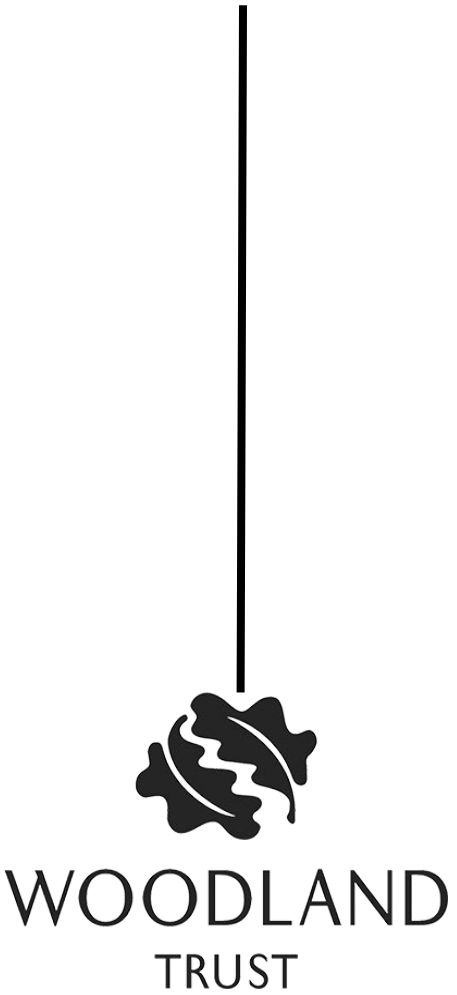
Edolphs Copse

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



Management Plan Content Page

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 website 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

1. SITE DETAILS

Edolphs Copse

Location:	Charlwood Grid reference: TQ236425 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 187
Area:	30.00 hectares (74.13 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Edolphs Copse (subcpts 1a, 2a, and 2b) is a 27.5-hectare (67.9 acres) woodland, just outside of Charlwood, Surrey. It is situated less than two miles northwest of Gatwick airport and within two miles driving distance of three other Woodland Trust sites, including: Ricketts Wood (included within this management plan), Glover's Wood, and Hammond's Copse.

Edolphs Copse lies within the Low Weald National Character Area (NCA no. 121). The Low Weald NCA has a total coverage of 29,406ha of woodland, making up 16% of the total area of the NCA. 16,640ha of this woodland is ancient woodland, amounting to 9% of the NCA. The surrounding landscape to Edolphs Copse is typical of the NCA, being predominantly agricultural and largely pastoral owing to the heavy clay soils with either grazed grassland or forage, including hay meadows. A road, Stan Hill, runs along and within a few metres of the western boundary. The geology is uniquely different at Edolphs Copse, as the wood sits on an outcrop of Paludina Limestone, which forms distinct beds measuring 10-30 cms thick within the Weald Clay formation of the Lower Cretaceous. The limestone (known locally as Charlwood Stone), was prized for use in architecture such as churches and cathedrals as it was known for taking a high polish, leading to another of its local names, 'Sussex marble.' The overlying soils at Edolphs Copse are predominantly base-rich brown-earths.

Historical evidence suggests that the heterogeneous woodland of present day Edolphs Copse formed from a series of small fields and woods, surrounded by banks, ditches, hedgerows and shaws. The Tithe Map (1839) records field names in Edolphs Copse as 'Rawbones', 'Stone Pit Field' and 'Saw Pit Field' Today there are sections of ancient semi natural woodland, mature secondary woodland (200+ years), more recent secondary woodland and an area of remaining open ground. The Copse was named after a local family and probably provided wood products for the manor. Wood banks and field banks can still be found in the wood today, often topped with stubbed trees. Other notable historical features on site include irregular mounds and depressions sited in the areas of hornbeam coppice. Here the Paludina limestone was dug out and the excavations left open. Today, several of these are now permanent and ephemeral (seasonal) ponds. In the adjacent areas the diggings were probably levelled prior to cultivation.

A flat western boundary gives rise to the aforementioned unusual hummock-hollow topography through the central region of the site before the ground gives way to a moderate east-facing slope down to the eastern boundaries. There is a stream/drain in the south of sub compartment 1a.

Ancient woodland areas are mostly old ash, hornbeam, field maple and hazel coppice with some oak and ash standards. There are also rare specimens of large wild service and small-leaved lime. Much of the ash on site is suffering from ash dieback disease (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus), with some dead and declining ash trees having been felled along boundaries and paths during the last 5 years for the safety of site visitors. Ground flora is dominated by bluebell and dogs mercury, except in the north where ivy is present and in southern areas where primrose and wood anemone are also common. Planted areas are generally oak standards and hazel coppice and the occasional non-native (Wellingtonia, horse chestnut, hybrid-poplar). Younger silver birch is also frequent in some areas. The ground flora contains more bramble, nettles, willow herb, and pendulous sedge in areas of secondary woodland, although ancient woodland indicators are also present in these areas.

The managed grassland area (subcpt 2a) is rich in floral diversity displaying several wildflowers such as common spotted orchid, knapweed, betony, red bartsia, fleabane, centaury, agrimony, meadow vetchling, selfheal, and lesser

stitchwort. The other open ground area, which was species-poor improved grassland overlying an old rubbish dump, is thick with scrub as it is in a transitional stage toward woodland cover.

The site is mainly used by local people for informal recreation and provides a good network of permissive footpaths, making various circular routes possible. There are no public rights of way (PROW) within the site.

Nearby Ricketts Wood (subcpt 3a) is ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) within the Green Belt, forming part of the southern section of a larger and contiguous linear strip of woodland on the slopes of a small seasonal stream which drains into the Deanoak Brook to the north. The small wood extends to 2.5 hectares and is situated just 250m north of Edolphs Copse. There is one circular path through the site, with two sleeper footbridges in the north and south where the path crosses the gill. Due to their close proximity and similar woodland structure, Ricketts Wood and Edolphs Copse are managed under one management plan.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In the future, Edolphs Copse and Ricketts Wood will form an important mosaic of features, providing a diversity of habitat for woodland species within the wider landscape, including high forest, woodland edge habitat, open space, and water features. The ancient woodland and secondary woodland areas will be treated the same for the purposes of management. Ride management will maintain wide rides throughout the site, reducing susceptibility of paths to become waterlogged and resulting in wide enough gaps in the canopy to allow for an important shrub edge for birds and butterflies and enough light for ground flora to thrive.

Ash, due to ash dieback, will be reduced to a much smaller component of the species make-up. As this happens, areas of the closed canopy will open up, diversifying the age and structure of the woodland through natural succession. Oak, hornbeam, birch and field maple are a few examples of trees which are likely to take their place. Direct action to remove diseased ash trees will be required in higher risk areas along roadsides and pathways. Whilst some economically viable trees will be removed from site in the process, the amount of standing and fallen deadwood is expected to increase, providing important habitat for invertebrates and fungal communities across the site.

The small number of deer on site may have a short-term impact on regeneration in cut areas. If monitoring events determine the effects to be longer lasting, deer management will be considered to correct the problem.

The species rich meadow area of Edolphs Copse will be maintained as important open ground habitat. 5-yearly species recording will help to monitor the effectiveness of the management strategies.

Regular safety inspections of visitor infrastructure (paths, entrances, signs and boundaries) and high-risk tree zones will ensure that access remains easy and safe for users. Anti-social behaviour such as vandalism or flytipping will be dealt with swiftly.

The Woodland Trust will continue to work in partnership with the local community to help protect these sites from the negative impacts of a potential future expansion of Gatwick Airport.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
The historic land-uses of Edolphs Copse show through in the visible mosaic of tree species and habitat types there today. The site contains a mix of ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) and secondary woodland, some long established (+200 years). Areas of ASNW include former shaws and hedgerows that made up historic boundaries within the woodland and the wider landscape. Most of the secondary woodland in Edolphs Copse has arisen from planting or by slow encroachment into former fields from these ancient woodland edges and old hedgerows. Obvious non-native plantings have occurred both in Victorian times and more recently, evidenced by the presence of some 30m Wellingtonias and tall but often unstable hybrid poplars. Also present are occasional horse chestnuts, sycamores and sweet chestnuts. Ricketts Wood is all classified as ancient woodland. The canopy is dominated by 100+ year oaks and secondary ash. The understory is mostly hornbeam coppice, estimated to have last been cut in the 1950s. More open patches present a more diverse understory including elder, hazel, hawthorn, crab apple, and field maple. Ground flora is hindered under the dense shading of the hornbeam coppice but in the more open areas, bluebells, violets, primroses, wood sedge, ivy, honeysuckle, nightshade are all present. Approximately 0.5ha of oak in the SW of the woodland was selectively thinned in 1997. Most the woodland is NVC habitat type W8 (Fraxinus excelsior – Acer campestre – Mercurialis perennis), typical of base-rich clay soils. However, there are also scattered patches of W10 (Quercus robur – Pteridium aquilinum), particularly in some areas of the ancient sections which are less base-rich. Drifts of bluebells and wood anemone are a prominent feature in the spring. Other ancient woodland indicators include dog's mercury, yellow archangel, rare specimens of small-leaved lime and wild service tree as well as historic woodbanks scattered throughout the wood. There are also many historic ditches, banks, ponds, pits and depressions and other uneven areas caused by various past human activities. These include: boundary banks and ditches, assarting (clearing forest for agriculture), field boundaries, drainage and stone digging. There is a frequent presence of semi-mature to mature ash throughout both sites, almost all of which are showing symptoms of ash dieback to varying degrees.
Significance
The amount of ancient woodland left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. Approximately 40% of England's ancient woodland is found in the Southeast. Ancient woodland is especially important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to

develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites. One of the Trust's main aims is to halt such loss. ASNW is irreplaceable, once lost it cannot be recreated. Much of the flora and fauna of ASNW's are limited to ancient woodland sites due to poor powers of dispersal and slow colonisation rates.

Edolphs Copse and Ricketts Wood are locally important as mixed ancient woodland containing a wide range of native species. They are an integral part of the wider mosaic of small woods linked by ancient hedges and shaws that is characteristic of the Low Weald Character Area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
- Seasonally waterlogged heavy clay soils.

- UKPN powerline cutting across the southern tip of subcpt 1a.

Factors Causing Change

- Tree disease, particularly ash dieback.

- Deer damage to tree/shrub regen and coppice regrowth.

- Grey squirrel damage to trees, particularly oak, hornbeam, and sycamore.

- Antisocial behaviour – although minimal at present there are past incidences of fly-tipping and burning cars.

- Pollution from nearby airport limiting the resilience of individual trees.

- Climate change leading to changes in composition of woodland tree species

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will continue to have a range of broadleaved tree species, a varied structure and associated ancient woodland-specialist ground flora. This will be achieved, mainly through ride side management and the natural succession of sub compartment 2b from open ground to woodland cover. Some further interventions to address the remaining diseased and dying ash in public areas will be required to ensure public safety. Ash that succumb to disease are likely to be succeeded by birch, field maple, and hornbeam. Abundant dead wood will be present, likely increasing due to the high proportion of dying ash trees.

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

To maintain the varied composition and structural diversity of the woodland. This will be achieved by the following actions over the next 5-year plan:

- Ride management in sub compartment 1a, comprising a total of approximately 400 metres of ride to be coppiced between Autumn/Winter 2026/27 and Autumn/Winter 2029/30.

- Repeat HIA-lite survey for deer impact assessment every three years in late winter. The last was undertaken in 2024 to inform on the current management plan review and will be repeated in 2027 and 2030.

4.2 F1

Description
Significance
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

4.3 f2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description
Although relatively small, sub compartment 2a is an important feature of Edolphs Copse. The 0.6ha of unimproved grassland is shown on maps as far back as the 1840 tithe map under the title "Butter Field". This open ground habitat adds to the wood's visual appeal and its rich meadow flora adds to the biodiversity of the site. Positive indicator species present include frequent common agrimony, glaucous sedge, common knapweed, and greater bird-foot trefoil. Other notable indicator species present include occasional common spotted orchids, and rare meadowsweet, ragged robin, hoary ragwort, and meadow vetchling. More generalist species present include frequent creeping cinquefoil, smooth tare, common fleabane, and rare or occasional Yorkshire fog, red bartsia, marsh thistle, lesser stitchwort, self-heal, red and white clover, sorrel, creeping and meadow buttercup, and rushes. Rotational coppicing of the shrubs around the edges of the meadow has prevented encroachment and has created an important woodland edge habitat, benefiting birds, butterflies, and other invertebrates. Sub compartment 2b (1.06ha) is a temporary area of open ground, transitioning to woodland cover. This former meadow lacked floral species richness and had issues with an overabundance of mare’s tail – due to its previous use as a municipal tip. Under the 2010-2016 management plan, the annual cut was stopped to allow the area to revert back to woodland. Most of the sub compartment is now covered with bramble, nettles, wild roses, the non-native Buddleia,

and scrubby edges. There are some remnant grassland species along the cut track and near to the western edge, including common spotted orchid, centaury, selfheal, and musk mallow.

Significance

The unimproved grassland in sub compartment 2a represents an irreplaceable and vanishing aspect of the Wealden countryside and heritage. Nationally less than 3% of grasslands remain unimproved and many such areas are still being lost at an alarming rate due to development, intensive farming and inappropriate management decisions. The Trust's continued management and monitoring will ensure that this valuable habitat is not lost at Edolphs Copse.

Sub compartment 2b contains many species considered undesirable in grassland habitats; however, some of these are important food sources for moth and butterfly caterpillars. Allowing this area to revert to its historical woodland state while maintaining a wide scalloped track for the invertebrates will increase the overall biodiversity of this sub compartment, as its state as open ground habitat was species poor and over abundant in invasive type plants (i.e. Buddleia and mare's tail).

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
- To support traditional grassland scythe management by volunteers, which is less intrusive than mechanical alternatives.

Constraints:
- Small size of open ground area is expensive to maintain and quick to disappear if not managed.
- lack of volunteers make scything difficult.

Factors Causing Change

- Natural succession to scrub/woodland.

- Presence of the invasive mare's tail in subcpt 2b is limiting the floral diversity of the area.

- Deer browsing.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Subcpt 2a to remain as a good quality unimproved grassland with a diversity of grassland flora and a good representation of positive indicator species for lowland meadows. Edges may vary slightly through scrub edge coppicing, but overall area of grassland to remain at least half a hectare in size.

Subcpt 2b will continue to progress into secondary woodland through natural colonisation of the former open area, with a maintained wide scalloped ride running east to west near the northern boundary of the compartment.

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

Over the next 5-year period, the objective is to support the biodiversity benefits of the non-woodland habitat types in Edolphs Copse by:

- Annually cutting and removing arisings in compartment 2a in late summer, cutting alternate halves of the meadow in

alternate years. Cuttings to be left in compost pile in northwest or northeast of sub compartment.

- Ensure that woodland scrub does not encroach into compartment 2a by more than 10%. Rotational coppicing of the perimeter of the open space should be undertaken annually during this management plan period, with one side coppiced each year for the next 4 years. Two monitoring events within this plan period will ensure this objective is met.

- A Lowland Meadow Condition Assessment was undertaken in 2024, to inform the latest management plan review. This will be repeated in 2029 to inform on the next management plan review in 2030.

- Annual 3m wide path cut and maintenance of scallops through subcpt 2b (150m).

4.4 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Edolphs Copse is popular among local walkers. The Woodland Trust has categorised the site as a B access site – a maintained site of moderate usage. Situated only 1km from Charlwood and less than 5km from the northern edges of Crawley, the population of 100,000 within 6 miles of the site provides an excellent base for visitors. Two laybys along Stan Hill Rd provide enough parking for up to 4-5 cars. The spring bluebell season brings visitors from further afield and the limited space for parking can be an issue as Stan Hill is a busy road with blind corners.

There is a good but complex network of paths throughout Edolphs Copse, totalling just over 3.5km of trail. Most paths are grass or earth surface and can be wet and muddy, particularly in winter. They are mowed and cut back twice each summer. The paths take the public past many historic wooded banks and other features, including: the remarkably large wild service tree by the central pond; and the Wellingtonias near the main entrance and in other parts of the wood. The sloping topography near the eastern boundary of the wood allows for good views over the surrounding open countryside and even provides glimpses of the North Downs.

There are no public rights of way passing through, or immediately adjacent to Edolphs Copse. However, there are two public footpaths connecting to the western side of Stan Hill approximately 100m from the main entrance, thereby linking Edolphs Copse with the local rights of way network. Edolphs Copse is also only a short drive from three other Woodland Trust sites. Ricketts Wood is just 250m north, and Glovers Wood and Hammonds Copse are just 2 miles away.

Nearby Rickett's Wood is just 250m north of Edolphs Copse. As a small woodland with no parking, it sees much fewer visitor numbers and is therefore categorised as a C site, meaning the entrance and small circular path is maintained but it is generally a 'wild wood'. However, for those walkers travelling cross country, they will be pleasantly rewarded by the ethereal beauty of the ancient woodland and gill that form Rickett's Wood.

Significance

It has been proven that access to woodland provides an improved quality of life with benefits to both mental and physical health. Edolphs Copse provides an accessible and varied woodland resource with a wide array of plants and wildlife for people to enjoy.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
- Tendency of the ground to become wet and muddy creating unwanted wider paths and new paths throughout the wood.

- Quiet enjoyment is frequently interrupted by aircraft activity at nearby Gatwick.

- Visitor impact on ancient woodland.

Factors Causing Change

- Path creep widening bare-ground surfaces and damaging woodland edge habitat along rides.

- Bluebell season increasing visitor demand.

- Potential future Gatwick Airport expansion may reduce the number/size of local public green spaces, which could increase the number of regular visitors to Edolphs Copse. It could also increase noise disruption due to increased air traffic.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will remain an attractive and popular place for local people to walk-in, explore, learn, and enjoy. On-site access facilities will be maintained, responding re-actively with changes in demand for the site. Ride management will improve the visitor experience by creating a variety of internal views and will help alleviate wet ground conditions.

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

During this plan period, the short-term objective is to continue to provide public access at Edolphs Copse which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:

- Biannual ride/path cut and entrance maintenance (June and August).

- Regular tree safety surveys and remedial work:
• Annual Zone A surveys, alternating summer and autumn.
• Zone B surveys every two years due to the presence of ash dieback.

- Annual survey of site infrastructure including gates, benches, signage, and sleeper footbridges.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing potholes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2026	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,	September
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	February
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2027	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,	July
2027	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,	September
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2027	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	February
2028	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,	July
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2028	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,	September
2028	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	February
2028	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2029	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,	July
2029	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,	September
2029	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2029	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	February
2030	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,	July
2030	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,	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	25.82	Oak (pedunculate)	1800	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Tree Preservation Order
The largest compartment of Edolph's Copse is a mixture of ASNW and old secondary woodland, mostly of native broadleaved species, although there are some large specimens of Wellingtonias near the main entrance and mature collapsing hybrid poplars in the northwest of the subcpt. Ancient woodland areas are mostly old ash, hornbeam, field maple and hazel coppice with some oak and ash standards. There are also rare specimens of large wild service and small-leaved lime. Ground flora is dominated by bluebell and dogs mercury, except in the north where ivy is present and in southern areas where primrose and anemone are also common. The secondary woodland areas are a combination of very old (+200 yrs) plantings, more recent plantings (<100yrs), and natural succession from woodland edges. Planted areas are generally oak standards and hazel coppice and the occasional non-native (Wellingtonia, horse chestnut, poplar). Younger silver birch is also frequent in some areas. Other native trees and shrubs present include goat willow, alder, blackthorn, holly, and both common and Midland hawthorn. The ground flora contains more bramble, nettles, willow herb, and pendulous sedge although ancient woodland indicators are present in these areas as well. Subcpt 1a is generally heavily shaded, but where gaps exist, the lower canopy consists of ash and hornbeam regeneration, holly, and hawthorn. Honeysuckle, dog rose, and ribes are also present in patches. Other ground flora species include yellow archangel, herb Robert, male fern and wood avens. There are several small ponds scattered throughout the central and western parts of the subcpt, which are the remains of historical pits dug to extract the limestone. A stream/drain develops into a steep sided small gill in the southeast.						
2a	0.58	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Tree Preservation Order
This compartment is an area of unimproved grassland with "soft" wood edges. In spring and summer the meadow is full of wild flowers and fine grasses that include common spotted orchid, knapweed, betony, red clover, red bartsia,						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
fleabane, centaury, agrimony, creeping and meadow buttercup, meadow vetchling, white clover, selfheal, meadowsweet, water mint, lesser stitchwort. A late season cut is carried out on half of the meadow by machine or scythe in alternating years.						
2b	1.06	Open ground		Min-intervention		Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Tree Preservation Order
Formerly improved grassland over an old rubbish dump, most of this compartment is now densely covered in, nettles, brambles, wild roses, buddleia and hogweed with a scrubby edge blending into the mature woodland. The scrub is made up of hawthorn, blackthorn, goat willow and alder. The western part has an area of short grass that includes common spotted orchid, hawkbit, centaury, selfheal, musk mallow and teasel.						
3a	2.54	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt
Small woodland known as Ricketts Wood just north of Edolphs Copse. Mixed broadleaf woodland dominated by oak with secondary ash canopy and an understorey of hornbeam. A seasonal stream with sporadic sink holes dissects the area and a small pond with fluctuating water table is in the west of the wood. A circular path takes in all of the woodland and crosses the gill in the north and south over simple sleeper bridges.						

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.

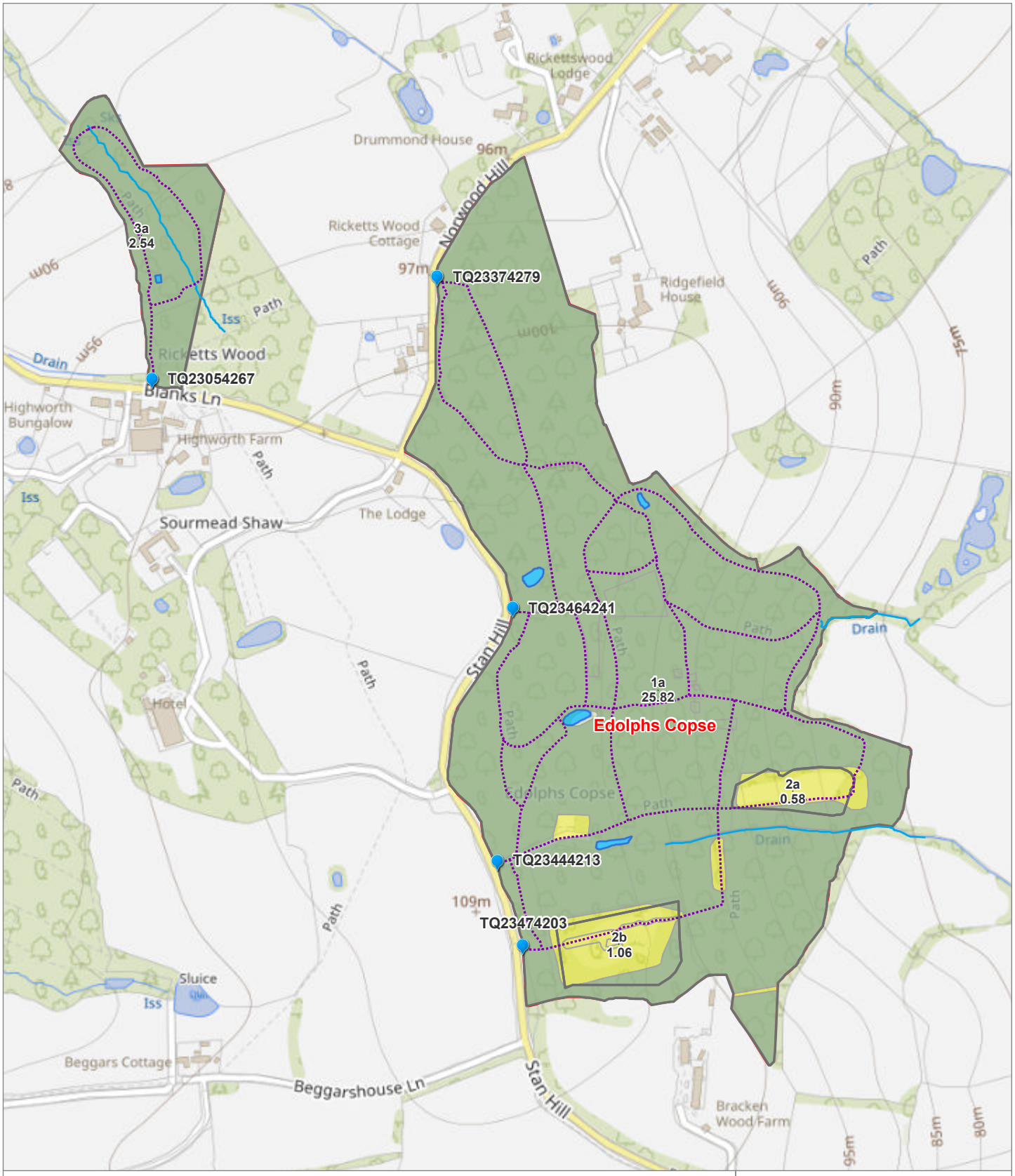
Sub-Compartment
Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

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.

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



Access Points

Access points

Path Network

Permissive-Footpath

Watercourses

Water Bodies

SubCompartments

Habitat

Existing Woodland

Other Habitat

Woodland Trust Site Boundary

Edolphs Copse & Rickett's Wood

0 120 240 m

Scale: 1:6,000 @A4

Date: 18 November 2025

Author:

WOODLAND TRUST