

Hermand Beech Wood (Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

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	Page 5
2. Site Description	Page 6
3. Long Term Policy	Page 8
4. Key Features	Page 9
4.1 f1 Connecting People with woods & trees	Page 9
4.2 f2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin	Page 12
Appendix 1: Location Map	Page 16
Appendix 2: Compartment map with Lesser Periwinkle location	Page 17
Appendix 3: Proposed Raised Boardwalk Installation map	Page 18
Appendix 4: Harvesting Table (20 Years)	Page 19
Appendix 5: Compartment Descriptions	Page 20

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Hermand Beech Wood

Location:	West Calder Grid reference: NT033625 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 65
Area:	2.69 hectares (6.65 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Hermand Beech Wood is located in West Lothian approximately 1.2km southeast of West Calder on the B7008 to Harburn south of the A71. It is a predominantly flat site at 205m above sea-level. The underlying geology is composed of drifts derived from Carboniferous sandstones, shale and limestones. This gives rise to non-calcareous gleys and some gleyed brown earth soils. There are also some areas of peaty soil.

Hermand Beech Wood is classified in the Ancient Woodland inventory as Long-Established Woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO 2b) and was originally planted in the late 18th century, when Hermand Estate was established. Much of the original beech has since been removed leaving over-mature remnant trees, including some sessile oak and lime, mainly around the wood's edge. The beech that have survived are entering senescence with some having sustained wind damage, particularly on the northern boundary. The mature trees within the interior of the wood post-date the original felling and are likely to have self-seeded with a mix of species including silver birch, sycamore, rowan, common alder and ash. There are also occasional hornbeam and whitebeam present. Some more recent planting of gaps in the south-west corner was undertaken in the mid 90's although canopy closure above has suppressed their establishment.

A Scottish Power high voltage wayleave crosses through the middle of the site and contains mainly birch and willow coppice. The area is periodically coppiced by the service provider to avoid interference with the overhead power lines.

The understorey is predominantly birch, willow, rowan, beech and whitebeam. Fire damage and a long history of sheep grazing are factors that have limited natural regeneration in the past. The wood was made stock proof in the early 90's and this has allowed the natural regeneration of rowan, birch, hawthorn and beech all slowly establishing where gaps in the canopy allow.

The ground flora is generally poor, as a consequence of grazing and the historical dominance of beech. Where beech is still dominant a typically sparse ground flora exists. The meadow grass Yorkshire fog is common, indicating the history of grazing, as is bramble and broad buckler fern with some dog rose in less shaded areas. There are also patches of blaeberry in the northwest of the wood. Honeysuckle, wood sorrel and occasional bluebells, often regarded as ancient woodland indicators as also present.

The woodland itself is small and conservation interest is mainly provided by the diversity of habitats included. These include broadleaved woodland, birch coppice and wetter marshy areas in the wayleave, which previously included a small pond area of water that is now overgrown. The broadleaved woodland is fragmented and provides a mainly woodland edge habitat in practice. An undated vegetation survey recorded only thirteen species of vascular plants in the ground layer, and whilst it is likely to be incomplete, does give an indication of the site condition. The site, however, could be expected to help support a range of smaller mammals, birds and invertebrates and helps add local biodiversity interest to a more intensively managed agricultural landscape.

Woodland has existed on the site since the late 18th century when Hermand Estate was established and brought into management. The wood is shown on maps of around 1860 and classified as Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO 2b). It was at this time that beech and oak were planted on the site. The estate was

purchased by Midlothian County Council for various proposed developments. In 1975 it was transferred to Lothian Regional Council as a consequence of local government reorganisation. The estate was sold in 1982, the beechwood being retained by the council until its transfer to the Woodland Trust in 1989. Since 1989 the wood has been managed with minimum intervention with occasional safety felling of roadside trees, the construction of a section of boardwalk and some gap planting of native species with the help of the local high school.

Being within the central belt, West Lothian is well provided for with accessible small woodlands, of which Hermand Beechwood is one. The site offers opportunities for recreation, limited by the lack of public transport from West Calder, small size of the wood and lack of car parking facilities. The site is quiet with most of the site users being local dog walkers. There is also evidence of horse riders on-site.

The site offers a circular unsurfaced footpath to visitors, linking the woods two entrances at the east and west corners. This follows the northern boundary and crosses under overhead powerlines that bisect the wood. There is also 50m of raised boardwalk over an area of wetland to the east of the site. There is no formal on site car parking, though there is informal space for one car by the western entrance off the B7008 used for maintenance purposes. Car parking is available at the nearby Hermand Birchwood (SSSI) Nature Reserve, managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Management access is available straight off the public road from both entrances. Within the site vehicle access to the eastern boundary is limited by the wet ground conditions.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Hermant Beech Wood will be managed to safeguard its public amenity and biodiversity value. This will be done in line with the Woodland Trust's corporate objectives of improving and enhancing biodiversity, encouraging public access and enhancing people's enjoyment of woodlands.

The long-term vision is to maintain and enhance with woodland areas through continuous-cover management were possible. The woodland consists of large mature and semi mature birch, beech and oak with some other mixed broadleaf species present in lower numbers. As these mature trees continue to undergo senescence, the canopy will open up, promoting natural regeneration, creating a more varied age and species structure of the wood. Intervention via selective thinning of declining trees may be required due to safety concerns due to the size of the site, existing path network or proximity to the roads and overhead powerlines. Where safe to do so, standing and fallen dead wood will be retained.

A coppicing regime will continue through the centre of the woodland, with the periodic clearance of the overhead powerline wayleave. This will create a diverse mix of habitats in a small area, aiding in increasing biodiversity in a predominantly agricultural landscape.

Where natural regeneration and shrub layer is lacking, or the species mix is dominated by few non-native species, supplementary planting of native species will increase the biodiversity and to help diversity the age structure of the wood.

Existing on-site access facilities will be maintained to suit the current local demand, which due to the site's isolated location is low to moderate. Improvements will be made in response to changes in demand or site conditions.

Due to the wood's location within the central belt and proximity to large populations, the intention is to use the woods to improve and raise awareness, through engagement, of the biodiversity, recreation and health benefits woodland provide.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Hermant Beech Wood is fairly isolated, surrounded by mostly agricultural land. However, located 1.2km (0.75 miles) southeast of West Calder and 1.6km south of Polbeth, Hermant Beech Wood provides a local resource for outdoor recreation to the surrounding population (Estimated population of West Calder and Polbeth Ward was 5,337 in 2020).

Considering the increasing population of West Lothian as a whole, this woodland has the potential to be a significant asset for the county in an increasingly urbanised area. As of 2024 West Calder and Polbeth is classed in the high priority areas to retain tree cover with tree equity scores ranging from 69- 86 (out of 100) across the area. This means that Hermant Beech Wood is an increasingly important resource and access to tree cover to the surrounding community, providing health, climatic and economic benefits.

The level of public use for Hermant Beech Wood is defined as WT Access Category C (Low usage) with most users living locally and who use the woodland as a destination for informal outdoor recreation, primarily with dog walkers but there is evidence of horse riders also using the site.

A tarmac footpath along the B7008 links the woodland to West Calder, located around 1.2km (0.75 miles) to the northeast of the woodland and provides a local resource for outdoor recreation. Unfortunately, there is no nearby public transport routes with the nearest bus stop on Limefield Road in West Calder 2.1km (1.3 miles) and the nearest train station, West Calder train station around 2.25km (1.4 miles) away. Therefore, access to Hermant Beech Wood is conditional on access to a vehicle or ability to travel by foot to the site. There are no formal on-site car parking facilities. However, there is informal space for one car by the western entrance, used for maintenance purposes. Alternate car parking is available at the Hermant Birchwood Nature Reserve managed by Scottish Wildlife Trust approximately 0.5km (0.3 miles) to the southwest of the site.

The woodland is accessed by two entrances from the roadside. The main entrance, marked by a timber archway with one informal parking space, is located off the B7008 to the western edge of the site. The other entrance is located to the east of the site with timber vehicle gate with a pedestrian gap. This directly off an unclassified road which leads to the Brucefield Industrial estate in Bellsquarry and is the main route to Livingston.

Within the wood there is approximately 540m of informal paths linking the two entrances. Ranging from unsurfaced and mown paths to an area of raised board walk over the wetland area of the site to the east. As the boardwalk is raised there are a small number of steps on either side from ground level, which may limit access for less mobile visitors. This network creates a circular route through the woodland and open space within the site. There is also a footpath outside the woodland, running along the western boundary. The majority of the site is flat, but some areas of the path can become waterlogged and very wet at times.

Currently built structures are limited to 50m of raised board walk, an entrance archway at the western entrance and a timber vehicle gate with pedestrian gap at the eastern entrance. There is also a metal bench on the south-eastern

corner of the site, but this is outside of the Woodland Trust boundary.

The site is located within 3km (1.8 miles) of a number of education centres including Wander Woods Nursery (West Lothian's first outdoor nursery setting), Parkhead Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School and West Calder High School. Due to the lack of parking facilities, there is currently no known engagement with or usage of the site by local schools

Localised fly tipping can be an issue at the site entrances due to the isolated nature of the site and easy access from the roadside.

There are numerous Volunteer Woodland Wardens that cover West Lothian, conducting regular patrols, litter picking and providing reports of any issues in the area, although there is not one currently focusing on Hermand Beech Wood. A Woodland Working Group (WWG) was also set up for the Woodland Trust sites in West Lothian in 2019. The aim of this group is to conduct practical conservation tasks across the 16 Woodland Trust sites in the county, including Hermand Beech Wood.

Locally, a group known as 'West Lothian Litter Pickers' has been created by enthusiastic volunteers. Although this is an independently managed group, the members do cover many of the Woodland Trust sites across West Lothian. Their work helps to keep the sites clear of litter as well as encouraging community engagement for the sites and reporting any issues of concern.

As of 2022, Woodland Trust has been meeting regularly with West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (WLPARC) to discuss incidents and issues affecting woodland use and management with other local services and landowners. This has enabled open discussions to recognise trends and ability to streamline messaging and pool resources for the area.

Significance

The woodland is approximately 1.2km from West Calder and can be accessed via car or on foot. It is an important resource for local recreation and the site provides a chance to promote access to safe, natural environment close to where people live.

Hermand Beech Wood provides a visible reminder of the local history of the area with the remaining mature beech and birch that were once part of the wider Hermand Estate.

The woodland provides an attractive woodland walk and opportunities to observe the local wildlife. Hermand Birchwood Nature Reserve, 0.5km to the southwest provides further areas of interest in the nearby area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

To further develop access facilities within the site, such as benches, responding to user demand. Areas of the path suffer from poor drainage and become waterlogged for much of the year. Opportunity to upgrade the path to provide consistent surface and width across the whole site to improve access to all.

Location within proximity to semi urban settings may enable access to funding such as landfill and windfarm funds.

There are currently minimal species records for Hermand Beech Wood. This would be a good opportunity to involve the local community or nearby organisations, such as Scottish Wildlife Trust, to raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity in our woodlands.

Recruit a local volunteer warden to have more of a presence in the woodland and regular reporting on issues and site condition.

Constraints

The small size and isolated location with lack of public transport can limit access to the site for the local community.

No formal car parking facilities limits the practicality for school groups and community groups to use the site for outdoor engagement and education activities. The lack of car parking for visitors can also lead to problems with neighbours and other road users with visitors parking on the roadside.

Some areas of the path remain wet throughout the year. This can make the area inaccessible especially for those with mobility issues. Poorly drained soils make access provisions difficult to maintain on soft surface routes. The small size, location between two roads and presence of overhead powerlines limits the potential for other access routes within the site.

Factors Causing Change

The aging nature and high levels of senescence within the woodland may limit the accessibility of the path network throughout the site. Compartment 1b through the centre of the site has become increasingly wetter which has made maintaining the mown path through this area more difficult. These factors may lead to more desire lines appearing on site, leading to more damage to the ground vegetation.

The increase in new housing developments throughout West Lothian may increase the use of the site, resulting in greater pressure on paths and consequently additional maintenance requirements.

Litter and fly tipping detract from the natural beauty of the site and can be hazardous to the public and wildlife.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

There will be a well-maintained network of paths and rides with a variety of aspects allowing safe access across the site. The site should be accessible, safe and welcoming with management of infrastructure and signage.

The site should be well used, appreciated and respected by the local community and it should be known for its wildlife interest and habitats.

Fly tipping and litter will be removed as far as resources allow, to maintain the natural appearance of the wood and discouraging further abuse of the woodland.

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

During the plan period, the short-term objective is to continue to provide public access at Hermand Beech Wood which is safe and enjoyable. Access provision for this site will be in keeping with WT access category C (Low usage). This will be achieved by:

- 1) The site will be kept safe and welcoming condition through site maintenance
 - a. Path cuts and entrance maintenance (twice annually)
 - b. Vegetation cutbacks from path to allow lines of sight where possible and appropriate (as required)
 - c. Litter and fly tipping uplift (as required)
 - d. Regular site safety inspections (Tree safety, boardwalk, gates and fencing) (as per site risk assessment)
 - e. Estate furniture to be repaired (as required)
 - f. Roadside flailing of vegetation along the verges to maintain sight lines for traffic, approximately 370m (2024, 2026, 2028)
- 2) Improving visitor access by upgrading infrastructure across the site:
 - a. Repair and maintenance of current boardwalk, 50m as seen in appendix 3 (As required)
 - b. Consult with local community regarding interest in the possible installation of benches and new 54m section of boardwalk through centre of 1b as seen in appendix 3 (before end of plan period)
- 3) Providing and developing more opportunities for community engagement:
 - a. Continue to meet with West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (WLPARC) to discuss updates and antisocial issues on site and collaborate with other local organisations where possible (ongoing)
 - b. Engage with Scottish Wildlife Trust, who manage Hermand Birch Wood, regarding the possibility to collaborate with engagement events and volunteering opportunities (before end of plan period)

4.2 f2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin

Description

Hermand Beech Wood covers 2.69ha in an area of predominantly agricultural land to the south of West Calder. This woodland, although small, provides diversity to the landscape found in the area as the immediate surrounding area is dominated by agricultural land and roads. Hermand Beech Wood is a remnant of West Lothian's past with evidence of the estate planting which once dominated the county.

The woodland's LEPO 2b status is confirmed by its existence on the 1860 OS map, when Hermand Estate was established and brought into management. Much of the original beech has been felled leaving over-mature remnant trees mainly around the woodland edge of 1a and 1c, including sessile oak and lime. The mature trees within the interior, post-date the original felling and are likely to have self-seeded with a mix of silver birch, sycamore, rowan, alder, ash and horse chestnut. There are also occasional hornbeam and whitebeam present.

The wood was grazed prior to being made stock proof in the 1990s and since then there has been reasonable natural regeneration of birch, rowan, sycamore and beech. Bramble, broad buckler fern and dog rose can be found in less shaded areas. Patches of heather and blaeberry are found in the northwest of the wood. Wetland specialists such as tormentil, rushes and meadow sweet can be found throughout compartment 1b where the ground conditions have become wetter. Often regarded as ancient woodland indicators, honeysuckle, wood sorrel and occasional bluebells are also present.

Levels of dead wood vary across the woodland, with a mix of standing and fallen dead wood of different diameters. This is mainly as a result of wind blow and tree safety works due to senescence and decline of mature trees and Ash Die Back (ADB).

Coppicing along the overhead powerline wayleave in 1b contributes to increasing the diversity of habitats on site, creating an area of open space (0.55ha) within a woodland with a relatively closed canopy. The regular coppicing schedule also creates habitat piles which increase the levels of smaller diameter fallen dead wood and are beneficial to insects and other small animals. This also aids in diversifying the age structure across the woodland as a whole.

A patch of lesser periwinkle introduced to site through fly-tipping garden waste has established at the south corner of the wood (1a).

Species records are currently minimal for Hermand Beech Wood for birds, mammals and invertebrates.

Significance

The amount of ancient woodland left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. The woodland is on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as LEPO 2b and was present on maps of 1860, which indicates a relatively high biodiversity potential.

The wood is important locally as an integral component of the surrounding landscape, in an area dominated by agricultural land and narrow shelter belts.

The woodland is also important for local biodiversity as a refuge from the open agricultural land and surrounding infrastructure in the nearby urban landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Continuing senescence of the mature beech in 1a and 1c will lead to the canopy opening up and allow supplementary planting of native species and an opportunity to diversify the canopy and age structure.

Supplementary planting of shrub layer species in areas where mature beech does not cause significant shading could contribute to increasing the biodiversity on site.

The high number of mature beech and birch may lead to the opportunity to retain both standing and fallen deadwood if

area allows to increase the deadwood habitat across the site. Ash Die Back (ADB) may also contribute to this.

Constraints:

Overhead powerlines wayleave and regular coppicing schedule mean that the canopy in 1b can never become mature. This also contributes to increasing the effect of wind blow on the edge trees in 1a and 1c, potentially making some of the mature beech and birch vulnerable to the changing weather conditions.

The woodland is an island of ancient woodland, exposed on all sides and surrounded by agricultural land and thin shelter belts. This makes it vulnerable to increased wind blow and there is limited opportunities for other seed sources to be introduced naturally.

Squirrel damage and browsing by deer and rabbits are threats to young regeneration and planting on site. With the open surrounding landscape, the woodland may attract more individuals compared to neighbouring woodland. The isolated location also restricts the levels of disturbance to limit the impact of concentrated grazing across the site. However, the small size and the roads on the south and western sides of the site restricts the suitability of possible control methods. This means that management of species within the woodland are unlikely for the foreseeable future.

There is a lack of diversity in the age structure of the woodland, with many mature individual trees and regeneration of a similar age with a lack of young saplings and a shrub layer in 1a and 1c.

ADB on site has significantly decreased the number of ash on site.

The isolated nature of the woodland with proximity to urban areas mean that there is a high risk of more non-native invasive species being introduced via fly tipping of garden waste.

Factors Causing Change

Ongoing senescence of the mature beech and birch mean they are becoming increasingly vulnerable to storm damage and disease. This may become difficult to deal with in terms of tree safety especially along the roadside and near the overhead powerlines. This will also aid in increasing the levels of large diameter dead wood on site and open the canopy, allowing more natural regeneration or underplanting of native species.

Increases in beech regeneration across the site may cause the ground flora to become over shadowed and out competed further reducing the shrub layer and understory present on site.

Deer browsing, squirrel and rabbit damage are all present on site and may contribute to suppressing natural regeneration and continued healthy growth of established trees.

ADB is present on site and throughout West Lothian. The disease has already had a significant impact on the composition of the woodland and many of the mature trees have been removed due to safety concerns. Due to the prevalence of ADB, ash will not be included within supplementary planting, therefore its density on site overall is likely to decline in the long term.

Lesser periwinkle is found on the southern corner of the site, in a clearing next to the intersection of the two roads. This

is now spreading into the site, including in the understory of the woodland. If this continues into the site it may out compete the native understory flora or suppress any natural regeneration seen on site.

Hermant Beech Wood also has the potential to become an increasingly significant area of woodland cover as housing developments continue to expand across West Lothian.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create and maintain a diverse, mixed age and mixed species woodland habitat.

Species composition will be varied, with mostly native species though a proportion of beech and sycamore will be accepted.

Openings in the canopy due to tree safety works, storm damage and senescence will allow for the regeneration or planting of native tree and shrub species to diversify the age structure of the woodland and encourage healthy ground flora communities.

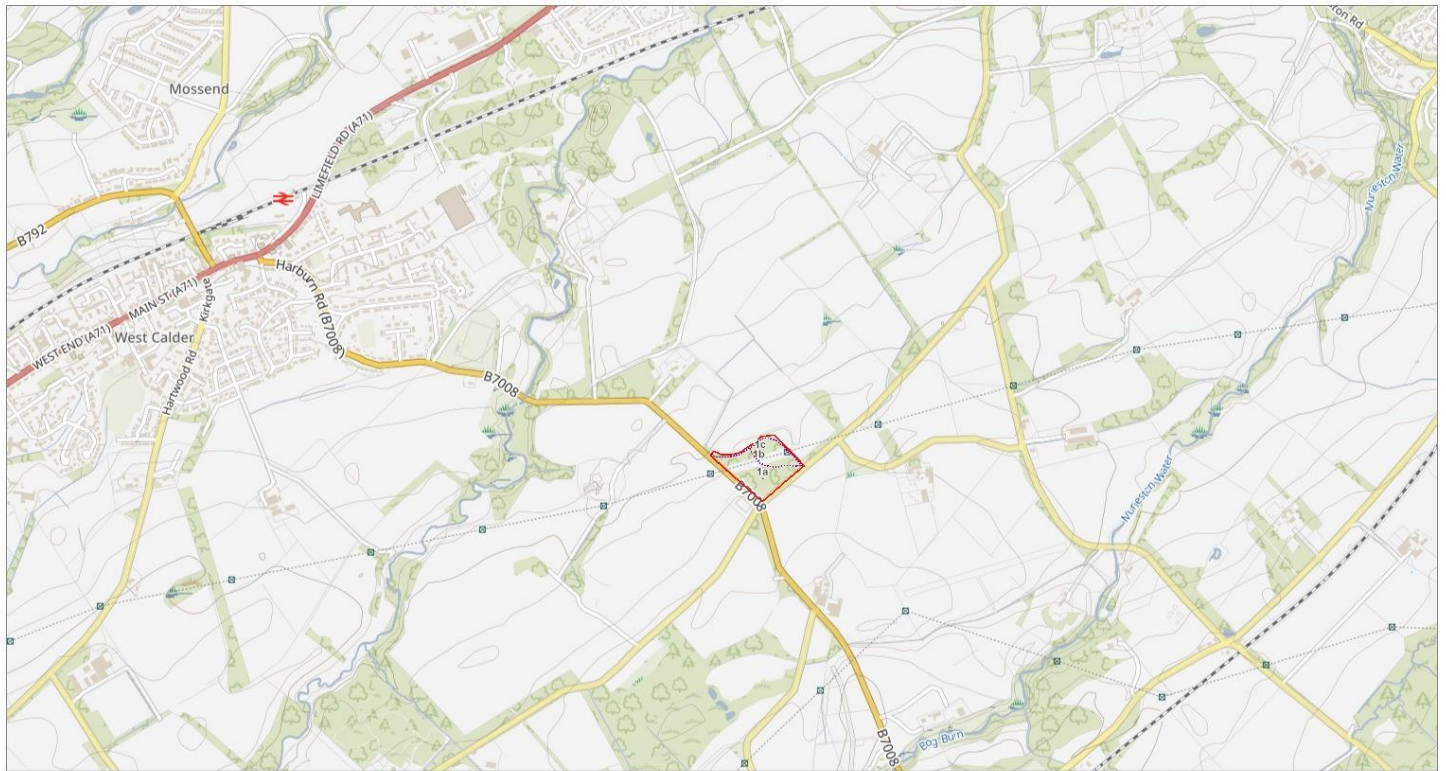
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

The focus of the STOs for Hermant Beech Wood will be improve the biodiversity and resilience and to maintain the varied composition and structural diversity of the woodland. This will be achieved by:

- 1) Optimise on potential areas for restructuring to add species diversity and age complexity:
 - a. Ash thinning in response to ADB where ash affected represents a hazard to roads or paths (as required)
 - b. Mature beech thinning in response to safety concerns where trees form a hazard to roads or paths (as required)
 - c. Enrichment planting with native tree and shrub species in areas where canopy and ground flora allows, so species and age complexity can develop (Under 100 trees by end of the plan period)

- 2) Protecting the site's biodiversity by:
 - a. Maintain the current area of open ground under the overhead powerlines in compartment 1b for habitat diversity.
 - b. Working towards the eradication of lesser periwinkle on site 747sq m, as seen in Appendix 2, during this plan period.
 - i. Monitor the current spread of lesser periwinkle in the south corner of 1a using mapping and marking the area affected using marked wooden posts (Annually).
 - ii. Trial non-chemical removal methods such as hand pulling, weed control matting and hot water treatment (2025).
 - iii. Review results of removal work annually using monitoring. Use records to determine if non-chemical removal has been successful in control and if it should be continued in the next planning period.
 - c. Discuss areas of non-native species, deer and squirrel management with neighbouring landowners including West Lothian Council and explore possibilities for a collaborative approach concerning monitoring of these species and their impact locally.

APPENDIX 1 : LOCATION MAP



Estate Path Network Scottish Only
 Path
 Estate SubComp Labels
 EstateManagementUnitsPolygonsGB



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Hermand Beech Wood Location

0 0 0 km

Scale: 1:10,583 @A3

Date: 31 October 2024

Author: Woodland Trust



APPENDIX 2 : COMPARTMENT MAP WITH LESSER PERIWINKLE



APPENDIX 3 : PROPOSED RAISED BOARDWALK INSTALLATION MAP



<p> — Proposed Board Walk — Existing Board Walk </p> <p>  <small> Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023 Contains data from OS OpenStreetMap Mafdi cymryrch henn yn cynnwys data mapio trwyddedol o'r Arolwg Orllewin gyda charteredd HUSO. © Hawlfraint y Goron a / neu hawl cronfa ddata 2024. Codiwr pob hawl. Theysidol 100021607. © Getmapping plc. Mae Coed Cadw yn elusen sydd wedi'i chofrestru yng Nghymru a Lloegr (Rif 204344) ac yn yr Alban (Rif SC028856). Ceirys gŵn wedi'i grifnodi o'r ym 1963. Cofrestrwyd ym Lloegr (Rif 1963373). This product includes mapping data licensed from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright and/or database right 2024. All rights reserved. Licence AC0000013481. © Getmapping plc. The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales (No. 294344) and in Scotland (No. SC028856). A non-profit-making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No. 1902573. </small> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hermand Beech Wood Proposed Board Walks</p> <p> 0 0 0 km <small>Graddfa/Scale: 1:1,000 @A3</small> <small>Dyddiad/Date: 18 October 2024</small> <small>Awdur/Author:</small> </p> <p style="text-align: right;">  </p>
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APPENDIX 4 : HARVESTING TABLE (20 YEARS)

Cpt No.	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Forecast Year	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2025	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2027	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2029	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2031	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2033	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2035	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2037	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2039	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2041	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2043	1.5	2.25
1a	Tree Safety Works	1.5	2045	1.5	2.25
1b	Tree Safety Works	0.51	2025	1	0.51
1b	Tree Safety Works	0.51	2030	1	0.51
1b	Tree Safety Works	0.51	2035	1	0.51
1b	Tree Safety Works	0.51	2040	1	0.51
1b	Tree Safety Works	0.51	2045	1	0.51
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2025	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2027	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2029	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2031	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2033	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2035	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2037	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2039	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2041	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2043	1.5	1.05
1c	Tree Safety Works	0.7	2045	1.5	1.05

APPENDIX 5 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.5	Birch (downy/silver)	1930	High forest		
<p>Birch predominates with mature beech largely confined to the roadside edge and along the field boundary. Sycamore is rare with the occasional mature oak and large leaved lime, ash and whitebeam. Also one or two mature hornbeam and Norway maple have been planted. The understorey consists of occasional birch, beech, ash and rowan regeneration. Creeping soft grass, male and broad buckler ferns with bramble, dog rose and honeysuckle dominate the ground flora. The soil is often very wet and mosses are common. Along the roadside boundaries there is a patchy hedgerow of hawthorn and beech requiring periodic trimming. Within the compartment there are good levels of standing and fallen deadwood. Lesser periwinkle is present and spreading across the southern corner of the site.</p>						
1b	0.51	Birch (downy/silver)	1980	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Services & wayleaves	
<p>A central strip of the site 30m in width is occupied by a Scottish Power wayleave, containing mainly birch, willow and rowan coppice, but is more open to the east. This was first coppiced in 2008 and is now coppiced periodically to maintain a safe distance from the overhead powerline. The wet area to the east once contained a pond that has now become largely infilled with soft rush and other vegetation. A boardwalk crosses through the rushes and elsewhere in the drier areas heath bedstraw, creeping soft grass and rhytidiadelphus squarrosus dominate with frequent broad buckler fern.</p>						
1c	0.7	Beech	1930	High forest		
<p>The ground level is higher and the compartment is drier than elsewhere. The soil is hummus rich and peaty with evidence of wide ridges and furrows to drain the site. The tree canopy is dominated by beech, oak and lime with abundant birch and rowan. Beech regeneration is also abundant with birch and rowan in the understorey. Beech is shading some areas of ground flora that otherwise is indicative of acid soil conditions with areas dominated by heather and bilberry, wavy hair grass, and heath bedstraw. Mosses are abundant and include Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus, Polytrichum formosum, and Mnium hornum.</p>						

DRAFT

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.

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