

Crown Meadow Wood

(Plan period – 2024 to 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

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2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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 - 4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Crown Meadow Wood

Location:	Dunton Green Grid reference: TQ507577 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 188
Area:	5.41 hectares (13.37 acres)
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Crown Meadow Wood extends 5.41 hectares, situated on the northern edge of the village of Dunton Green in Sevenoaks, located in West Kent, adjacent to the M26. The site is part surrounded by arable fields and small pockets of ancient semi natural woodland. Dunton Green sits in the valley of the River Darent, at the northern boundary of the Wealden Greensand National Character Area (NCA). Its geology comprises of lower and upper Gault clay and distinctive bandings of chalk with flints towards the eastern and western hills of the North Downs. Historically, Dunton Green was well known for its clay based industries including brick and tile production, and the River Darent was readily utilised for gravel working.

The land at Crown Meadow Wood sits on a chalk escarpment, and was once comprised of part arable field; part allotment. The southern half of the slopes which lead down to the M26 were formed from soil tipped on the land during the motorway construction. It was purchased in 1999 as part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on your Doorstep' scheme, which sought to create new community woodland, providing a valuable area for public recreation and local wildlife whilst becoming an important feature in the local landscape. In 2000, with sponsorship from Sainsbury's, Homebase, The National Lottery (as part of the Millennium Project) and the Forestry Commission, the site was planted with a range of native broadleaf species, aside from 0.5ha left to naturally regenerate. The planting formed part of a community event and involved several nearby residents and students from Dunton Green Primary School. The name of this wood was chosen by the local population and school children and pays homage to the original name of the field where the wood now stands.

Due to its close proximity to the North Downs, the western half of Crown Meadow Wood, 1.46 hectares falls within the Kent Downs National Landscape. The site also sits within the Green Belt designation. There are several interesting nature sites within the wider landscape, including Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve.

The tree species planted at Crown Meadow Wood included a mixture of oak, ash, wild cherry, field maple, hornbeam, rowan, hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn and holly and a small number of Guelder rose have since established successfully. Alongside these 20 year old plantation trees, there is one notable oak towards the centre of the site which is at least 100 years in age. Towards the southern edge of the site where it borders the M26, there are several fruit trees including crab apple, wild cherry, plum and damson. In 2013, ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) was confirmed by Forest Research, located in the centre of the site. Now much of the ash across the site has succumbed to the disease, ranging from early stage symptoms (<5%) to advanced (>50%).

The site has significant pockets of rich and varied ground flora typical of chalk grassland. Legume varieties including common and tufted vetch, common bird's foot trefoil, meadow vetchling, black medick and both red and white clover are abundant along the wide grassy ride edges. Patches of cowslips, hedge woundwort, black horehound, red and white dead nettle and wood forget-me-not are also scattered throughout the site. From May to July Crown Meadow Wood is host to an impressive display of orchids along the ride network. Pyramidal, common spotted and a small number of bee orchids can be found. A wide variety of butterflies and moths can be found frequenting the site, and the scattered hedgerows along the site boundaries are of particular importance for several bird species.

Crown Meadow Wood has a good network of paths in the form of unsurfaced grassy rides. These link up the three access points, one located north along Morants Court Road near where it joins London Road, second entrance a short walk further down London Road to the east and the third is located on the southern boundary. There is a

public footpath which runs from the north to the south entrances of the site, and forms part of the 19-mile long Darent Valley Path. There is a permissive bridleway running from the southern entrance to the eastern entrance, access is by permit only and is managed as a TROT route (Toll Rides Off-road Trust) as part of the Chevening/Knockholt section,

Two underground services also cross the site: a Southern Gas pipeline and an Esso oil pipeline which are both situated under two of the woodland rides.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Crown Meadow Wood will continue to mature into a diverse, semi natural woodland for people to enjoy, whilst providing an important habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Ash dieback will have a notable impact on this woodland given that ash dominates some areas of the site, making up around 50% of the canopy. However, with the loss of a high proportion of the ash, comes an increased decaying wood habitat, which will help to encourage invertebrate and fungal communities. In the ash dominated blocks, there is a good growth rate of shrubby varieties such as blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and field rose, and natural regeneration of oak and some wild cherry, alongside ash saplings which will all help to further diversify the site in terms of both structure and habitat. This will be supplemented with focused wide ride habitat works which will open out some key areas to benefit wildlife.

The notable oak tree located near to the center of Crown Meadow Wood will remain as an important ecosystem and focal point, and will be managed and monitored appropriately to ensure it is best supported in its development as a future veteran tree.

Crown Meadow Wood will continue to act as an important conservation and recreational space in Dunton Green and the wider Green Belt area. The provision of safe and informal public access will remain across this site and it is expected that local residents will continue to make up the main visitor demographic. Management will entail regular path and access point works, safety inspections of site infrastructure and higher risk tree zones along the path network and site boundaries. All Woodland Trust sites are focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing people's understanding and enjoyment of woodland, to help create a UK where woods and trees thrive for people and nature.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

Description

Planted in 2000 and 2001 as part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Door Step' (WOYD) scheme, the secondary woodland at Crown Meadow comprises a mix of native broadleaf species including oak, ash, wild cherry, rowan, blackthorn, hawthorn and hazel. 0.5ha to the west of the site was left to naturally regenerate and sees a similar composition. Near to the southern boundary there are also a number of established fruit trees including crab apple, wild cherry, plum and damson.

There is large established mature oak tree located in the centre of the site which has become a key and significant feature, as Crown Meadow Woods oldest tree.

The site has been heavily impacted by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), and a number of the pole stage ash trees on site are now showing mid to advanced stage symptoms. Although ash regeneration is taking hold, it is difficult to ascertain how disease impacted these new seedlings will be, and as such the site could see significant changes to the overall species composition, with regeneration of oak, wild cherry, hawthorn and blackthorn further taking hold to gradually replace any ash that has been lost.

The geology of Dunton Green consists of lower and upper Gault clay and distinctive bandings of chalk with flint. The site of Crown Meadow sits on a chalk outcrop of the North Downs, and as such its floristic character reflects the underlying dry, calcareous soils, with an array of orchids, selfheal, bugle, agrimony, red clover and white clover found in particular abundance along the ride sides. The range of shrub and ground flora has made the site an important resource for a variety of pollinators including plentiful numbers of small copper and white admiral butterflies. Some rides, particularly to the north and west are bordered by both dense patches of thickets and scattered scrub. Recent nearby (1km) bird records include turtle doves, little owls, yellowhammers and the mistle thrush.

Significance

The broadleaved tree species planted at Crown Meadow Wood increases the area of native woodland within a county which has seen intense development pressures, whilst also providing key habitat for fauna and flora.

Crown Meadow Wood lies within the Green Belt and Kent Downs National Landscape, The Darent Valley Path runs through the site and The North Downs Way National Trail borders the north section of the site.

Management of Crown Meadow Wood ensures conservation and enhancement of the quality of the landscape and scenic significance in a Kent-wide context, whilst also facilitating the social and economic well-being of the local community.

The site is partly surrounded by arable fields and small pockets of ancient semi natural woodland, and as such the

creation of this woodland has helped to provide a more connected landscape, increased benefits to wildlife and a key resource in combating climate change.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

The impacts of ash dieback may result in a greater diversity of tree species regenerating in the ash dominated areas. The creation of more mixed stand will also increase the biodiversity potential of the site and will encourage a wider range of birds, invertebrates and key pollinators.

Constraints:

The sloping southern half of the site can lie wet due to previous disturbance due to the construction of the M26.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback is the most significant factor causing change within Crown Meadow Wood, ash trees comprise the majority of the woodland's canopy. The species mixture of the secondary woodland areas will change significantly. Although, the effects of ash dieback will create opportunities as decaying wood habitat will increase and regeneration of an understorey prompted by increasing light levels in the ash stands.

Potential for increased scrub shading of wildflowers in areas, through further encroachment onto the ride edges.

Potential for increased herbivore impact as resident roe deer recorded on site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In 50 years' time the secondary woodland managed by minimum intervention will be showing the development of semi natural woodland characteristics with natural regeneration occurring under the canopy gaps and a developed woody shrub layer. Much of the accumulated decaying wood from dying ash will have disappeared however ongoing small scale thinning work of the secondary woodland plus opportunistic interventions to create decaying wood will provide an important habitat for invertebrates and fungi, which will in turn support the development of a healthy woodland ecosystem. Interventions over the last 50 years will have encouraged the development of an understorey. The presence of threatening invasive species to be absent or minor with containment and eradication work as necessary and deer numbers kept to acceptable levels to minimise unacceptable browsing damage.

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

The short term objective is to contribute towards the maintenance of a structurally diverse woodland, aiming to continue to maximise biodiversity potential and woodland resilience, particularly in relation to ash dieback. In the next 5 year plan period work will concentrate on dealing with the effects of ash dieback and ride management. The development of conservation rides will form an important feature of this secondary woodland and support the creation of a mosaic of microhabitats, particularly beneficial in scrub bordered calcareous grassland in order to fulfil all of the requirements for wildlife.

Halo thinning around potential strong healthy oak trees within the planted areas starts in this plan period. Oak trees

within the northern edge of the site will be selective thinned around 10-12 trees in total to create a 2-3 metre clearance of space around each crown in 2026. Trees will be felled to nature, leaving the decaying wood to naturally decompose on site, a valuable habitat.

- Ride edge management

During the plan period a 3 zone wide ride habitat with short rotation coppiced edges is to be maintained along approximately 1.3 km of rides, maintaining pinch points where designated.

There will be an annual programme of works to cut the vegetation within the 3 zones with zone 1 cut annually.

Zone 2 areas to be cut on a rotation of 3-5 years in a piecemeal fashion. Sections 16, 17 and 19 totalling 75 meters will be cut in 2027; Sections 6, 9, and 13 totalling 88 metres will be cut in 2029. Each sections will be cut 3 – 4 metres from the edge of the ride.

Zone 3 areas to be cut on a rotation of 7-10 years, and all cut in a piecemeal fashion. This will accentuate the woodland edge habitat providing valuable temporary open space coppice habitat. Sections to be between 5 - 8 metres in width. Sections 20, 27 and 29 totalling 102 meters will be cut in 2025. Sections 15 and 30 totalling 47 meters will be cut in 2026.

The 5 yearly condition assessment will be repeated in 2029 with the management plan review.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Crown Meadow Wood is a small secondary woodland site located within the village of Dunton Green (pop. 2360 in 2011 census), close to Sevenoaks, M25 and adjacent to the M26 motorway. Public access to the wood via three entrances, with the main entrance located at the north of the wood off Morants Court Road, opposite the Rose and Crown pub. There is an established network of mown grass pathways in place (totalling 1.3km), and a public right of way (0078/SR105/1) cuts through the site from the northern to the southern entrances, this public right of way also forms part of the 19-mile long Darent Valley Path. The Toll Rides Off-road Trust (TROT) have controlled access to the permissive bridleway within Crown Meadow Wood which operates through the eastern and southern entrances of the site forming the Chevening to Knockholt horse route.

Due to its proximity to London, Sevenoaks and the motorway network, Dunton Green is vulnerable to further residential development. As such, Crown Meadow Wood forms an important open, recreational and ecological space within this Green Belt area. Despite its location on the busy London Road, the site remains relatively quiet with around 5 to 15 people using the site daily (WT access category B). Crown Meadow Wood offers the opportunity for informal recreation to local residents and dog walkers, and the occasional rambler. The site is a medium priority, maintained woodland. Due its small size, it would not be appropriate for more frequent use. This quiet level of access has allowed both flora and fauna species to take hold and flourish within this secondary woodland site.

Crown Meadow Wood is a short distance from two nearby Woodland Trust Sites- Hollow's Wood (6 miles) in Chelsfield and Blackbush and Twenty Acre Shaw near Cudham (7 miles). Other nearby outdoor recreational sites include: Kemsing Down, Polhill Bank and Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve. Nearby Oxenhill Shaw and Meadow, a managed wooded area is a

thriving example of naturally regenerated woodland and is popular with ramblers and nature enthusiasts. The North Downs Way national trail runs adjacent to the Dunton Green and intersects the Darent Valley Path, a highly enjoyable walking route. The historical Pilgrim's Way also finds its way through nearby Otford. Based along a pre-existing ancient trackway, this route once saw pilgrims travel from Winchester to Canterbury Cathedral via the southern slopes of the North Downs.

Significance

Crown Meadow Wood is an important space for quiet, informal recreation within Dunton Green, especially given its proximity to the busy M25 and M26 motorways.

The area has been designated as part of the Metropolitan Green Belt and due to its close proximity to the North Downs, it also falls within the Kent Downs National Landscape. The public right of way through the site also forms part of the Darent Valley Path connecting Dartford to Sevenoaks. Many national and regional walks and trails run through Dunton Green.

Public access to Crown Meadow Wood helps fulfil one of the Woodland Trust's key objectives; to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

The consistent level of regular visitors to this wood offers opportunity for positive community engagement. There is a fantastic display of spring and summer flowers, and the range of fruit bearing trees and notable oak provide interesting focal points within the site.

Constraints:

The unsurfaced paths and width restricted access points make this site challenging for visitors with prams and wheelchairs.

The small size of this wood limits the expansion or development of further public access facilities or increased visitor numbers

Factors Causing Change

Antisocial behaviour- The site has previously suffered traveller invasions at the London Road entrance. The height barrier and anti-vehicle pit has helped to reduce the frequency of these occurrences, but the site potentially remains vulnerable.

Litter- Although it is not significant problem, there has occasionally been some encroachment of litter and garden waste near to the access points.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) surveys will continue for the next 5 years, signage will be installed for visitor safety if recorded on site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

There will be a well maintained and safe network of paths for informal public access in Crown Meadow Wood where responsible visitors can appreciate and enjoy the site, utilising it for short local walks. The site will continue to be valued by the local community, particularly for its ease of use and recognised importance as one of several recreational green spaces in the Green Belt area.

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

During this plan period, the short term objective will be to continue to provide public access at Crown Meadow Wood which is both safe and enjoyable.

This will be achieved by:

- Biannual path cuts to the network of paths on site totalling approximately 1.3km, and strimming of any overhanging or encroaching vegetation along the paths. Cutting will be managed to avoid topping orchids present along ride sides.

Entrance maintenance works including:

- Strimming of all entrances/laybys and around the anti-vehicle pit.

- Strimming a 1m radius around all info boards, benches, way marker posts, and pedestrian/vehicle gates.

- Annual cut of roadside hedge in November to ensure there is no interference for both pedestrians and car drivers.

Interim brush cutting of any vegetation growing out from the verge and the hedge over the pavement beside the A224, ensuring the pavement is free of arisings.

- Annual inspections of site access points, signage, furniture and general infrastructure to ensure that all are in good condition and adequate for visitor numbers and all user groups

- Annual Zone A tree safety inspections alternating between the summer and fungal surveys carried out every other autumn. Due to the high percentage of ash on site.

- Tree safety survey zone B to be biennial from 2024. Dangerous Ash within the zone has been dealt with in previous tree safety operations. Ash which remains are young small dead trees away from the path network and too small in length to reach the pathways.

- Annual site hazard checks and upgrades to infrastructure where appropriate, including checking on visibility of anti-vehicle pit during the summer months.

- Grips / weld mesh to be added to stile at southern entrance in EMC 2025, to help with site access.

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,	August
2025	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	August
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
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,	May
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,	August
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2026	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December
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,	May
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,	August

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	August
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	November
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
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,	May
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,	August
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
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,	May
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,	August

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5.41	Ash	2001	Min-intervention		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt
<p>Part of a WOYD site this cpt was planted in winter 2000/2001 using native local provenance mixed broadleaves. Terrain is flat except for south east corner adjacent to the M26 boundary where there is a south easterly gentle slope down to the post and rail boundary fence. 0.5ha of the area was left to natural regeneration comprising mainly of hawthorn.</p>						

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:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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