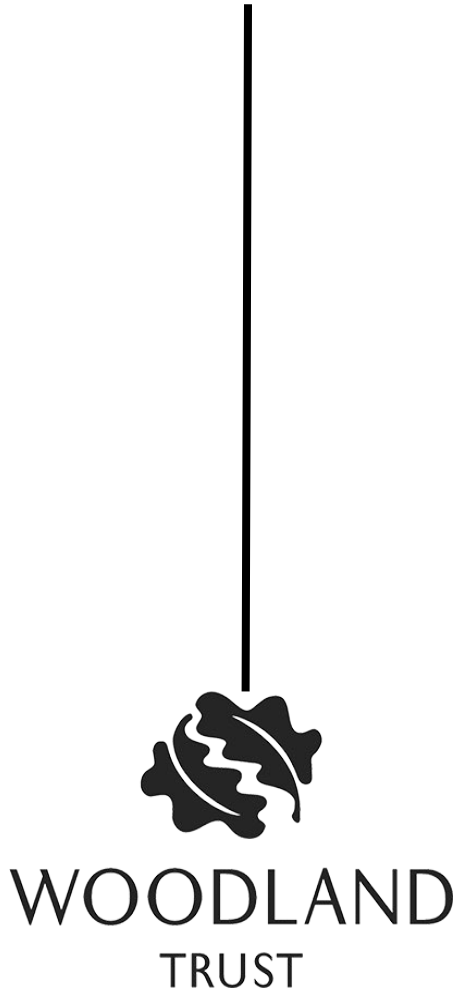
Northcote & Upcott Woods

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

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

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.

2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.

3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.

4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.

5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.

6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.

7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.

8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.

9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.

10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

1. SITE DETAILS

Northcote & Upcott Woods

Location:	Kingford, nr High Bickington Grid reference: SS615186 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 180
Area:	37.40 hectares (92.42 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Woodland Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Northcote & Upcott woods are adjoining woodland blocks situated close to the edge of the villages of Kingford, and High Bickington, south of Barnstaple, in North Devon. The woodland sits in one of several steep sided valleys that run roughly perpendicularly down to the River Taw. The wood straddles a minor road running west of the A377; with the bulk of the wood lying to the south and a very narrow broadleaf strip to the north of the road.

Sitting within the Culm Natural Area and the Culm Countryside Character Area (NCA 149), the wood is typical of the local landscape, characterised by blocks of ancient woodland, often coniferised (plantations on ancient woodland sites - PAWS), on the steep valley sides, and surrounded by pasture which in its semi-natural state constitutes the grassland that derives its name from the heavy clay Culm measures.

3 streams run through the wood. The first forms the northern-most boundary running parallel to the road; the other two run down through the valleys of the western and eastern 'wings' of the wood. They and several springs rising within the wood create wet flushes and habitats that along with track sides and canopy breaks support a wide range of 'woodland specialist' plant species. Rhododendron was abundant in Northcote Wood, but restoration works have almost eradicated it

The central north facing slope and upper plateau section of the wood are ancient semi-natural acid oak woodland, consisting almost entirely of stored oak coppice with occasional maiden oaks, some birch and occasional beech. Mature broadleaved trees are rare, with only occasional specimens on boundaries. The eastern and western sections of the wood are predominantly stocked with a mix of conifers (Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and Western red cedar), planted into the ancient woodland during the 70s -80s (PAWS). However varying amounts of broadleaved species have re-established within the coniferised areas and wide strips of broadleaf woodland remains along the two stream corridors. Species here also include ash, willow and alder, which provide an open and light contrast to the darker conifer blocks either side as well as retaining robust colonies of ancient woodland flora.

Although collectively known as Northcote & Upcott Woods this block of woodland incorporates a number of separately named contiguous woods. These appear to be demarcated by earth banks. Other archaeology in the wood includes charcoal platforms which are evident on the ground in places.

While a small number of locals visit the wood and use the network of tracks for recreation on a regular basis its quiet rural position and limited parking prevent it from being widely used and therefore currently public access is a limited key feature for the wood. Access is direct from the public highway via two pedestrian gates. The gate at the Northcote Wood (eastern end) is alongside the main management gate and enters the loading area. There is parking for 1 car in the track between the road and the gate, but this can block the entrance for management teams located at the main entrances. The pedestrian entrance into Upcott Wood (western end) is separate from the main management gate. And is located 30m further downhill where there is a small layby with parking for 2 cars and offers entry onto a separate track from the one that serves the main loading area. Whilst open to the public, due to the quiet and rural location of the site, there is no specific public access management in this wood and therefore while most tracks are at least 3m wide with quite hard surfaces some paths may be difficult to walk at certain times of the year or in bad weather. The wood sits on the side of a hill and walking a path circuit can involves short sections of steep slopes. There are no public footpath links to of from the wood and it is approximately 2 miles from High Bickington to the wood along roads with no pavements and which is frequently used by large lorries.

Nearest bus stop: High Bickington bus shelter, North Road - approximately 2 miles by road from the wood. Information taken from Traveline website.
Nearest railway station: Portsmouth Arms - approximately 1/2 mile by road
Nearest toilet: None known closer than Barnstaple (approximately 12 miles by road), although there are several local pubs which offer facilities to their customers.

For further information on transport see the Traveline website www.travelinesw.com

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The Planted Ancient Wood (PAWS) areas will be restored to a predominantly native broadleaved species woodland with diverse age and size high forest, shrub, and ground flora structure, in line with the Woodland Trust's restoration guidelines, via a continuous cover forestry regime. Over 80% the conifers will be removed, although a small proportion of scattered individual trees, of species that do not regenerate freely, may be retained for aesthetic and conservation benefits.

Areas of broadleaf restock planted following the clear-felling of two coupes of Western hemlock will be managed to ensure establishment of a broadleaf woodland and quick canopy closure to reduce the threat on remnant AW flora of exposure following clear-fell. Tree shelters used to protect the planted trees from deer will be removed as soon as trees no longer need their protection, ideally within 5year, bit potentially 10 for slower species like oak.

Non-native invasive species, especially rhododendron and laurel that have colonised the wood in the past, and any other species that may be introduced to the wood, will be controlled.

In line with the geological report, care will be taken during management operations not to create conditions which may result in high levels of water runoff that may create the potential for land slippage and cause pollution of the wood's watercourse and the nearby River Taw.

The Ancient Semi natural broadleaf areas of Upcott Wood and around the margins of the woodland will be managed via natural processes assisted where necessary via a limited intervention continuous cover system as a predominantly oak high forest canopy interspersed with small proportions of mixed broadleaved species and supporting an abundant native species shrub layer and ground layer rich in ancient woodland flora.

Natural secondary areas of woodland such as those along streamside corridors are to be managed towards a predominantly native broadleaved woodland high forest with varied shrub and flora layers via natural processes assisted where necessary by a limited intervention regime and to maintain a healthy stream habitat

Where possible mature, preferably native species, trees within the wood will be managed towards veteran and ancient tree status to enhance their contribution to the woods conservation values

Watercourses will be maintained in good condition. Where possible debris and leaky dams may be created or retained for their conservation and flood event benefits but will not be allowed to reduce species migration or increase flood issues. Adjacent woodland will be managed as part of on-going management to develop and maintain dapple shade levels.

Deer impact assessments will be undertaken to monitor population and damage levels and management undertake as necessary

Tree pests and diseases will be managed according to best practice or legal requirements.

The wood will be managed as required to fulfil all Highways clearances, safety and other legal obligation

Public access levels are very low, only meeting the Trusts access category D and therefore tracks and paths will not be managed specifically for public access. Access tracks will however be managed to maintain management access and this will provide facilities suitable for its low level recreational use.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description
TThe woodland is designated as ancient woodland site which suggests it has all been felled and replanted at some time in its history. Approximately 30% (cpts 2a, 3a) is broadleaf canopy cover that falls broadly into three NVC wood types: W11 (sessile oak/downy birch/wood sorrel)(cpt 2a) with W9 (ash/rowan/dogs mercury) (cpt 2b)on the more fertile, base rich areas and W7 (alder/ash/yellow pimpernel) along stream sides and wetter areas (Cpt 2b). 37 specialist woodland plants have been identified throughout the wood especially in areas of broadleaf woodland present in the centre of the wood, wood edges and along the stream sides. The area is predominantly stocked with stored oak coppice of a very even size structure however this may be the result of low management input, poor soils and local climate slowing down growth rates. It is likely that this area was coppiced for charcoal over a relatively short period of years so is considered even aged as well. Some mature mixed broadleaved trees are evident around the edges of this compartment and some maidens are present throughout which might suggest a coppice with standards management regime, however the maidens are still far from mature so may be the result of past singling towards a high forest. To the north a narrow strip of the wood (cpt4) is separated from the main block by a highway. This strip is of mixed high forest broadleaves with a range of species, size and age classes, veteran oak, ash, alder with hazel understory and varied flora. On the northern edge of this is a small stream that forms the property boundary and some habitat diversity. Many of the ash within the strip have been felled in recent years to manage Ash Dieback threats adjacent to the road. Beyond that stands a commercially managed plantation of Douglas fir. The mature stand which due to its south facing slopes, lighter canopy shade and its more regular historical management shows good progression towards restoration, was clear-felled in 2018/19. Apart from a small proportion of broadleaved trees planted along the boundary, the stand was restocked with Douglas Fir which is likely in the coming 20 years to have a suppressive canopy over the re-established ground flora. The remainder of the wood is coniferised with mainly Douglas fir (cpt 3), and Sitka and Norway spruce (cpt 1), with occasional small blocks of Western red cedar all planted between 1969 and 1988. There is a fringe of mixed broadleaves around most of the boundaries of the wood, along the stream corridors, along edges of wider ride sections and along occasional wet flushes running through the conifer. These broadleaves include oak, ash, hazel, beech, birch, rowan and occasional willow and alder. Much of the conifer appears to have been managed under low intensity with a very closed canopy evident when the wood was acquired. The typically dense conifer canopy has suppressed much of the ancient woodland ground flora, however where light levels are higher such as in areas where the canopy has been thinned as part of restoration processes, along track sides, where there are gaps in the canopy and throughout the natural secondary woodland areas ancient woodland vegetation and broadleaf regeneration colonies are now quite robust. The very dense shade cast by the western hemlock however continues to create virtually bare ground other than where lateral light penetrates from the edges and the trees regenerate easily increasing threats to adjacent areas.

Two blocks of Western Hemlock (WH) (3c, d) totalling 1.1ha were clearfelled in 2018 during restoration thinning. The WH had not shown positive response to past thinning but had started to regenerate prolifically. This was likely to quickly colonise the two coupes and adjacent woodland and adversely affects restoration in those areas. Felling coupes and restocking with native broadleaved species at close spacing (trees in guards and hazel and shrub species without planted between the rows) would restore a deciduous canopy quickly over any flora regen present and management of the restock will allow control of WH regen at the same time.

Ground flora diversity reflects the difference in shade between conifer and broadleaf. Bryophytes, ivy and moss predominate, but woodland indicator species such as bluebell, dog's mercury and wood sorrel along with dense fern clusters are developing under the conifer canopy well and appear in robust colonies in broadleaf or mixed canopy areas. Of particular note is a small population of Twayblade on the western edges of Week Wood.

Although there are no veteran trees, there are broadleaves that predate the planted conifers along some boundaries of the wood. In particular there is a line of oak and ash pollards on part of the south west boundary, where the Woodland Trust owned wood borders an area of oak, ash, hazel woodland in private ownership. Areas of younger Douglas fir which were not 'cleaned' nor had an early thinning support a good proportion of broadleaved species although many are etiolated and drawn up towards the light.

Deadwood is present as numerous hardwood stumps predating coniferisation, broadleaved trees within the conifer stands that have been suppressed by the shade and via softwood elements resulting from recent fell to waste. Wind damage and natural processes such as the self-thinning of the stored oak coppice in cpt 2, as well as on-going management operations, is gradually increasing the amount of standing and fallen broadleaf deadwood. Further standing deadwood is developing where Ash is succumbing to Dieback especially in cpts 3a and 4a.

The wood is bounded by a green lane on the north west and there is both Ancient woodland and PAWS adjacent or close to it. To the north a narrow strip of the wood is separated from the main block by a highway. Beyond this, most of the wood's surrounding land use is improved pasture.

Significance

Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are valuable as they contain remnant populations of ancient woodland communities and species, often in small, isolated pockets and provide opportunities to restore and increase our very limited resource of ancient woodland habitat. Northcote & Upcott Woods contain specialist woodland flora, which are a key characteristic of ancient woods, as well as other important species such as lichens, fungi and deadwood. Many of these species are part of a complex ecological system and do not spread easily to new areas so it is important that these sites are managed appropriately for the long-term benefit of the habitat. PAWS can also have an historic and cultural importance; Northcote and Upcott Woods contain evidence of past land management uses such as quarries, old tracks, earth walls, and charcoal platforms which may be used to help explain the history of the landscape and how it developed.

The woods contain 3 habitats with action plans in the Devon, Regional and National Biodiversity Action Plans. These are 'oak woodland', 'alder & willow wet woodland' and 'rivers streams & fluvial processes'.

One of the Trust's main objectives is to ensure no further loss of Ancient Woodland -The management and the exemplar restoration of this woodland in an area of extensive PAWS helps to deliver the Trust's aims of protecting trees

and woods and their wildlife for the future. Although the existing low level of public access does not contribute well to recreational benefits, the wood's prominence in the local landscape and location alongside a very busy road, as well as its low level access use help to deliver the Trust's objective of inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities
Continue to develop entrances and loading bay areas as well as parts of the wider management track network to facilitate more efficient and effective restoration of the PAWS, whilst minimising the risks of mud slurry run-off into watercourses and flooding onto the highway.

Constraints
Limited quality of management access infrastructure within the wood. The wood has a good network of management tracks but they are often too narrow, wet etc. to be suitable for modern and larger scale machinery/operations notably around the entrances and loading and stacking areas
Flooding – due to topography –high levels of water run-off from the surrounding agricultural land scour the stone beds of the watercourses through the wood often blocking culverts and causing floodwater to erode tracks, flood adj woodland and wash mud and debris onto road.

Factors Causing Change

- Deer browsing of and damage to restocked and natural regeneration of flora and broadleaved trees
- Blocked culverts causing flooding, erosion and land slippage
- Abuse/misuse of site by local mountain bikers creating trails, riding trials bikes and horses through wood
- WH regeneration from seed dropped during clearfell in 2018. Seed dispersed at that time should have perished by end of this plan
- Heavy shade cast by conifer canopy
- Non-native invasive species – re-establishment of Rhododendron in wood or establishment of new species via fly tipping etc.
- Wind damage – high levels of wind damage following regular PAWS thinning of closed canopy conifer areas
- Pest and Diseases – Ash die-back may have substantial effect on the natural secondary broadleaf areas of the wood. Spruce bark beetle causing death to SS/NS in the wood. Potential infection of Douglas Fir by 'new' disease (2021) phytophthora pluvialis

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Ancient Semi-natural woodland and natural secondary areas will be managed towards a mixed predominantly native broadleaf high forest woodland and understorey with trees, shrubs and frequent natural regeneration of a wide species, age and size structure, achieved via an on-going limited intervention continuous cover regime to support natural processes.

The PAWS areas will be restored to a predominantly mixed native broadleaf woodland canopy with some conifer, retained to grow on to over-maturity and senescence for conservation and amenity values.

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

CContinue gradual restoration process throughout PAWs areas (Cpt 1 and 3) by selective thinning of most of the conifer stands to ensure protection and enhancement of precursor broadleaves, ancient woodland flora, deadwood and other remnants, create a greater structural diversity within the woodland canopy and move towards a predominantly broadleaved species woodland habitat

Continue management of the natural secondary broadleaf areas under a limited intervention continuous cover regime to protect and develop a multi age, size and species structure, while maintaining the quality of the water course habitats running through them.

Continue management of the 2019 restocked coupes (3c,d) to quickly re-establish a native broadleaf/deciduous canopy over the ex-WH forest floor to support restoration.

Continue management of non-native invasive species within the wood

Continue management of the roadside banks and wood edges via tree safety works, thinning, shrub coppicing and hedge flailing to deliver statutory highways clearances and maintain road-user safety.

Maintain and, as necessary, upgrade track network throughout the wood to facilitate management access and support low level public access. Improve and widen entrances to facilitate access by lorries for timber haulage; improve loading areas to accommodate greater quantities of larger log material,; widen, grade and improve track surfaces to make them more robust for harvesting operations and improve culvert bridges over streams to maintain safe machinery access, and reduce the risks of flooding and water build-up in culvert pipes

Undertake regular deer impact assessments to monitor population and damage levels and undertake deer control as part of the 5 yearly Woodland condition assessment

Maintain and enhance levels of standing and fallen broadleaf deadwood throughout the woodland as part of on-going thinning and tree safety operations to encourage the spread of fungal and invertebrate species which form an essential part of the ancient woodland ecosystem.

Maintain water courses and culverts to reduce blockages and associated flooding issues within the wood and onto the adjacent highway. Investigate the opportunity to install leaky dams to slow flood water and debris downstream.

Manage occasional misuse and abuse of the wood (e.g. unauthorised mountain bike, trials bike and horse access, fly-tipping) as necessary

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Northcote and Upcott woods are adjoining woodland blocks situated close to the edge of the villages of Kingford, and High Bickington, south of Barnstaple, in North Devon. The woodland sits in one of several steep sided valleys that run roughly perpendicularly down to the River Taw. The wood straddles a minor road running west of the A377; with the bulk of the wood lying to the south and a very narrow broadleaf strip to the north of the road.

It consists of a woodland unit of 37 hectares of which 30% is predominantly broadleaf woodland, with the rest having been planted with conifers in the late 1960s to late1980s. The wood has a good network of internal management tracks on 3-4m wide many of which run along the contours of each of the woodland valley slopes to form quite level routes, however due to the depth of the valley each of these level tracks has to be reached via short but often steep tracks. All of the tracks are naturally surfaced however the soils often contain good proportions of stone with the clay structure making then stable for light access levels, but less so for heavy machinery use. Some support patches of grasses and woodland plants, but generally in theoe areas of greatest light. Because of the clay content all are inclined to be wet and muddy in places, especially around springs and in wet weather.

Access levels are generally limited to a small number of locals who visit daily for their recreation and for dog walking. Historically access wasn't considered high enough to warrant it being a key feature, however as access is allowed throughout the wood and does take place it does constitute a key feature, however levels of direct public access management works will only reflect the current low levels occurring. The tracks will be maintained to support ongoing management access requirements and this will provide good quality public access throughout.

Significance

Although the existing low level of public access does not contribute well to wider recreational benefits, the wood is used by a small number of local residents on a very regular basis and it's prominence in the local landscape and location alongside a very busy road, help to deliver the Trust's objective of inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

All tracks are regularly used for machinery access/timber haulage etc and can be heavily damaged and rutted during approx. 5 yearly restoration operations
Blocked culverts causing flooding and erosion of tracks and land slippage
Abuse/misuse of site by local mountain bikers creating trails, riding trials bikes and horses through wood
Heavy shade cast by conifer canopy making access dark and unattractive and making surfaces wet and slow to dry out as well as reducing the presence of track surface and aside flora.
Wind damage – high levels of wind damage following regular PAWS thinning of closed canopy conifer areas
Tree death and potential associated safety risks due to tree disease

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An attractive and sustainable network of tracks and paths through the variety of types of woodland that provide recreational opportunities for locals and encourage the appreciation of the woodland both on the site and in the locality.

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

Maintain and, as necessary, upgrade track network throughout the wood and manage entrances to facilitate management access and support low level public access. Improve and widen entrances to facilitate access by lorries for timber haulage; improve loading areas to accommodate greater quantities of larger log material; widen, grade and improve track surfaces to make them more robust for harvesting operations and improve culvert bridges over streams to maintain safe machinery access, and reduce the risks of flooding and water build-up in culvert pipes
Maintain all permissive routes, entrance furniture and infrastructure through the woodland in good and welcoming condition to provide appropriate levels of sustainable accessibility.

Maintain safety along path and track routes through regular tree and infrastructure inspections and completion of works identified

Maintain water courses and culverts to reduce blockages and associated flooding issues within the wood and onto the adjacent highway. Investigate the opportunity to install leaky dams to slow flood water and debris downstream.

Manage occasional misuse and abuse of the wood (e.g. unauthorised mountain bike, trials bike and horse access, fly-tipping) as necessary

Repair, renew and improve entrance gates, associated fencing and install new signage at woodland entrances to meet the required WT standard

Manage track and path side woodland to create structural diversity, manage overhang, encroaching growth and shade etc. to help track surfaces dry more quickly and to create lighter and brighter and more attractive access routes.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	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	April
2023	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	February
2023	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	October

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	7.69	Sitka spruce	1970	PAWS restoration	Diseases, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Predominantly Sitka and Norway spruce planted 1969 and 1970, with a small element of western red cedar on the northern boundary of Week Wood south of the road, with a fringe of mixed broadleaves on most of the boundaries of the compartment, along the stream edge, around glades on rides and along occasional wet flushes running through the conifer. These broadleaves include oak, ash, hazel, beech, birch, rowan and occasional willow and alder. Underneath the conifer canopy there is some developing broadleaf regeneration. Ground flora is largely of shade tolerant species Bryophytes, ivy and moss, but woodland indicator species such as bluebell and dog's mercury and wood sorrel are developing under the conifer canopy and appear in robust colonies in broadleaf or mixed canopy areas. Of particular note is a small population of Twayblade on the western edges of Week Wood. Although there are no veteran trees, there are pre-cursor broadleaves that predate the planted conifers along some boundaries of the wood. Deadwood is present as numerous hardwood stumps predating coniferisation, The compartment is well serviced with management tracks that follow the contours and are largely level throughout. Tracks 'linking' these are quite well planned to reduce gradients but can be steep of have sharp turns in places. As they were presumably constructed to aid original clear-fell and restock they have a tendency to be slightly too narrow for modern machinery. The slopes are moderately steep but most are driveable with modern machinery however due to the presence of two to three tracks per valley slope the rack distances are short between and less driveable as a result.						
2a	7.81	Oak (sessile)	1920	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site
Upcott Wood. Typical Western oak woodland, of predominantly stored oak coppice mixed with young beech, birch, hazel, holly and rowan and occasional maturing maiden trees. The ground flora includes ferns, grasses, bilberry and cow wheat. The general feel is of open oak woodland with the oaks becoming larger and more widely spaced towards the eastern side of the compartment. The compartment has the road as its northern boundary, arable land to the south and contiguous coniferised						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
sections of the woodland to the west and east. Dense blocks of rhododendron were cut and treated to eradicate 2006-2008. Some limited regrowth still occurs.						
3a	3.16	Ash	1974	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Wide strip of broadleaves following the eastern stream valley through Northcote Wood. Predominantly ash, alder with frequent large willow. Minor species include cherry, elm, sycamore, birch and hazel. A small block of Douglas fir stands at the southern end, but is included in this sub cpt as its lies within the 'loop' track and has strong ground flora along with the rest of the sub cpt Dense blocks of rhododendron were present along the length of the stream and were cut and treated to eradicate 2006-2008. Some limited regrowth still occurs. The field layer is dense and species rich. Species present include giant fescue, primrose, yellow pimpernel, yellow archangel, wood spurge and common saxifrage.						
3b	16.89	Douglas fir	1970	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
The sub compartment covers the eastern valley of the site and includes Sweet Hill Copse. Predominantly Douglas Fir planted between 1967 and 1988 with the younger plantings forming scattered but distinct blocks throughout. There is a substantial element of intruded broadleaf within some areas of the sub mostly along the wood and ride edges, and where the conifer crop has failed or management was reduced. This is particularly noticeable on the eastern edge of the wood where there is a dense block of young birch, hazel, ash, oak, with some rowan, willow and sycamore, and a ground flora including bluebells dominating what was planted as a stand of Norway spruce. The compartment is well serviced with management tracks that follow the contours and are largely level						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
throughout. Tracks 'linking' these are quite well planned to reduce gradients but can be steep of have sharp turns in places. As they were presumably constructed to aid original clear fell and restock they have a tendency to be slightly narrow for modern machinery, but there is space to improve most as necessary. The slopes are moderately steep but most are driveable with modern machinery however due to the presence of about three tracks per valley slope the rack distances are short between and less driveable as a result. Dense blocks of rhododendron were present along the length of the stream and were cut and treated to eradicate 2006-2008. Some limited regrowth still occurs.						
3c	0.6	Mixed native broadleaves	2019	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
A small coupe of p2019 mixed broadleaved species planted at 1600/ha spacing to restock coupe of p1970s Western Hemlock clear-felled in 2018 due to lack of response to restoration thinning, and on-set of heavy regeneration threatening to reverse the little progress to date. Restocked in 2019 with a mix of native broadleaved trees and minor tree species with a dense interplanting of hazel and other shrub species to create a broadleaved canopy as quickly as possible over the exposed woodland floor/flora. The soils being close to the more natural ASNW type nearby appears to be better able to support a very high level of birch regeneration than 3d.						
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4a	0.5	Oak (pedunculate)	1901	High forest	Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive	Ancient Woodland Site

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					habitats/species on or adjacent to site	

An area of mixed broadleaf woodland separated from the rest of the wood by a public highway. This sub cpt is very long and narrow extending the length of the northern boundary but extending between only 1m and 15m wide from the road edge to the stream which forms the property's northern boundary. Most of the strip is formed by a bank that supports the road with 'additional width'' being formed by wet alluvial soils of the stream bed and springs that arise in the bank and from under the road. Trees range from a small number of large mature oaks, through a wide range of semi-mature alder, ash, beech and oak to patchy hazel coppice. Many have a stored coppice history.
There is a rich field layer present including Wood melick, Common cow wheat, spurge, yellow pimpernel, primrose, wood sorrel, wood speedwell, and wood millet.
All trees are very close to road making work difficult, but the vast majority of ash with Ash Dieback have been thinned out during the last plan period. The stream has flooded in the past and there are signs of root and road erosion as a result . It is contiguous with a larger block of planted ancient woodland, which, due to south facing slope and more regular management creating higher light levels, is responding well, and progressing towards a more restored habitat.

GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clearfell
Felling of all trees within a defined area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mixed Woodland
Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

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

Native Species
Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

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

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

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

Shrub Layer
Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

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

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

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

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

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

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