

# Crow Park

## (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](http://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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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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GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Crow Park

Location:	Whitehaven Grid reference: NX977179 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 89
Area:	11.34 hectares (28.02 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Conservation Area, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Crow Park is a large urban wood, in the heart of Whitehaven, between the town centre and the Loop Road. The wood is on a steep western facing slope, is an intrinsic feature in the landscape and is highly visible from the town. The wood was planted (P1930) in the shape of a rabbit; with the Whitehaven Loop Road to the east at an elevation of 70 metres and Castle Park to the west some 40 metres lower and has an average gradient of 1 in 6. In the south of Crow Park is a deeply incised valley, which runs northeast-southwest and has many of the woodland characteristics of the nearby Midgey Gill Wood (ASNW) adjacent to Park Drive.

The north of the wood, known locally as White Park (cpt1 3.3ha), is aligned north-south across the west-facing slope and provides fine views across to the port of Whitehaven. White Park is 480 metres long and on average 30 metres wide and only a small southern section is wooded and the rest is patches of younger woodland with open spaces predominantly with dense grass and scrub.

Crow Park (cpt2 8.1ha) is in a reverse 'J'-shape, approximately 450 metres north-south and 300 metres east-west. In terms of both woodland type and geomorphology Crow Park is varied but managed as one unit. The wood consists of a mix of mature broadleaved trees, all of a similar age, and these were probably planted in the 1930s. The main species are oak and sycamore with some ash, downy birch, Corsican and Scots pine, and a few mature elm. There are also a few lime and horse chestnut in the west of the wood. The shrub layer is very sparse and consists of occasional holly and elder. The woodland plants are dominated by bramble with rosebay willowherb, although in the west of the wood there is less bramble and more specialised woodland plants such as dogs mercury and male fern are abundant. There are some invasive non-native species including Montbretia and Japanese knotweed as result of the dumping of garden waste, in the obvious accessible areas either close to entrances or paths. There is little natural regeneration of trees and shrubs, mainly because the wood is densely shaded, and open gaps tend to become rapidly dominated by coarse vegetation such as bramble.

Rhododendron was previously planted as part of the parkland landscape but has been successfully cleared from the more accessible areas, although very small amounts still appear in the steep little valley. A small area of bamboo exists to the south of the wood.

Buzzards (*Buteo buteo*) have been known to nest in the wood, and red squirrels are present in this and other Whitehaven woods.

Access to the wood can be gained from 8 entrances, including some direct from the Loop Road and from the southerly entrance off Park Drive; there are also several entrances from the west and Castle Park. There is one broad well surfaced route running north-south through the whole wood and a varied network of surfaced and un-surfaced paths through the wood totalling approximately 2,000m of public and permissive footpaths. There are 3 benches located in the White Park section. The wood is in a busy urban location and is very well used by local people for recreation and as a through route into the town. Castle Park to the west and below the wood is a traditional council-run park, with a playground, bandstand and lawns for recreation, which complements the wood very well.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

It is the Trust's objective to enhance the typical characteristics of both the ancient semi-natural and secondary woodland within the landscape and to maintain and improve the biodiversity of the whole woodland, as well to provide easy, open pedestrian access for visitors to enjoy. This is in line with the outcomes in the Trust's key general objectives. The Trust aims to achieve this through the management of three key features:

#### 1. Informal Public Access

The Trust will maintain the informal access to the woodland on some 2000m of public and permissive paths. This includes Woodland Trust welcome signs at entrances, and maintaining a network of paths and structures to standards compatible with a wide range of urban users. Defined views will be retained so that visitors can enjoy the wood's beauty, relate to it in the wider landscape and its position in the centre of Whitehaven, and the enjoy views out to the harbour and the Irish Sea. The wood will be publicly promoted nationally by providing information through the Trust's website, publications and directory, and locally where possible such as with on-site posters.

#### 2. Ancient Semi Natural and Secondary Woodland

The Trust aims to maintain the overall high forest continuous-cover structure of Crow Park (Cpt 2) as mixed woodland. This will be done by retaining both native and non-native canopy species which will maintain the landscape value and canopy of this woodland. Natural regeneration and development of the understorey will be monitored and encouraged to ensure succession. Control of rhododendron, Japanese knotweed, bamboo and garden exotics will continue to at least reduce the threat of these invasive non-natives to the native woodland species, with the ultimate aim of eradicating these. The Trust aims to enhance the biodiversity of the woodland characteristics by conserving deadwood communities, developing older trees, protecting the aquatic environment in the gill, and protecting the ancient woodland from adverse impacts and degradation such as tipping of garden waste.

#### 3. Historic Landscape

The Trust aims to maintain the mixed woodland and open structure of White Park (Cpt 1), creating and managing defined viewpoints to retain the historic views out across Whitehaven and to the harbour for visitors. There is also the opportunity to maintain a scrub woodland cover of both native and non-native species to help buffer and increase the core woodland area of Crow Park (Cpt 2) and yet maintain the park landscape feel of White Park.

It is anticipated that this approach will safeguard and enhance the existing environmental value of the wood, and maintain and enhance the level of public access in the woodland.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

<b>Description</b>
<p>Crow Park Wood is very well used by local people as a route into Whitehaven town centre but attracts relatively few visitors from further afield. There are 3 entrances to the wood from the Whitehaven Loop Road and an entrance off Park Drive below the garages plus there are several entrances from the west and Castle Park. At the entrances Woodland Trust signs welcome visitors to the wood. Through the wood there is a surfaced (tarmac) and stoned route from the Loop Road at the northern point of the wood to Castle Park and the gated entrance leading to Whitehaven town centre. From this path there are a number of footpaths through the woodland, which in places can be steep and are generally unsurfaced. A Whitehaven brick path runs from the Loop Road through the middle of the woodland east west and leads to Scotch Street. The internal landscape to the woodland is interesting and from White Park spectacular views across Whitehaven town and towards the harbour can be gained. There are several benches along the footpaths. From Crow Park visitors can access Castle Park recreation area and Whitehaven town centre. From the southern access point on Park Drive visitors it is a short walk to the Trust's site of Midgey Gill Wood, and the northern access point on the Loop Road is opposite the Trust's site of Harras Moor.</p>
<b>Significance</b>
<p>Crow Park is one of 4 urban woods in Whitehaven town centre (the others are the nearby Midgey Gill, Harras Moor on the other side of the Loop Road, and Arrowthwaite Wood on the other side of the valley), all managed by the Trust. It provides informal recreation opportunities for the local community, gaining experience of woodland in a predominantly urban environment. Increasing enjoyment of woodland is one of the Trust key outcomes and a cornerstone to the vitality of the woods. The wood's intrinsic qualities and historical links to Whitehaven Castle make it an important local resource and an educational resource for visitors and organised groups. Public appreciation of woodlands is good for the well being of those visiting the wood and ultimately, good for the wood. Crow Park is a significant feature within the town's landscape, is included within the Whitehaven Town Conservation Area, and affords spectacular views out to the harbour. At a national, regional and local level there are objectives to encourage local people to be involved with woodland and Crow Park is in an important location to facilitate use and enjoyment of woodland.</p>
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>The footpath network at Crow Park is quite extensive and varied and for an urban woodland the area is quite large. The woodland attracts many local users and there are several well-used routes taking people from the Loop Road directly into Whitehaven town. The main surfaced route means the wood can be utilised throughout the seasons and can be used with wheelchairs and prams. In winter the ground conditions may become muddy on the unsurfaced routes. There are opportunities to improve the path system and make the woodland more accessible in all seasons. There is quite an extensive drain system requiring regular maintenance to keep water run-off away from the paths. There is an opportunity to inform the public of management practices, landscape and historical interest in the wood through websites, posters and local leaflets. With all urban woodland it gives local people an opportunity to connect with nature on their own doorstep. There are a number of benches in the wood towards the top of the hill, where a rest is</p>



welcome and there are good views over the town, harbour and out to sea. Litter and tipping are ongoing problems. It tends to accumulate in particular areas and needs very regular collection (monthly) to prevent the woodland looking unsightly and being a safety issue. Tipping along the boundaries is also an issue; particularly the southern boundary. Vandalism does occur, mainly of signs and structures. There are occasionally more serious issues, such as drug-taking within the wood although this tends to be confined to particular areas and dealt with severely. There is an opportunity to engage with neighbours and visitors about these issues.

**Factors Causing Change**

Fly Tipping, garden waste, litter, vandalism, windblow, loss of trees due to disease (mainly Dutch elm disease, ash dieback, and Phytopthera in horse chestnut).

**Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The Trust's long term plan is to maintain and improve the informal access to the woodland on approximately 2,000m of permissive and public footpaths and work with the County Council to maintain standards on the public footpaths; to provide continuity of visitor access in line with a very well used wood (access category A) and to promote a safe and welcome environment. Viewpoints out to the harbour from White Park are defined and maintained so that local users and visitors can continue to enjoy the splendid views out to sea. Public information and promotion of the woodland, both nationally through the Trusts website, publications and directories and locally through the Borough Council and posters, will be undertaken to inform and involve visitors with the woodland. The Trust will continue to promote the woodland amongst people in the region and members nationally so long as the primary objective of 'no further loss of woodland' (in terms of both quality and quantity) is not compromised.

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

Maintain all the entrances (8) with welcome signs, cutting and strimming these and the path network of 2,000m. Undertake regular safety inspections at defined intervals and clearance of roadside vegetation to Highways guidelines, working with the local Council where they maintain responsibilities for boundaries and the internal wall. Clear litter and garden waste as necessary and where possible. Clear the drainage systems (approximately 1000m) regularly to prevent blockages and keep water running. Defined viewpoints by the benches will be maintained and regular management carried out to keep vegetation down to low scrub and grass. All work will be carried out to the standard Woodland Trust specifications.

**4.2 f2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland**

**Description**

The wood is on a steep western facing slope, is an intrinsic feature in the landscape and is highly visible from the town. The south of the wood known as Crow Park (Cpt 2) is a deeply incised valley of an un-named gill this area of the wood, which runs northeast-southwest and has many of the woodland characteristics of the nearby Midgey Gill Wood and is also designated Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.

Crow Park woodland area is approx 8.1ha in size (excluding the White Park area which is mainly grassland with scattered trees & shrubs), in the form of a reverse 'J'-shape, and approximately 450 metres north- south and 300 metres east-west. The canopy is predominately made up of mature broadleaves. The most common tree species are oak and sycamore, with some elm, ash, downy birch, Corsican pine and Scots pine. A few lime and horse chestnut can be found to the west of the wood. The shrub layer is very sparse and composed of the occasional holly and elder. The ground flora tends to be dominated by bramble and ivy with the occasional rosebay willowherb and common hogweed.

However, there are ancient woodland plants in places such as dogs mercury, enchanter's nightshade and soft shield fern, plus other common woodland plants such as male fern, lady fern and hart's tongue fern. Around edges of the wood close to housing there has been some colonisation of non-native species, including Montbretia and Japanese knotweed as result of the dumping of garden waste. There are few signs of regeneration of trees and shrubs, mainly because the wood has a closed canopy, and open gaps tend to become rapidly dominated by coarse vegetation, mainly bramble and rosebay willowherb.

### **Significance**

The woodland is an important landscape feature in the centre of Whitehaven and is one of 4 woods in the town managed by the Woodland Trust. Whitehaven has a far more wooded landscape than many urban areas so there is scope for this wood to function as part of a larger woodland environment. Parts of Crow Park are ancient semi natural woodland and have provided continuous habitat for the woodland communities for centuries and continuity of this habitat is vital for the ecological woodland biodiversity. At a national, regional and local level woodland within the landscape is credited with importance and within the urban environment can improve the quality of life and reduce pollution.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

In the past the trees in Crow Park Wood have not been managed much and consequently has a dense, closed, even-aged canopy. After the wood was acquired by the Trust in the 1990s it was thinned, to open up the woodland, improve stand stability and crown development. Any work has to consider the risk of wind throw which has occurred when the wood has been hit by the normal westerly gales. Other constraints on silvicultural work include difficult access, high safety needs, and potential vandalism etc when working in such a busy urban environment. Crow Park is part Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) either side of the gill with the rest being once the grounds of Whitehaven Castle. There is an opportunity to manage the adjacent woodland area to encourage the spread of ancient woodland plants and natural regeneration of tree species. This could also be improved and diversified by planting native trees & shrubs that would be expected in the area but are not present. Rhododendron had been planted in the southern area and could be technically classed as Planted Ancient Woodland (PAWs), but most of it has been removed, with only small amounts regenerating and needing occasional checking and clearing in the gill. Rhododendron is present on neighbouring Castle Park and there is an opportunity to speak to the Council regarding the presence of this species near to the ancient semi-natural woodland. Standing deadwood has ecological importance but its retention is constrained in places by safety needs. Garden waste poses a threat to the continuity of ground flora particularly in tipping hotspots off the Loop Road to the south east of the wood, along all boundaries to houses and near to the allotments. Garden waste has encouraged the colonisation of nettles and brambles and also introduced invasive non-native species such as Montbretia and Japanese knotweed which have colonised small areas of the woodland, however, these are being controlled. Opportunities to work in partnership with the local Council, local community organisations and local people could be created to reduce this problem. The Gill running through the woodland has in the past suffered from pollution (sources unknown). This has constrained the maintenance of a good riparian habitat. Crow Park is constrained by size and acts as an island habitat surrounded by a busy urban environment. This is a limiting factor on its diversity potential.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Invasive introduced non-native species which occasionally reappear and will spread if left uncontrolled: rhododendron, Japanese knotweed, montbretia. Fly tipping, dumping of garden rubbish, pollution, wind damage, vandalism, encroachments. Dutch elm disease continues to slowly affect the few mature elm and developing coppice regrowth in

the wood. Ash dieback is having a limited impact (from 2018) as ash is only a minor component of the canopy. Horse chestnut occasionally get Phytophthora.

**Long term Objective (50 years+)**

Continuous canopy cover over most of the woodland with an increased diversity of age and species range, a well-developed shrub layer, tree/shrub regeneration, and a good ground flora maintaining the current fauna communities. The condition aspired to is dynamic and includes the retention of old trees, restoration of the ancient woodland and ensuring protection of the ancient woodland by eradicating non-natives, and the retention of standing and fallen deadwood where compatible with safety needs. Monitoring and intervention to deal with potential threats to the woodland are always likely to be necessary.

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

Retain mature canopy trees to promote longevity, continuous cover and develop deadwood both standing and fallen, where safe to do so given the access objectives and safety.

Regeneration. Take advantage of gaps in the canopy and small-scale clear-fell areas (created by tree safety works or wind throw) to regenerate and diversify the age and species range of trees and shrubs. Previous gaps have usually regenerated poorly before being quickly overrun with dense, coarse vegetation such as bramble, so this will generally be achieved by small scale planting, soon after the gaps are created. This works well if an open area is temporarily cleared of vegetation, trees planted without any protection (which tends to draw unwelcome attention and vandalism), and a protective fringe of brambles is left around the area to restrict public access. Any logs generated from felling need to be made unattractive to being used as seats for gatherings e.g. by scattering in brambles otherwise these areas get trampled.

Record, monitor and record planting activity at 5 year intervals to assess the general trend and rate of change as if there are insufficient gaps it may be necessary to consider other actions to achieve regeneration for example creating small clear-fell coupes.

Work with the local Council to reduce the level of garden waste and fly-tipping.

Manage all boundaries to ensure no encroachments occur. All the above can be monitored at 5-yearly intervals.

Monitor and control of all invasive non-native species, such as rhododendron, Montbretia (*Crococsmia x crocosmiiflora*) and Japanese knotweed with the aim of eradicating these. Monitor accuracy & effectiveness Japanese knotweed control each time it is carried out (currently 3x/yr 2023).

**4.3 f3 Historic Landscape**

**Description**

Compartment 1a (3.3ha), known locally as White Park, is aligned north-south across the west-facing slope and provides fine views across to the port of Whitehaven. White Park is 480 metres long and on average 30 metres wide and has historically been part of the grounds of Whitehaven Castle. It abuts the Loop Road to the east with iron railings denoting the boundary. To the west and north there is housing and the boundary is a mix of walling and fencing. To the south is Compartment 2 (Crow Park), separated by a wall running east-west with Whitehaven brick-surfaced public footpath running alongside the wall. White Park is dominated by a broad, surfaced, slightly sunken track, which connects Crow Park to the south with the Loop Road to the north. Local people use this track very frequently as an access route into Whitehaven town centre and the local Council has situated several benches along it. There are 4 main entrances into the wood here and cross drains running east-west through the compartment taking water from the Loop Road and the housing area above. White Park is a patchwork of woodland and grassy areas and fine view points over

the harbour, the bay and out to sea. Where the canopy is closed is composed of mainly lodgepole pine and green alder to the west of the track and sycamore), beech, hawthorn, hazel and lodgepole pine to the east. Sycamore also extends along the roadside on the eastern margin. The ground layer is sparse with occasional ferns and bluebells. The areas of younger woodland are very variable with a mixture of lodgepole pine, Scots pine, Norway spruce, sessile oak, pedunculate oak, Turkey oak, downy and silver birch, dog rose, rowan and alder with some gorse, all of which has obviously been planted. In the open spaces the vegetation cover is mainly grasses but there are also significant patches of heather. On the very northern boundary there is a small area of mature trees with elm, sycamore, ash and sessile oak with yew and laurel beneath.

### **Significance**

Crow Park Wood in within the Whitehaven Town Conservation Area and is an intrinsic feature within the landscape and history. The area of White Park was historically part of Whitehaven Castle grounds and may have been managed as parkland around the castle. In the 20th century it has been managed as a park and has afforded spectacular views across the town of Whitehaven to the harbour and the sea beyond. Having been part of a wooded historic landscape for many centuries (despite the growth of the urban landscape of Whitehaven) it is important to retain this continuity of this management, conserving the wildlife, history and landscape value it provides.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

There is an opportunity to continue to maintain a number of open areas to retain the historic views out across Whitehaven and to the harbour for visitors to the wood and the general public passing along the Loop Road. There is also the opportunity to maintain a scrub to woodland cover of both native and non-native species to help buffer and increase the core woodland area of Crow Park (Cpt 2) and yet maintain the park landscape feel of White Park. Maintenance of viewpoints and an open landscape will limit the biodiversity potential of the overall woodland. There is usually a sizeable rabbit population in the grassy banks.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Natural succession to woodland

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The long term aim is to maintain the open structure of White Park (Cpt 1) with areas of open woodland at defined viewpoints and areas developing from scrub to woodland to buffer Cpt 2.

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

Three key viewpoints from the track were created in 2009 and will be maintained with a regular annual work, cutting back vegetation to keep them open. These viewpoints correspond to open areas to the east of the track, which too can be maintained once every five years through coppicing to retain viewpoints out to the harbour from the Loop Road. In the scrub-woodland buffer zones canopy species will be retained, thinning only where necessary for access and where tree safety works are required. Monitor if this is achieved and working as planned every 5 years.



## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	March
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
2024	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
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	July
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	August
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	August
2024	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
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
2024	SL - Safety / Legal Obligation Work (SODS)	Works associated with specific Health and Safety legislation or associated legal requirements such as – safety fencing of quarries, safety requirements stipulated in planning consent for car parks or entrance points etc	October
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	October
2024	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	October

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	October
2024	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Works that have to be undertaken by Woodland Trust as part of with legal agreements made with third parties such as erection of boundary fencing, surfacing of joint access tracks , maintenance of drainage ditches. Also works associated with safeguarding the Woodland Trust legal position – such as erection of boundary markers on open boundaries, removal of illegal third party structures/vehicles/ campsites	November
2024	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,	November
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	November
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	January
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	February
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
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,	March
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	April
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	April
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	May

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	July
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,	July
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	August
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	August
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
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,	September
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	October
2025	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	October
2025	SL - Safety / Legal Obligation Work (SODS)	Works associated with specific Health and Safety legislation or associated legal requirements such as – safety fencing of quarries, safety requirements stipulated in planning consent for car parks or entrance points etc	October
2025	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Works that have to be undertaken by Woodland Trust as part of with legal agreements made with third parties such as erection of boundary fencing, surfacing of joint access tracks , maintenance of drainage ditches. Also works associated with safeguarding the Woodland Trust	November



Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		legal position – such as erection of boundary markers on open boundaries, removal of illegal third party structures/vehicles/ campsites	
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	November
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,	November
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	January
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	February
2025	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	February
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
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,	March
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	April
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	April
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	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,	May

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	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,	July
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	August
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	August
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
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	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	October
2026	SL - Safety / Legal Obligation Work (SODS)	Works associated with specific Health and Safety legislation or associated legal requirements such as – safety fencing of quarries, safety requirements stipulated in planning consent for car parks or entrance points etc	October
2026	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Works that have to be undertaken by Woodland Trust as part of with legal agreements made with third parties such as erection of boundary fencing, surfacing of joint access tracks , maintenance of drainage ditches. Also works associated with safeguarding the Woodland Trust legal position – such as erection of boundary markers on open boundaries, removal of illegal third party structures/vehicles/ campsites	November
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	November

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 pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	November
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	January
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	February
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
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,	March
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	April
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	April
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	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,	May
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	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	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,	
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	August
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	August
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
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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,	November
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	January

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	February
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
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,	March
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	April
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	April
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2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
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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	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	August
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	August
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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
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2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	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,	November
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2029	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	January
2029	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	February

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	3.3	Other		Non-wood habitat	People issues (+tve & -tve)	
<p>Compartment 1a (3.3ha), known locally as White Park, is aligned north-south across the west-facing slope and provides fine views across to the port of Whitehaven. White Park is 480 metres long and on average 30 metres wide. It abuts the Loop Road to the east with iron railings marking the boundary. To the west and north there is housing and the boundary is a mix of walling and fencing. To the south is Compartment 2 (Crow Park). The wall running east-west acts as the sub-compartment boundary. White Park is dominated by a broad, surfaced, slightly sunken track, which connects Crow Park to the south with the Loop Road. The track is very well used as an access route into Whitehaven town centre. A Whitehaven brick path runs east west along the southern boundary of the compartment. There are several benches alongside the track which are popular. There are 4 main entrances with welcome signs into the compartment. Cross drains run east west through the compartment taking water from the Loop Road and the housing area above. A drain runs parallel and to the east of the surfaced track to keep surface water off the path and direct it back into the drain system. White Park is open, scattered woodland with clumps of trees and grassy open areas with view points to the bay. Where the canopy is closed is composed of mainly lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i> var <i>latifolia</i>) and green alder (<i>Alnus viridis</i>) to the west of the track and sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) and lodgepole pine to the east. Sycamore also extends along the roadside on the eastern margin. The ground layer is sparse with occasional ferns and bluebells (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>). The areas of younger woodland are very variable being composed of a selection of lodgepole pine, Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>), Norway spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>), sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>), pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), Turkey oak (<i>Quercus cerris</i>), downy and silver birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i> and <i>B. pendula</i>), dog rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>), rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>) and alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>), with an understorey of gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>). In the open spaces the vegetation cover is mainly grasses but there are also significant patches of heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>). On the very northern boundary there is a small area of mature trees elm (<i>Ulmus</i> spp.), sycamore, ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and sessile oak with yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>) and laurel beneath. There is a significant rabbit population here.</p>						
2a	8.1	Sycamore	1930	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>This compartment, known as Crow Park, is 8.1ha in size and is in the form of a reverse 'J'-shape, being approximately 450 metres north-south and 300 metres east-west. The Whitehaven Loop Road is to the east and Castle Park is to the west and the wood is on a west-facing slope. To the north is compartment 1 White Park and to the south is housing, a number of garages and Park Drive. Also to the east, at a management entrance, is an area of garden allotments. There are several entrances into Crow Park all with Woodland Trust welcome signs. A metalled road runs through the compartment from White Park at the north to Castle Park at the south and onto the traffic lights at the gated park entrance. This is very well used as a footpath as a main route into Whitehaven town centre. Several footpaths criss-cross the wood but can be steep and muddy in places. Drains run parallel and either side of the</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>metalled route and north south through the western section of wood and along the boundary with Castle Park. In the south of Crow Park is a deeply incised valley of an un-named gill, which runs northeast-southwest and has many of the ancient semi-natural woodland characteristics of the nearby Midgey Gill Wood adjacent to Park Drive. A British Rail tunnel passes under the wood and has 3 large, circular, surface shafts for the air venting of the tunnel in the wood. The compartment in terms of both woodland type and geomorphology is varied but managed as one unit. In the southern section around the gill canopy is made up of predominately mature broadleaves with a top height of between 16 and 22 metres depending upon their location on the slope. Oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.) and sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) dominate the canopy species although there is also some elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>), ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), downy birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>) and Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>). The understorey is not well developed and is composed of the occasional holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) and elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>). The ground flora is generally not very varied, dominated by bramble and ivy, with the occasional rosebay willowherb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>). Around the edges of the wood there is some colonisation of Montbretia (<i>Crococsmia x crocosmiiflora</i>) plus there are a few persistent patches of Japanese knotweed close to entrances or paths, both as a result of dumping of garden waste, and these are controlled with the aim of eradication. The canopy in the upper part of the west facing slope is more open and dominated by sycamore although there is also oak and elm to the south and both Scots and Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>) to the north. The ground flora is dominated by bramble but also includes bluebells and red campion. There are few signs of regeneration of trees and shrubs, mainly due to the heavy shading and closed canopy. Where gaps occur in the canopy as a result tree safety works or windblow these tend to be rapidly colonised by coarse vegetation such as bramble. Some of these gaps have been successfully planted up with a mix of native trees and shrubs, to increase species and age diversity in the western section. To the west of the internal metalled road the wood is secondary and forms a transition between the mainly native woodland of the upper slope and the more formal planting of Castle Park and there is a greater diversity of tree species. As well as sycamore there is oak, elm, lime (<i>Tilia x europaea</i>), horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>) and birch. Where the canopy is closed the lower light levels result in less bramble, and dogs mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) and male fern (<i>Dryopteris felix-mas</i>) are abundant. Rhododendron was formerly planted as part of the parkland landscape but has been cleared apart from small difficult to reach areas in the gill. A small area of bamboo exists to the south of the wood. Buzzards (<i>Buteo buteo</i>) were known to nest in the wood, and red squirrels (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>) are present here and in nearby woods such as Midgey Gill, although only infrequently recorded here.</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:**

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