

Woodland Trust Management Plan

Wood Hill Wood (Plan period 2024–2029)



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

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. Site Details

Location:	Alva Grid reference: NS898978 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 58
Area:	79.29 hectares (195.93 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value, Local Nature Conservation Site
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. Site Description

Location, Altitude and Aspect

Wood Hill Wood is located on the southern slope of the Ochil Hills, between the villages of Alva and Tillicoultry, to the north of the A91. The OS grid reference for the main entrance is NS 896 977. The lower boundary of the main body of the wood is at an altitude of approximately 90m, whilst the upper boundary is at approximately 390m above sea level.

The site is extremely steep, both from the north to south boundary, but also into the east and west boundaries where fast flowing burns have carved narrow, steep glens.

The woodland is very visible in the landscape, being the only woodland on the southern slopes of the Ochils in the immediate area. Neighbouring land use to the east, north and west is hill farming with sheep grazing. To the south, there are houses, a horse paddock, golf course, and a woodland park.

Physical Description

The underlying rock of the Ochil Hills is igneous rock of the Devonian period, of an intermediate (between acidic and basic) nature. This gives rise to soils of the Sourhope soil association. These are drifts, derived from old red sandstone, intermediate lavas. The soils are generally brown forest soils. However, at Wood Hill Wood, the soil layer is extremely thin and totally absent in certain areas where bare rock or scree forms the ground surface.

The wood is described in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as being Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland; Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO). The site is believed to be one of the oldest plantations in Scotland, having been planted in the middle of the 18th century. The funding for this planting project is thought to have been derived from the silver extracted from Silver Glen, under the direction of the then owner, Sir John Erskine.

Little is known about woodland management between the 18th century and the 1940s, although timber extraction obviously occurred. In the 1940s the Forestry Commission planted much of the lower slopes with sycamore. Further Forestry Commission planting was in the shape of blocks of conifers planted in the 1960s. The wood was purchased by the Woodland Trust in 1990, with grant aid from the then Countryside Commission for Scotland. A small extension was gifted by Clackmannanshire Council in 1994. Works since acquisition include erecting safety grills over mine entrances, rhododendron clearance, path construction, felling a larch block and replanting, thinning sycamore, opening up view points, halo thinning veteran trees and fence renewals.

Site History

There are a number of old mine shafts and adits in the western part of the woodland near Silver Burn. First opened in 1714 the mines were finally abandoned in 1770. The principal metals recovered from these mines were silver, cobalt and arsenic.

Whilst silver mining at Alva has romantic connections with the Jacobite rebellions, the cobalt mining has important associations with the production of the blue glaze (Littler's Blue). The shafts and adits pose a potential safety hazard and are thus fenced off and signed as dangerous.

There are three sites of archaeological interest in the wood. These are not scheduled ancient monuments, but remain of historical interest. All three sites are located in the west of the site, in the vicinity of Silver Burn. The first is on the west side of the burn, and is a circular enclosure. The structure is of unknown date and function. The other two structures are both on the east side of the burn, north of the tributary, but south of the Sitka spruce plantation. These are both formed from a series of turf enclosures of unknown date, although they are suggested to be from the late/post-medieval period rather than prehistoric. Both of these sites are thought to have served some kind of agricultural function. All three of the structures occur in areas of ground that are currently un-wooded.

Access

Most visitors to Wood Hill Wood use either the main track leading from the council car park heading north west through the wood to gain access to the Ochil Hills beyond, or use a section of the track to the east as part of the long distance multi-use route towards Tillicoultry. Less frequently, walkers use the circular path (approximately 2km long) which starts from the car park, heads north-west up a vehicular track, then climbs steeply uphill on a narrow path (before Silver Burn). This path then runs across the middle slopes, before dropping steeply down again to join the Council path and heading west back to the car park. There are several viewpoints on this path with superb views to the south.

The paths and vehicular tracks have a rough stoned surface, over most of the routes.

Levels of public pedestrian use could be described as medium (WT access code B), with occasional use of the paths by horse riders and mountain bikers. The wood is regularly used by local interest groups including orienteering and silver panning.

Just south of the wood, there is a car park (owned by Clackmannanshire Council) with a joint information board, a play park and picnic benches.

3. Long Term Policy

Woodland

The long-term intention is to maintain the site as a predominantly wooded area, graduating from dense woodland cover on the lower slopes, to scattered trees and open grassland on the upper slopes. This graduation will provide a soft landscape edge between the main body of the woodland and the open grazing land on the hill top. It is anticipated that the site will remain as mixed broadleaved woodland, with a large proportion of even aged non-native species (particularly sycamore) present. Over time it is expected that the woodland will become more diverse in age and structural composition. This will be achieved by natural regeneration as gaps occur in the canopy from senescence or windblow of older trees, targeted selective thinning of the conifers and halo thinning around the veteran trees. Throughout the woodland there will be a secure, healthy and diverse ground flora characteristic of long-term woodland cover and open ground upland habitat.

Surviving ancient woodland remnants will continue to be secured and enhanced by gradually reducing shade in two ways -veteran trees will gradually be released by selective removal of any adjacent trees which are shading out or overtopping them, and conifer blocks (western hemlock and spruce stands) will be selectively thinned to reduce the threat of over shading to the field layer, encourage ground flora and increase deadwood habitat.

The plantation of Sitka spruce in the north-west corner does not fit in with the landscape of scattered trees on the upper slopes, and the long term intention is for this block to gradually convert back to open ground with scattered trees. There is no evidence of woodland before this plantation (no stumps, no woodland flora, and no woodland on old maps). The area of spruce is small and very inaccessible and therefore management intervention would be prohibitively expensive. The current intention is to allow the trees to grow old and gradually blow over with little or no management input.

The upper tree line will be allowed to develop naturally over time. It is envisaged that this will be very gradual and that on-going deer and hare browsing will maintain the upper limits of the site as open acid grassland.

Invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* will be eradicated. Any surviving large bushes and regrowth from old stumps will be chemically controlled and any new growth seeding in from adjacent land will be pulled out.

Public Access

The long-term intention is to continue to offer the opportunity for low-key informal public access and small-scale organised events through on-going maintenance of the existing path network. There are no plans to actively try to increase public use of the site, however, any opportunities to join in any joint access network projects will be considered.

Regular inspections will be undertaken with regard to tree safety and other access features. Remedial work will be carried out as needed.

4. Key Features

4.1 f1 Connecting People with Woods and Trees

Description

Wood Hill Wood is situated in a prominent location, with some of the most extensive native woodland accessible in the Ochil Hills.

Access is promoted from the Clackmannanshire Council Woodland Park car park, which neighbours the Woodland Trust site. The Woodland Trust footpath network is accessible directly from the car park, or through the network of footpaths managed by the Council in the Woodland Park. The car park has capacity for approximately 20 cars. The most popular paths are the circular path (2km long) which climbs steeply uphill and offers extensive views across the Firth of Forth, and the through-route between Alva and Tillicoultry which is part of a long-distance route along the foot of the Ochils.

There are a handful of informal paths across the site which are not maintained, the most well-used of these links the main loop path up to the summit of Wood Hill (which is not managed by WT). This path links into the wider Ochil Hills. The two main paths on the site are a rough stone surface.

An orientation board is located in the Council car park, which provides information about both the Woodland Trust and Council sites. Funded by the Ochils Landscape Partnership, there is an interpretation board about the silver mines near the eastern entrance of the site at the waterfall viewpoint. Small welcome signs are located at each entrance to the wood.

Most local walkers access the woodland from the Council car park, or via the paths and road from Alva or Tillicoultry. It is predominantly used by walkers, mountain bikers and the occasional horse rider.

The nearest communities to Wood Hill Wood are: Alva (1km away, population c. 4600) and Tillicoultry (2km away, population c. 5900). The largest nearby town is Alloa (5km away, population c. 20,700). It is thought that most of the people who use Wood Hill Wood are local people.

Other countryside sites nearby are: Council-owned Woodland Park (adjacent to Wood Hill Wood) and Gartmorn Dam (3km to the south). RSPB's Black Devon wetlands, Scottish Wildlife Trust's Cambus Pools and National Trust for Scotland's Dollar Glen are approximately 7km away respectively. There are several national cycle network routes passing through Clackmannanshire and numerous informal paths throughout the Ochil Hills. The nearest Woodland Trust sites are the Glen Devon woodlands, further east in the Ochils.

A handful of events and workshops have been held at Wood Hill Wood over recent years. These have included workshops run by third parties and the Forth Climate Forest, including silver panning and wild garlic-bread making. There are limited opportunities on the site for volunteering, mostly due to the steepness and inaccessibility of most of the site. Future community events could look to work with The Conservation Volunteers, who are active in the local area. There is one volunteer warden who is active on the site.

There are nearby primary schools in Alva, Tillicoultry and Fishcross. There are also high schools in Alva and Alloa.
Significance
Wood Hill Wood provides a significant wooded area in the Ochil Hills, where there are significant options for public access. As a mixed woodland, it contrasts with much of the surrounding uplands which, with the exception of the wooded glens, are bare. It is well-used by mainly local visitors. The site offers great views to the south, across the Firth of Forth.
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>There are opportunities to improve the visitor experience by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working in partnership with Clackmannanshire Council staff and other local groups such as TCV and Forth Climate Forest eg. supporting third-party event requests and collaborative community events - Improving the surface and resilience of eroded sections of the loop path - Improved interpretation about the silver mines and history of the site - Working closely with the volunteer warden for the site <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the site is on extremely steep slopes, with a number of rocky outcrops and loose scree, making access off paths difficult
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>Wood Hill Wood will provide an extensive area of quiet informal recreation to a wide range of users from the local community. The use of the site by visitors to the area will be promoted through a positive relationship with Clackmannanshire Council and by providing good signage and orientation.</p> <p>Entrances and signage will have a welcoming appearance and there will be well maintained paths providing routes through a variety of landscapes, with viewpoints towards the Firth of Forth and linking to the Council-managed Woodland Park.</p> <p>There will be occasional small-scale events, appropriate to the nature of the site.</p>
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
The site will be kept in a safe and welcoming condition by:

- Surveying ash trees around areas of high public use every summer. Fell to waste of ash trees causing a risk to public safety where they are showing advanced signs of dieback and are within falling distance of paths or houses. Retain ash trees elsewhere across the site.
- Maintaining paths and viewpoints so they are well-drained and free of encroaching vegetation (annually)
- Improving drainage on steep sections of path which are becoming eroded. Widen parts of the upper loop path where the bench-cut has become narrow (2026)
- Carrying out litter picks where necessary (annually by contractors and informally by volunteer warden)
- Carrying out regular safety inspections (timing and locations as per site risk assessment)
- Liaising with Clackmannanshire Council staff to ensure linking footpaths and shared interpretation are maintained

Develop volunteering opportunities by:

- Working with the volunteer warden who has an 'eyes and ears' role and can report site issues to the Site Manager

4.3 f2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin

Description

The wood is shown on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as being of Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO) and is believed to have been planted in the middle of the 18th century. The woodland is located on the steep slopes of the Ochil Hills and is extremely visible from the Forth Valley, being designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value.

The woodland grades from mature high forest, of closely spaced trees and a dense canopy cover, on the lower slopes, through pole-stage regeneration, to scattered mature trees and open grassland on the hill tops. The predominant species are sycamore (mostly on the lower slopes in compartment 3f – planted 1940s), ash (mostly on mid slopes in compartment 3e – planted 1970s), and Scots pine, larch, oak and beech (mostly on upper slopes in compartments 3b and 3d – planted 1880s). Other species scattered over the site in small numbers include birch, wild cherry, rowan, yew and elm (both un-diseased and dead), and there are also small distinct blocks of Sitka spruce and western hemlock in compartments 1a, 2a and 3a (planted 1960s).

The understory is mainly hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and ash regeneration. Rhododendron used to be large part of the understory in places but is now sparse after years controlling this invasive shrub.

Ground flora in the woodland varies from none, in areas where the soil cover is of stony scree and the canopy very dense, to dense bracken and brambles on some parts of the lower slopes. There are large areas in the mature woodland where the ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury along with occasional scattered groups of bluebells. Higher up the slope, the ground flora consists of soft grasses, that become coarse and acid tolerant at even greater altitudes. There are substantial areas of bracken, small patches under the tree canopy in the south-west and large areas beyond the treeline, particularly in the west of the woodland. Mosses are frequent over the mid and upper slopes, particularly amongst the rocky outcrops.

At the upper elevations of Wood Hill Wood, the woodland begins to thin out, with groups of scattered trees amongst grassland. Along much of the northern boundary, which is the point of greatest altitude, the site is devoid of trees. The grassland in this area is predominantly composed of acid-tolerant species and blaeberry is prolific. It is evident that grazing animals, deer and occasional hares, feed in this area, maintaining a closely cropped sward. The steep, almost cliff-like slopes below the grass plateau are covered with either soft grasses or bracken and scattered trees.

There are numerous veteran trees scattered throughout the upper areas of the woodland, predominantly in compartments 3b, 3d, 3e and 3f. These are a mix of species including: beech, oak and elm.

There is abundant aerial and fallen deadwood throughout the wood.

Significance

Broadleaved woodland cover is limited in the area, and Wood Hill Wood provides a valuable local wildlife habitat. As this is a long-established woodland, the biodiversity value is significant.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Ash dieback has badly affected the woodland
- Access for timber extraction is limited due to the steep gradient and a lack of suitable vehicle access
- Due to the relatively small size of the site, deer management would benefit from being a joint approach with neighbours

Opportunities:

- In the medium term to gradually remove heavy shade-casting conifers by selective thinning on lower slopes and allowing spruce to gradually succumb to wind over time on upper margin
- Felling trees with advanced ash dieback where they pose a potential threat to public safety, can allow for increased light levels in areas of closed canopy woodland
- Halo thinning around veteran trees
- Liaise with neighbours to encourage a reduction in rhododendron on their land

Factors Causing Change

- Ash dieback is present throughout the ash trees in the woodland
- Regrowth of treated rhododendron and the spread of rhododendron on neighbouring land
- High deer browsing prevents most regeneration from establishing

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will continue be managed as a predominantly wooded area, merging into scattered trees and open grassland on the upper slopes. Wood Hill Wood will be a diverse and resilient woodland, with the surviving remnants of ancient woodland (veteran trees and specialist flora) protected and restored.

Temporarily open areas in the canopy caused by ash dieback will be colonised by naturally regenerating trees, improving the age diversity of the woodland. Standing and fallen deadwood from ash dieback will be retained where not causing a risk to public safety, due to their biodiversity value.

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

- Map remaining rhododendron bushes across the site (2024 and every two years to inform programme of treatment).
- Removal and/or treatment of all rhododendron regrowth on the site every two years, with eradication completed within the next plan period. Treatment will be removing by hand wherever possible. If this is not possible, cutting and stump treating or overspray with herbicide will be used where required.
- In consultation with WT deer management specialist, consider the need for herbivore Habitat Impact Assessment and the practicality of deer management on the site (2025).
- Map veteran trees (2026) and identify those which would benefit from halo thinning, which can be combined with ash dieback felling (annually).
- No other silvicultural intervention in this plan period.

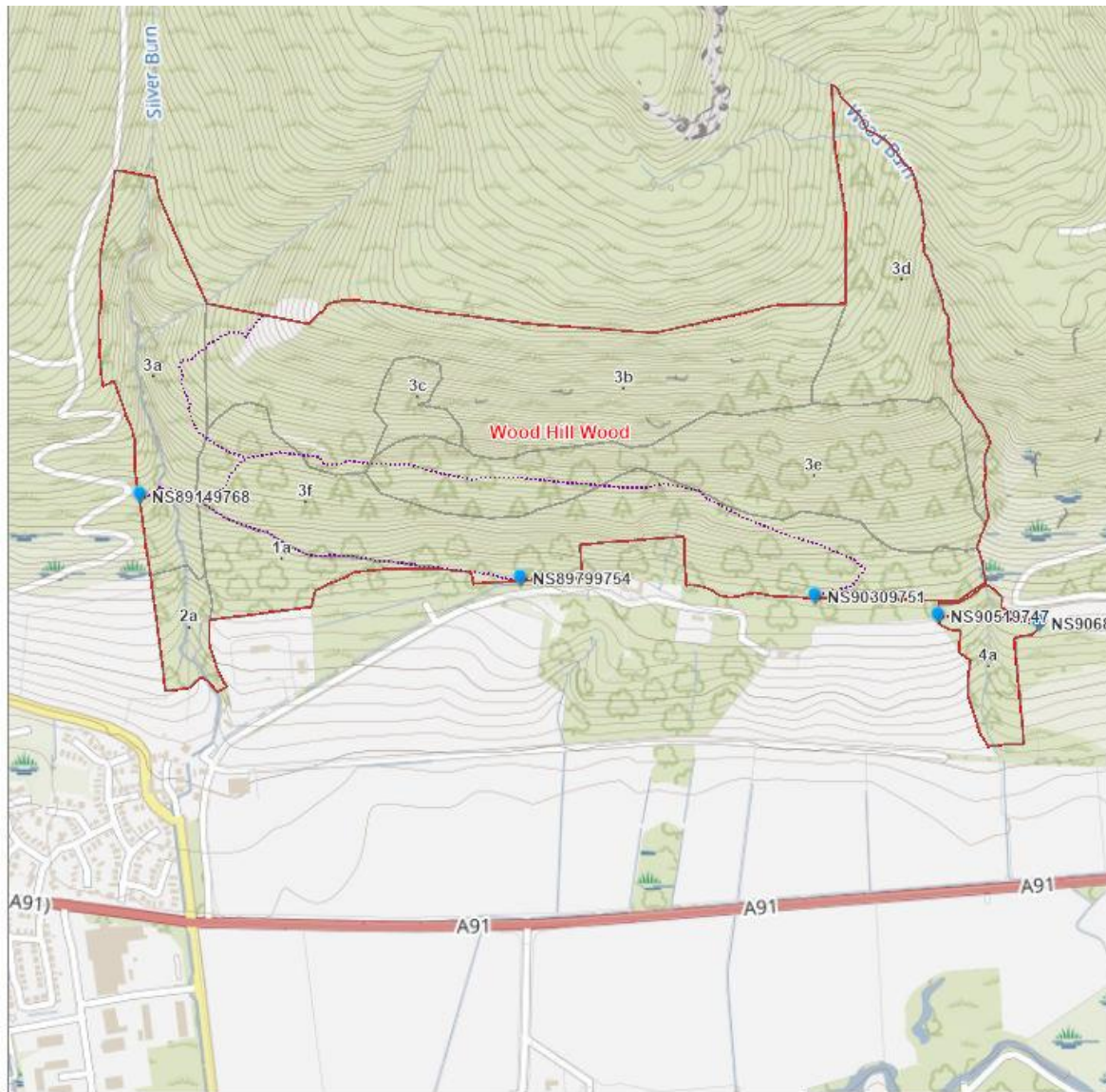
Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	3.2	Sycamore	1940	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value
<p>The majority of the compartment slopes relatively steeply from north to south. The tree cover in the area is very diverse in both age structure and species composition, although it becomes more uniform with sycamore to the east. Main species present are sycamore, birch, ash, larch, elm and western hemlock. A proportion of the hemlock is standing dead following successful ring-barking. Understorey comprises of some regeneration of ash and hawthorn in glades (created by death of elms) and occasional elder. There is also a occasional large Portuguese laurel. Ground flora is mainly grasses with bracken, although absent under the denser western hemlock blocks.</p>						
2a	1.8	Sycamore	1940	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value
<p>The compartment slopes relatively steeply into the burn and less steeply towards the southern boundary. The trees are a wide variety of ages and species, including sycamore, ash, birch, a small block of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, with occasional beech, larch and holly. Understorey is patchy and limited to elder, hawthorn, stunted western hemlock and occasional rhododendron. Ground flora is patchy with ramsons, dogs mercury, and grass. On the south western boundary there is a profusion of scrubby undergrowth of brambles and nettles.</p>						
3a	8.8	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>The majority of this sub-compartment is composed of the steep sides of the gully into Silver Burn and its tributary. The understorey and plants in this sub-compartment are the most abundant and diverse out of the whole wood. At the southern end, the woodland is composed of predominantly larch and ash, with oak, birch, willow, rowan, sycamore and cherry, with an understorey of hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose and elder. North of the footbridge, larch is confined to the boundary and below the tributary, with scrubby ash, sycamore, birch, oak and rowan – most prolific in the valley bottom. The understorey is a mix of gorse, broom, bracken and brambles. There are also patches of wood sorrel, dog violet, blaeberry and fox glove. In the far north, is an area (0.5ha) of semi-mature Sitka spruce with occasional blown stems, with no understorey. The rest of the compartment is open-ground covered with bracken and grasses. Very limited evidence of tree regeneration on upper slopes</p> <p>There are a number of mine shafts and adits throughout, now disused and fenced off or their entrances covered with grills for public safety reasons.</p>						
3b	20.8	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value
<p>This area is composed of steep slopes with a number of rocky outcrops and cliffs at the upper edge of the woodland boundary. A sparse tree canopy, with a scattering of mature Scots pine, oak and larch, with occasional beech, ash, and sycamore. Understorey is limited to occasional blackthorn. Much of the sub-compartment is covered with soft grass on the lower slopes and acid, coarse grass on the top of the hill with areas of bracken and blaeberry. There is occasional regeneration of rowan and larch.</p>						
3c	1.5	Sycamore	1970	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value
<p>Pole stage sycamore on steep slopes with no understorey and sparse ground cover of mainly soft grasses.</p>						
3d	8.6	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value
<p>A relatively steeply sloping area of ground, sloping towards the south and into the Wood Burn on the east. The woodland is composed predominantly of widely spaced mature oak and Scots pine, with occasional sycamore, larch and beech. There is also an area of predominantly mature beech on the knoll of the hill. There is very limited regeneration of rowan. Understorey is sparse and ground flora is predominately: soft grasses, blueberry, bracken and small amounts of heather. An old fence line marks the western boundary.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
3e	14.8	Ash	1970	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value
<p>The trees in the area are predominantly pole-stage ash, relatively closely spaced and interspersed with occasional sycamore, oak and birch. Compartment contains a number of veteran trees. The slope of much of the sub-compartment is severe, with a number of rocky outcrops and cliffs being present. Understorey is made up of areas of ash regeneration and occasional hawthorn. Ground flora is predominately: grasses, bracken and brambles, in some areas ground flora is sparse.</p>						
3f	17.3	Sycamore	1940	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value
<p>This sub-compartment comprises a strip of woodland covering the lower third of the slope, almost all across the site. The slopes are slightly less severe than in much of the rest of the site. The woodland is composed of predominantly mature sycamore which is closely spaced, with long straight boles and provides dense canopy cover. Compartment contains a number of veteran trees. Understorey is limited to ash regeneration, which is common but with evidence of some deer browsing and suffering from lack of light. Ground cover is sparse in some places. There is an abundance of dog's mercury, with the occasional clumps of bluebells. There is also a small area to the east of the Farriers which was planted in 1993 with mixed broadleaves and shrubs. The planted trees have grown well and there is an abundance of vigorous coppice regeneration of ash and sycamore. Brambles are prolific. Rhododendron has been successfully controlled over a number of years.</p>						
4a	2.5	Sycamore	1940	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value
<p>An area of woodland separated from the main body of Wood Hill Wood by a vehicle track, which is not in WT ownership. The area slopes towards the main A91, steeply in the northern end. Wood Burn runs through the wood, dividing it in half longitudinally. The woodland is composed of a wide variety of species and ages including sycamore, larch, ash, oak, rowan, Norway spruce, Douglas fir, yew, beech, birch, holly and cherry. Shrubs present are hawthorn and elder. Ground flora is sparse with patches of ramsons and grass. The area is evidently occasionally used for casual mountain biking with informal routes. Rhododendron has been successfully controlled over a number of years.</p>						

Appendix 2 : Site Map

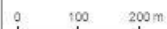


- Estate Access Points**
- Access points
- Estate Path Network Scottish Only**
- Path
- Estate SubCompartments**
- Estate SubComp Labels
- EstateManagementUnitsPolygonsGB**
- ▭ Estate Management Units Polygons



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Wood Hill Wood



Scale: 1:10,000 @A4

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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.

Registered Office:

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