

Reffley Wood

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

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3. Long Term Policy
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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Reffley Wood

Location:	King's Lynn Grid reference: TF655218 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 132
Area:	52.35 hectares (129.36 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Reffley Wood is a 52 hectare semi-natural ancient woodland and old growth site, that was cleared of most of its veteran trees and stocked with Scots and Corsican pines, alongside a small percentage of Douglas fir in the 1950s and 60s.

Throughout Reffley wood there is direct evidence that the wood was at least part woodland pasture/ old growth site, with the whole site originally containing many veteran trees and pollards. There are still some of these veterans remaining throughout the whole wood, having survived the conversion to coniferous woodland. Unfortunately the majority of veterans throughout the wood were felled during this period and left where they once stood, however there are some remnants of these to be found in the form of veteran deadwood scattered throughout the wood.

There are two types of woodland situated within the site that reflect the soil structure within the wood - an oak/ash/field maple mix on the wetter clay to the south, where Scot's pine has generally been planted and an oak/birch mix on the lighter sandier soils to the north where Corsican pine has been planted. The areas of woodland situated on the wetter clay soils tend to have a greater diversity of ground flora with many ancient woodland indicator species, such as Dogs mercury, primrose, yellow archangel, bluebell and early purple orchid. Within the areas where the soils are sandier, the ground flora is less diverse, dominated by bracken with isolated ancient woodland remnants comprising of mainly bluebell and some scattered primrose and dogs mercury.

Reffley wood is situated on the edge of King's Lynn in South Wootton and is an important site for public access. There are currently four official access points to the site situated to the North off Sandy Lane, and to the west off Barsham drive and to the south of Redfern close near Black Drain. The wood has an extensive and well used path network throughout the site. There is currently provision for 2 cars to park at the main entrance on Sandy lane, but due to the restricted parking the Woodland Trust asks visitors not to park along Sandy Lane.

Key Features:

- Planted Ancient Woodland Site.
- Old Growth Stand.
- Informal Public Access

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Reffley wood will move towards a secure Ancient Woodland site, with increased abundance of ancient woodland remnant ground flora, secure broadleaf trees and natural broadleaf tree and shrub regeneration, with a significant reduction in conifer dominance.

This will be undertaken through good silvicultural practice and natural regeneration. The site will support a broad mix of woodland habitats including woodland compartments characteristic of the following woodland stand types, W8- Common ash – Field maple – Dogs mercury woodland, W10 - Oak – Bracken – Bramble woodland and W16 - Oak – Birch – *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair-grass). In the longer term some of the coppice stands will be brought back into rotation providing additional habitat diversity across the site. The key ancient woodland ground flora such as Dogs mercury, primrose, yellow archangel, bluebell and early purple orchid will be secure and provide an important biological niche within the area. The invasive plant *Rhododendron*, will be completely removed from the site, providing space for additional woodland regeneration. Deadwood will continue to be a key feature of the woodland compartments and will provide habitat niches for a variety of species.

Reffley Woods historic management as wood pasture/old growth stand and the impressive remaining veteran trees, will be a key feature of the site and managed to ensure their continued imposing presence across the site. The individual veteran trees will be managed, according to best practice Veteran Tree management guidelines. New future veteran trees will be encouraged and allowed to develop across the site, through good silvicultural management, with both maiden and pollarded veteran trees created/developing across the site. Veteran deadwood will also be protected and continue to add to the diversity of the site.

Reffley Wood will be open to the public in perpetuity and will provide a key area of green space for the local community in Kings Lynn with sustainable woodland access that complements the important features of the site. Public access will be maintained at the site and the current path system will provide a floristically diverse ride system, alongside low impact permissive paths that allow visitors to experience the wood and veteran trees, whilst protecting the important and sensitive areas of the site. The wood will continue to link to the local public footpath networks and will be part of the much wider access provision in the area. In the long term the site will be served by a new car park to the east of the existing site, created by the developers of the Knights Hill Housing development. The wood is primarily for the use of the local parishes and wards surrounding the site.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description
Reffley is a structurally diverse planted ancient woodland site that has is currently in the process of restoration covering 52.35 hectares. Prior to having conifers planted Reffley wood was thought to of been predominantly remnant wood pasture with many ancient pollards and veteran trees throughout. During the 1950's and early 1960's the site was cleared and Scots pine, Corsican pine and Douglas fir planted throughout the wood. There are also several areas of non-native broadleaved compartments. Reffley wood covers a number of different soil types within its boundary. From heavy clay soils through to sandy acidic soils. There are three different NVC woodland classifications designated within Reffley wood indicative of all the soil types present. W8- Common ash – Field maple – Dogs mercury woodland W10 - Oak – Bracken – Bramble woodland W16 - Oak – Birch – Deschampsia flexuosa (wavy hair-grass) Through the restoration process the remnant ancient woodland components and natural regeneration will create structurally diverse woodland. Despite heavy shading from the conifers, there are still ground flora remnants in places, being characteristic of ancient woodland in East Anglia, and has responded positively to the restoration work.
Significance
Nationally, Ancient woodland is a scarce resource, making Reffley Wood a site of regional and local importance. Reffley Wood is one of the larger areas of woodland within close proximity to King's Lynn and therefore also makes a significant contribution to the biodiversity value of the area.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: -Conserve and develop the existing ancient woodland components. -Gradually reduce the remaining coniferous element - increase natural regeneration and ground flora -Seek to buffer / influencing neighbouring landowners Constraints:

- Isolated site - ground conditions - limited opportunity for expansion of site - differing management approaches adjacent to site
Factors Causing Change
-Deer - Bracken - Invasive species- Rhododendron - Ash Dieback. - Climate Change - Increased visitor pressure - Boundary encroachment - Fly tipping - Fires & BBQ's
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Reffley wood will move towards a secure Ancient Woodland site, with increased abundance of ancient woodland remnant ground flora, secure broadleaf trees and natural broadleaf tree and shrub regeneration, with a significant reduction in conifer dominance. This will be undertaken through good silvicultural practice and natural regeneration. The site will support a broad mix of woodland habitats including woodland compartments characteristic of the following woodland stand types, W8- Common ash – Field maple – Dogs mercury woodland, W10 - Oak – Bracken – Bramble woodland and W16 - Oak – Birch – Deschampsia flexuosa (wavy hair-grass). In the longer term some of the coppice stands will be brought back into rotation providing additional habitat diversity across the site. The key ancient woodland ground flora such as Dogs mercury, primrose, yellow archangel, bluebell and early purple orchid will be secure and provide an important biological niche within the area. The invasive plant Rhododendron, will be completely removed from the site , providing space for additional woodland regeneration. Deadwood will continue to be a key feature of the woodland compartments and will provide habitat niches for a variety of species.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
The management objectives for the next five years will be to continue to maintain and develop the ancient woodland characteristics of Reffley Wood through gradual thinning of the remaining pockets of shade dominant conifers and managing light levels of the existing restored broadleaved dominated areas of Reffley wood. This will support the development of existing and diverse natural regeneration and help to develop a diverse variety of tree species within the wood . Over the course of this plan external factors such as encroachment and cycle damage which are affecting the wood and its associated biodiversity will be addressed. The management works required to implement this and continue to maintain and develop the ancient woodland

characteristics of the site will include works such as thinning operations, bracken management, rhododendron management, herbivore impact monitoring and management and enclosure and fence installation. The development of the wood will be monitored through observations and surveys. Public engagement will also form a key part of dealing with encroachment and cycle damage issues.

Thinning

Thinning works will be undertaken within the wood to reduce the dominance of shade dominant conifers and to manage light levels within the previously restored blocks. These works are informed by a planted ancient woodland condition assessment which highlights the threats to the ancient woodland remnants. The thinning will involve a 10-25% thin, focusing on poor form conifers with all timber removed from site with the long term aim of providing optimal conditions for natural deciduous tree regeneration and improvements in the woodland ground flora.

- conifer thinning operation- compartments 1a,1b,3a,3b,3d,5a & 5b- Autumn/Winter 2026/2027
- conifer & broadleaf thinning operation- compartments 2a,2b,2c,2d,&2e Autumn/Winter 2032/33

Herbivore Management

The impacts of herbivores in Reffley wood will be monitored and managed through a range of techniques. Regular monitoring of the impact of herbivores will be undertaken through biannual herbivore impact assessments to inform the understanding of herbivore impact on woodland regeneration. A thermal survey will also be undertaken every two years to understand species distribution and population within the woodland and in combination with the impact assessment will be used to inform appropriate deer control measures within Reffley Wood to protect the key ancient woodland ground flora components and developing natural regeneration.

Previous surveys have indicated high densities of deer within Reffley Wood. In combination with the thinning works some deer fenced areas will be installed around the thinned blocks to allow areas of deer free regeneration. These will be installed around thinned areas in compartment 3d and areas of previously thinned woodland in compartment 4a. In other parts of the woodland 5x5m enclosures will be installed to monitor regeneration of the woodland. These will be installed in compartments 1a,1b, 2b,2e and 5b.

- Herbivore Impact assessment -February 2027
- February 2029
- February 2031
- February 2033
- February 2035

- Thermal Survey & Census- September 2026
- September 2028
- September 2030
- September 2032
- September 2034

-Fence installation compartments 3d & 4a- February 2027

-Exclosure installation compartments 1a,1b,2b,2e & 5b- September 2026

Rhododendron Management

Rhododendron is an invasive plant, that can grow quite vigorously within woodland and prevent natural woodland regeneration , through shading and damage to the soil structure. Within Reffley Wood there are some pockets of Rhododendron which are impacting the recovery of Ancient Woodland . The aim during this plan would be to remove the rhododendron from site by cutting, treating and removal of arisings from site.

- Rhododendron removal- compartments 2b,2f,3b,3d,3e,4a,4b – December 2027

- Rhododendron follow up removal -compartments 2b,2f,3b,3d,3e,4a,4b - December 2028

- Rhododendron follow up removal -compartments 2b,2f,3b,3d,3e,4a,4b - December 2030

Bracken Management

Bracken management will be undertaken in the bracken dominated compartments to reduce the density of the bracken and allow the development of woodland ground flora and deciduous tree regeneration. This will be undertaken annually though bracken rolling in compartments 3d,3e and 4a

-Bracken rolling - compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2025

-Bracken rolling- compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2026

-Bracken rolling -compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2027

-Bracken rolling- compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2028

-Bracken rolling- compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2029

-Bracken rolling - compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2030

-Bracken rolling- compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2031

-Bracken rolling -compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2032

-Bracken rolling- compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2033

-Bracken rolling- compartments 3d,3e & 4a – July 2034

Woodland Condition Monitoring

Undertake regular monitoring of the woodland condition through Planted Ancient Woodland Assessments every 5 years .

- PAWS/Woodland Ecological Condition Assessment – June 2029

- PAWS/Woodland Ecological Condition Assessment – June 2034

Human Impact Management

Human impacts are causing a significant impact on the structure and condition of Reffley Woods. This is primarily through encroachment and fly tipping on the northern and western boundaries from neighbouring properties. The fly tipping is a mix of garden waste which includes non-native species and general household waste. The wood also suffers

from gardening and usage of mowers and pesticides in some areas of the woodland. Some areas on the boundary suffer from encroachment with material from gardens extending into the Woodland Trust boundary .

Other human impacts on the woodland include the excavation and creation of bike ramps in compartment 3a which has caused considerable damage to the soil structure within this compartment. There are also some excavations in compartment 2a adjacent to a veteran oak tree.

These issues will be managed through public engagement activities and the recruitment of volunteer wardens for the site .

-Recruitment of Volunteer Woodland Wardens- 2025

-Leaflet drop to neighbouring properties - 2025

-Thinning of compartment 3a and installation of two exclosures to regenerate woodland and reduce cycle damage - Autumn 2026

4.2 f2 Old Growth Stand

Description
Within Reffley wood there are a number of ancient pollards and veteran trees surviving from when the site was cleared and planted with conifers. Most of the veteran trees were surveyed and recorded in 2004 with 23 live specimens being recorded and a further 6 being discovered at a later date.
Significance
The old growth trees at Reffley Wood are of significant value to the site, as well as the wider area through their historical , landscape and biodiversity value. Veteran trees are a scarce resource within the local landscape, as well as nationally, and are an important biological and heritage asset to be protected , however, few have the continuity of veteran trees that are older than 200 years, due to historic woodland management practices . The veteran trees and old large size deadwood in Reffley Wood are a significant biodiversity and heritage asset .
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities - creation of future veterans and pollards - a resource to share Woodland Trust messaging about veteran trees & their management locally - community engagement

- to include additional trees in a Tree Preservation Order Constraints - veteran trees limited to select areas of the site
Factors Causing Change -Vandalism - Tree disease - Increased visitor pressures - extreme weather events - development adjacent to site
Long term Objective (50 years+) Reffley Woods historic management as wood pasture/old growth stand and the impressive remaining veteran trees, will be a key feature of the site and managed to ensure their continued imposing presence across the site. The individual veteran trees will be managed, according to best practice Veteran Tree management guidelines . New future veteran trees will be encouraged and allowed to develop across the site, through good silvicultural management, with both maiden and pollarded veteran trees created/developing across the site. Large size deadwood will also be protected and continue to add to the diversity of the site .
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years) Monitor existing old growth trees within Reffley wood for health and undertake any potential works that will aid their stabilisation. Resurvey existing veteran trees and produce management plans for long term management of veteran trees. -Survey and creation of veteran tree management plans- July 2026 Promote the development of future pollards and veterans by planting 10 Penduculate oak feathered whips along eastern boundary to become future pollards, and continue the historical continuity of having old growth pollards within the site. -Plant 10 feathered whips along eastern boundary within natural gaps between existing veterans.- Autumn/Winter 2026/27 -Plant 10 feathered whips along eastern boundary within natural gaps between existing veterans.- Autumn/Winter 2035/36 During future thinning operations select minimum of 10 individual trees from the existing natural regeneration present

as potential candidates for future pollards. Record and map individuals and monitor within the planned period their development.

-Select a minimum of 10 individual trees throughout Reffley wood to become new pollards. The species to be selected will be from the following – Pendunculate oak, field maple, sweet chestnut. – Autumn Winter 25/26
-Select a further 10 individual trees throughout Reffley wood to become new pollards. The species to be selected will be from the following – Pendunculate oak, field maple, sweet chestnut. – Autumn Winter 32/33

Large size deadwood will also be a key feature of the site and locations of significant deadwood will be mapped and monitored on site .

-A survey of large size deadwood will be undertaken alongside the veteran tree survey. – July 2026

4.3 f4 Informal Public Access

Description

Reffley wood adjoins directly to the urban fringe of Kings Lynn and is extensively used by local residents of the neighbouring urban areas.

Reffley wood has an extensive ride structure of approximately 6500m that is cut up to three times annually. There are five pedestrian entrances, four of which link to the adjacent housing estates. There are also two management entrance gates situated to the north of the wood. The rides vary in the amount of shade they receive with the width being typically between 2 to 10 m wide. The rides support a diverse variety of flora and fauna including primrose and early purple orchid. An area of approximately 950m of permissive paths have been closed to access since 2021 for safety reasons and are being allowed to naturally regenerate as part of the wider woodland management .

The site has predominantly unsurfaced paths with three areas of boardwalk to reduce ground impacts in wetter areas of the site. There are a variety of benches located across the wood for people to enjoy views of the site.

There is a small car park for the site, that provides parking for up to two cars along Sandy Lane . The site has no other parking, and visitors are requested not to park along the verges of Sandy Lane to reduce impacts to local residents and emergency vehicles.

Significance

Reffley Wood is a key area of accessible woodland in the local area of King's Lynn and provides important linkages to a variety of Parishes and Wards .The site is adjacent to housing provision in the area and provides locals with opportunity to access green space and woodland close to their homes without the need to use a car .

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities - provision of access to nature and woodlands within an urban environment - to recruit volunteer Woodland Wardens - engagement opportunities with a diverse community Constraints - accessibility of site - interpretation provision - limited parking provision
Factors Causing Change -Ash dieback - increased visitor pressure - adjacent housing development - unauthorized vehicles - camping and BBQ's
Long term Objective (50 years+) Reffley Wood will be open to the public in perpetuity and will provide a key area of green space for the local community in Kings Lynn with sustainable woodland access that complements the important features of the site. Public access will be maintained at the site and the current path system will provide a floristically diverse ride system, alongside low impact permissive paths that allow visitors to experience the wood and veteran trees, whilst protecting the important and sensitive areas of the site. The wood will continue to link to the local public footpath networks and will be part of the much wider access provision in the area. In the long term the site will be served by a new car park to the east of the existing site, created by the developers of the Knights Hill Housing development . The wood is primarily for the use of the local parishes and wards surrounding the site
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years) The approximately 6500m of Paths and rides and associated boardwalks and benches ,are to be managed annually , ensuring works are carried out as necessary to keep the path network open and easy to use for informal public access as detailed in EMC spec 2.01 .The wood will be welcoming with the entrances clearly signed and accessible. Access & Interpretation improvements

During the course of this plan there will be some improvements to the access and infrastructure provision within Reffley Wood. This will include new and revised signage at some of the entrances as well as

Peckover Way Entrance- installation of new welcome signage and interpretation to inform visitors about the site and its special features – December 2026

Earsham drive entrance - installation of new welcome signage and interpretation to inform visitors about the site and its special features – December 2026

Sandy Lane East Entrance- upgrade of existing welcome signage in line to complement other entrances – December 2026

Sandy Lane West Entrance- renewal of welcome board and reorientation of welcome signage to face entrance of site . December 2026

There will also be some improvements to signage and fencing in the southeast corner of the wood to improve information regarding the closure of an area of woodland to public access.

South East fencing & signage improvements – December 2026

Over the course of this plan the Knights Hill housing development on former arable land to the eastern side of the site, will continue to develop. The Woodland Trust will ensure to work closely with the developers, to provide sustainable access provision along the eastern that protects the key features of the site, as well as liaise with the developers on their plans for a proposed car park to the east of the wood.

Manage site safety through safety observations and inspections.

-Associated signage (Site name/welcome signs) to be kept in good condition and regularly maintained as detailed in EMC Spec 1.01 , with a five yearly review of access facilities by the Site Manager.

Access inspection - July 2028

Access inspection - July 2033

Tree Safety surveys

-Zone A Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 12 months

-Zone B Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 24 months

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	October
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	December
2025	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	January
2025	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2026	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	September
2026	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	September
2026	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	October
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2026	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	January
2026	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	January
2027	Oak Common (Bulk Planting)		February
2026	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	March
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2028	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	September
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2028	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2029	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	7.1	Scots pine	1958	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Planted with Corsican and Scot's pine in. Ash, oak and elm regeneration with Hazel field maple, hawthorn and blackthorn understorey with dog's mercury at ground level. Interspersed through out compartment lying deadwood present						
1b	5.74	Scots pine	1971	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Planted with Scot's pine, ash, oak and elm regeneration with Hazel field maple, hawthorn and blackthorn understorey with dog's mercury, blue bells and primrose interspersed within the ground flora. Interspersed through out compartment lying deadwood present.						
1c	2.9	Corsican pine	1970	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Planted with Corsican, ash, oak and elm regeneration with Hazel field maple, hawthorn and blackthorn understorey with dog's mercury, blue bells and early purple orchids and primrose interspersed within the ground flora. Interspersed through out compartment lying deadwood present.						
2a	1.08	Scots pine	1958	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Planted with Scot's pine. Sparse ash oak regeneration with a sparse understorey of rowan, hazel and elder. Bracken and bramble ground cover. Sub compartment contains one mature ash and an ancient oak pollard. There is also low ridge running east west through southern part of compartment.						
2b	2.82	Red oak	1958	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Red oak, larch interspersed within compartment. Bracken and some bramble in understorey with occasional hazel.						
2c	0.92	other poplar spp	1993	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Poplar felled in 1993. Regrowth has been multi-stemmed and will be maintained through coppicing. Dense areas of Black thorn within the Northern area of the compartment.						
2d	1.03	Corsican pine	1967	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Scots Pine, oak still present in the canopy. Bracken and bramble in understorey with occasional hazel. Small areas of Dogs Mercury and Bluebells situated in the north-western corner.						
2e	1.66	Sweet chestnut	1985	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Sweet chestnut planted in 1985. Has been pruned. Only small isolated areas of male fern and ground ivy						
2f	2.16	Corsican pine	1967	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Corsican pine, oak and ash present in the canopy. Bracken and bramble in understorey with occasional hazel. Small patches of bluebells and Dogs Mercury						
3a	0.7	Mixed broadleaves	1940	Min-intervention		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Mixed broadleaves mainly consisting of oak, ash, sycamore, Norway maple, birch and rowan, with very sparse understory and ground flora. The compartment was one time a small quarry and has created steep sided dell, which is well used by local youths.						
3b	2.94	Corsican pine	1957	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Corsican pine interspersed with some oak remains in the canopy. Sparse understorey of hazel, bracken, bramble and bluebell.						
3c	1.43	Sweet chestnut	1985	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Sweet chestnut planted in 1985. very spare understorey with small areas of bluebell developing around compartment edges from neighbouring areas and some small isolated areas of male fern and bracken.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
3d	3.04	Scots pine	1967	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Corsican pine planted in 1967. Sparse understorey with some hazel and rowan situated towards the eastern side of the sub compartment. Bracken and bramble the main ground flora with small patches of bluebell situated to the north part of the compartment. Timber loading bay and old fire pond situated within this compartment. Rhododendron present in a small but significant area.						
3e	1.34	Ash	1967	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Scot's pine with ash oak and elm regeneration. Understorey dominated by hazel bluebell, primrose and dogs mercury. Through centre of sub-compartment wet area dominated by Alder and silver birch with male ferns intermixed as ground flora						
4a	2.32	Scots pine	1964	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order
Scot's and Corsican pine. Ancient oak pollards exist on eastern boundary. Few oak present. Bracken and bramble dominate the understorey. Bluebells dominate eastern edge of compartment adjacent to ancient oak pollards. Strip of Sp felled away from ancient pollards.						
4b	4.59	Mixed broadleaves	1996	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Mixed broadleaves, oak, ash, sweet chestnut, rowan, Norway maple and wild cherry planted after Clearfell in 1996 with much natural birch and Scots and Corsican pine regeneration. To the east of the compartment a thin strip of Scots pine shelter belt along the boundary. Only patchy areas bracken and bramble serves as understorey.						
5a	8.39	Ash	1965	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Scot's pine and ash interspersed with oak, field maple and elm with an understorey of hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn, with the ground flora dominated by dog's mercury and ground ivy interspersed with Primrose.						
5b	2.22	Douglas fir	1958	PAWS restoration		Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Landscape Area
Douglas fir. Heavy broadleaf regeneration situated to the south of the compartment mainly consisting of ash birch with some oak. Veteran oak situated on southern boundary (See map). Understorey mainly hazel with some hawthorn and black thorn. Towards the southern boundary the ground flora is dominated by Dogs mercury. Towards the north of compartment ground flora changes to bracken and bramble interspersed with male fern.						

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

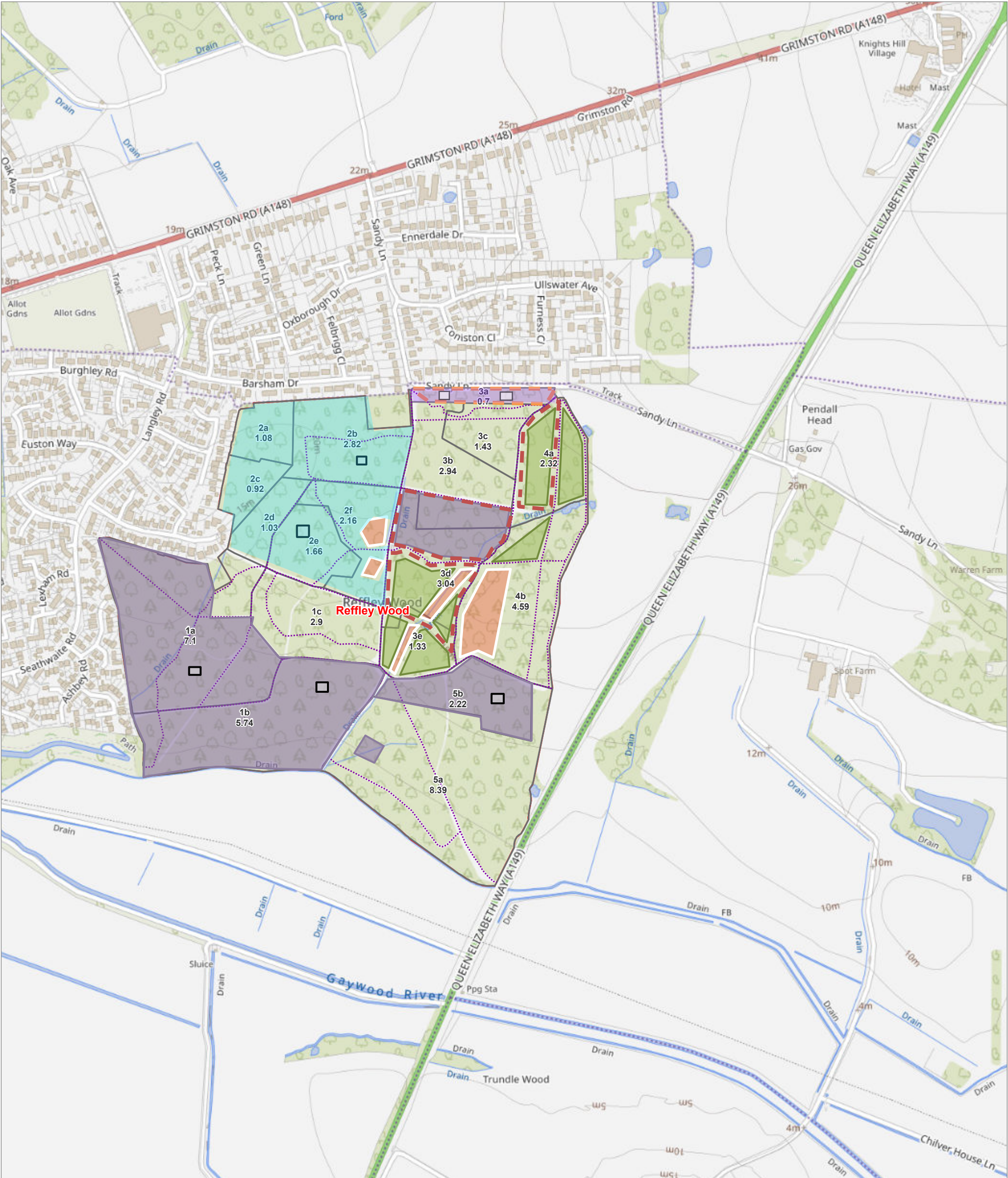
Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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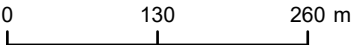


Path Network

- Permissive-Footpath
- SubCompartments
- Woodland Trust Site Boundary
- Bracken Rolling
- Rhododendron Removal
- Thinning operations 2026-27

- Exlosures
- Deer Fencing
- Thin of compartment & Installation of two exclosures.
- Thinning operations 2030-33

Reffley Management Works 2025-29



Scale: 1:6,545 @A3

Date: 17 April 2025

Author:



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