attraction.

5.3 Watercourses

Description

Eller Beck is dammed by the Long Dam, this damming enable water to feed the Round Dam - a small reservoir, which in turn via a sluice feeds Sandy Goit - a mill leatt which carries water through to the southern entrance, feeding the former sawmill and on to another holding dam, which in turn feeds the mill leatt into the old corn mill. Overflow water from all the features goes back into Eller Beck, which just south of the woodland feeds the Springs Canal - an offshoot of the Leeds Liverpool Canal, and the main transport route for stone from the wood into the town, along the rear of the castle. This canal ceased use after the wagonways, loading bays and barges were destroyed in a massive flood in 1907.

Significance

The watercourses are an integral part of the town history and industrial development, as the corn, sawmill and woollen industry relied on the supply of water from Eller Beck. They have become one of the special features of the woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

The watercourse management and responsibility have all been retained by the Skipton Castle, they ensure all sluices and watercourses are maintained in a working order.

Factors Causing Change

The age and maintenance of the working machinery could impact on the effectiveness of control of the water courses

Silting up of the water courses and dams could impact on the features in the long term.

Flood damage.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintained by Skipton Castle as working features integral to the historic use of the woodland and the industrial development of the town

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

N/A as the watercourses and associated machinery is the responsibility of Skipton Castle.

5.4 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

The Woodland Trust (WT) is currently embarking on an ambitious programme of works to develop a minimum of six woodland sites into accredited visitor attractions (Destination Sites) by 2026. The programme aims to significantly grow the number and diversity of visitors to WT sites, raising brand awareness and engaging more people more deeply with trees, woodland and the work and cause of Woodland Trust. The aim is for Destination Sites to become hubs where large numbers of visitors are engaged and inspired by the wonder of trees, mobilising a movement of support for WT's cause and the wider cause for nature. This will be achieved by providing accessible, authentic woodland experience enhanced by dynamic and culturally relevant programming, interpretation, visitor components and where appropriate visitor facilities. In order to establish the unique offer and market position for WT Destination Sites, a set of guiding principles and 4 x core propositions have been defined. An overview of both can be found in Woodland Trust's Destination DNA guide. Each Destination Site will align with the core offer set out in this guide, but also be inspired by its own unique character and Sense of Place.

Significance

A 'Spirit of Place' statement explores the woodlands unique Sense of Place; future activities and interpretation will be informed by this statement.

Spirit of Place Statement - Skipton Castle Woods

Hidden from view and protected in a small dales valley, the woodland slowly reveals itself as you approach from the modern day high street, with spectacular and dramatic views of the castle above, while below the water courses that powered an industrial revolution flow beneath your feet.

The approach to the woodland is guarded by a former saw mill and workers cottages; as you enter you follow the invisible footprints of the generations before you; the flat caps and short trousers, the millworkers, quarrymen, foresters, herbalists, huntsmen and poachers, Barons and villagers. The voices of nearly a thousand years of people and trees whisper stories as you explore Skipton Castle Woods.

Once part of a great forest in the north, the woodland planted a castle; it fuelled, fed and protected a new town. Later, Skipton Castle Woods supplied the force behind the wool, cotton and saw mills, its watercourses powering waterwheels, dyeing houses and bobbins.

Today the woodland is cherished; by dog walkers and joggers, by nature lovers, local families and visitors from further afield.

This hardworking wood is now peaceful, a place to think, play and explore away from the outside world while discovering the seasonal changes, wild garlic, herons, wrens and kingfishers. Today this ancient woodland is at rest, protected by the Woodland Trust and enjoyed by the very community it has served for nearly a thousand years.

Opportunities & Constraints

Location of the watercourses, site topography and the provision of excellent path access via up-graded routes directs the visitor through the woodland, experiencing good views and many of the key features of the woodland, without having visitors enter the generally undisturbed woodland areas. There are in excess of 100,000 visitors to the Castle site annually and huge numbers visit Skipton as The Gateway to the Yorkshire Dales. Tourist information signs direct visitors to the wood from the town centre. Interpretation and engagement will be delivered in a focussed and consistent way by concentrating on three distinct 'Visitor Propositions' selected using a Visitor Experience Design model.

Skipton Castle Woods has a rich history with potential to tell several stories
Visitor Proposition - Skipton Castle Woods

- The Medieval Forest - The wood that planted a castle that grew a town.
- The Working Woodland - Timber, Stone and Water - power behind industry
- The Protected Wood - A rare woodland at rest. It's our turn to protect

Factors Causing Change

Increasing visitor numbers, Creation of new desire line paths and improvements and addition of interpretation installations.

Primary entrance

The Old Sawmill Entrance - via the Canal and Rivers Trust elevated tow path at the side of High Corn Mill, just off Mill Bridge and the High Street. This access will be promoted as the main entrance to the woodland.

Other access

- The Bailey Entrance/ Exit - from Skipton Castle's car park.
- Short Lee Lane Entrance/Exit - via a farm track linking to a Public Right of Way.

A full access statement can be found here <https://skipton.woodlandtrust.org.uk/access/>

Long term Objective (50 years+)

- 1.To manage free, future visitor access to Skipton Castle Woods under permissive use within the terms of the lease, while working with adjacent land owners. To ensure access is adequately provided for without adversely affecting the site, habitats or natural capital of Skipton Castle Woods.
- 2.To provide consistent and accurate access information ensuring routes and trails are graded and aligned to the Paths for All model in conjunction with a Visitor Access Statement.
- 3.To strive for excellence to meet the highest possible award achievable under the Visit England Quality Standards for Visitor Attractions Scheme biannual assessment which includes pre-visit marketing and digital content.
- 4.To deliver and maintain quality, fit for purpose signposting and welcome signage aligned to Woodland Trust Brand Guidelines, to be refreshed at intervals as appropriate as a result of visitor feedback, changing trends in information provision and quality assurance criteria.
- 5.To animate the visitor proposition and heritage of the site in a creative, informative and sensitive way through interpretation on and off site; to grow new and existing audiences, encourage repeat visits and increase dwell time while ensuring the protection of habitat and ancient woodland as directed by the Skipton Castle Woods Management Plan.
- 6.To offer new and reoccurring opportunities for visitors, the community, businesses and schools to engage with Skipton Castle Woods and the Woodland Trust through volunteering, events, workshops, donations, membership and sponsorship to help us with our cause 'standing up for trees'

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

The site will be maintained to a high standard to reflect the high level of use and the type of visitors to the site, which could include visitors to Skipton not equipped for a rough woodland track. The maintenance to the surfaced routes to be undertaken by both contractors and volunteers, ensuring a good surface is maintained including keeping steps and handrails are in good order. The work would include 2 visits per year by contractors using power brushes and monthly inspections and minor works by volunteers. Welcome signs and access points to maintained as part of the monthly visits by volunteers.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	4.63	Ash	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Watercourses	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Great Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Broadleaved high forest, predominantly ash with occasional elm regeneration, beech, sycamore and mature oak. Designated Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. Large amounts of standing deadwood This area has been quarried in the past, very steep slopes and open rock faces. Public access along the eastern boundary permissive path. Bounded to the west by Eller Beck, Round Dam and Long Dam, bounded to the east by a limestone drystone wall and semi-improved grassland used for grazing. Much of the compartment has a dense ground flora, especially to the north, where wild garlic, bluebells and wood anemone dominate. The compartment is cut in two close to the Round Dam where an old trackway enters the wood and meets the main path.</p>							
2a	4.42	Oak (pedunculate)	1960	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Watercourses	Ancient Woodland Site, Great Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Order

Mixed woodland - designated as an Ancient Woodland Site, mixture of planted (late 1950's early 1960's) oak, ash, sweet chestnut, Norway spruce, Scots pine, larch and red oak. Areas of poplar along the riverside were clearfelled in 1991 and replanted with alder in 1997. Ground flora of predominantly Dogs mercury, bluebell, garlic, bramble and ferns. Thinned in 1991. Wet ground conditions can make extraction and working difficult. Public access limited to a permissive path running along the north western boundary and at the north eastern end running to a footbridge crossing point.. Bounded by Eller beck to the east, and by roadside shelter belt and improved pasture grassland to the west.

3a	6.24	Ash	1920	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Watercourses	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Great Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Order
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Broadleaved high forest, designated Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, predominantly ash with occasional sycamore, hornbeam, oak and beech. Some evidence of limited quarrying, to provide stone for the mill leat running through the compartment. Fine, tall, straight stemmed trees, thick ground flora of garlic and bluebell in season but little else after June. Public access via permissive path to the east of the compartment.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2022	3a	Thin	6.20	6	40

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.