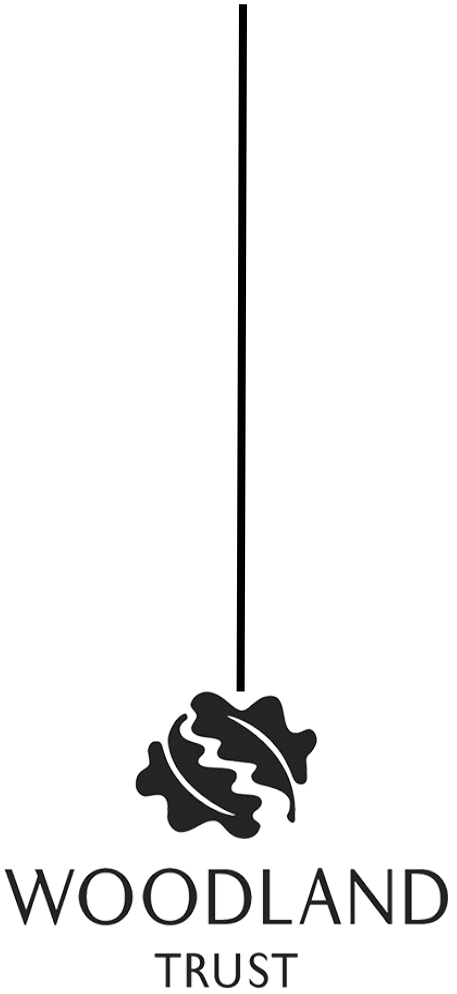
Hurst Wood

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



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

Hurst Wood

Location:	Tunbridge Wells Grid reference: TQ569404 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 188
Area:	17.12 hectares (42.30 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Hurst Wood sits in a steep-sided valley on the north-west outskirts of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Situated on the northern edge of the High Weald National Landscape, characterised by an attractive, small-scale landscape containing a mosaic of small farms, woodlands, historic parks, sunken lanes and ridge-top villages. Hurst Wood has Biodiversity Opportunity Area and Local Wildlife Site designations as well as falling within the Green Belt. The majority of Hurst Wood consists of ancient woodland, except a small patch (1.72 ha) within eastern part of cpt. 2a and northern boundary of cpt. 2b. The woodland is surrounded by grassland towards the North and West of the site, it borders three school grounds to the east and residential gardens on the south eastern boundary with urban development towards the South.

The site was acquired by The Woodland Trust in 1983. The eastern section (Cpt. 2) was previously owned by the Forestry Commission and was extensively planted in 1963 for timber production with species such as hybrid larch, Scots pine and American red oak, all of which are still present on the site. Other major tree species include oak (pedunculate and sessile), birch, beech, sycamore, sweet chestnut and holly. Cpt. 2b is still currently classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland (PAWS) due to the conifer component. A small stream flows north to south through the western half of the site (cpt.1a), the riparian habitat along the stream has become heavily eroded and damaged over the years, resulting in the closure of the adjacent footpath to facilitate riparian habitat recovery.

The site is very species-rich, particularly considering its substrate of base-poor brown earth and podzolic soil over Cretaceous Tunbridge Wells Sand bedrock, containing many vascular plants associated with ancient woodland in the south east of England. These include bluebells, wood spurge, wood anemones, wood sorrel, yellow archangel and yellow pimpernel.

Hurst Wood has a Public Right of Way running through the middle of the woodland; the section of footpath between Hurst Wood and Coniston Avenue, which is not owned by the WT, has recently been upgraded by the council in 2025. Most access is via one main entrance from this PROW from Conistone Avenue from the south. The permissive path network allows a circular loop around the whole site as well as designated paths through the compartments. The site is heavily used by the public (WT access category A) and has a good network of rides and smaller paths with appropriate infrastructure including steps and footbridges.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Hurst Wood is a good example of ancient semi natural woodland with a variety of native trees and woodland plants. This variety of structure and vegetation means most of the site lends itself to a policy of minimum intervention in the long term, allowing the processes of natural succession to take place. Dead and decaying wood, standing and fallen, will be retained wherever it is safe to do so, for its biodiversity value.

The area of planting on ancient woodland (PAWS) stocked with mixed broadleaves and hybrid larch in cpt.2b has been heavily thinned in the past and as a result the larch now only poses a limited threat to the woodland specialist plants. The canopy trees (coniferous & broadleaved) will be allowed to mature and senesce with some selective thinning of larch, where native broadleaf regeneration is sufficient to reduce bracken and bramble cover, which will further secure the remnant ancient woodland components within the stand. The larch will continue to be thinned until it comprises less than 20% of the canopy. The regeneration of holly understory will be monitored and holly may be thinned if extensive areas begin to shade ground flora.

Invasive species including laurel and Himalayan balsam will be continue to be monitored and controlled or eradicated where possible.

A network of wide rides will continue to be managed with the ride edges being coppiced, cut on rotation with zone 2 on a 3-5 year rotation and zone 3 on a rotation of 12-15 years. Creating woodland edge habitat that will exhibit a good range of specialist woodland plants as well as woody shrub species and enhance the overall biodiversity. Wide rides will also benefit public access by allowing the tracks to dry out quicker in the spring/summer months as well as creating a diverse mosaic of habitats for wildlife and flora.

The site will be managed for low-key, informal public access with suitable infrastructure and signage. The network of paths and rides will be maintained where necessary and improved, for both people and biodiversity. The wood will continue to be made welcoming and safe for visitors and its use will be monitored regularly.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description
The site contains a variety of woodland types associated with base-poor brown earths and podzolic soils (NVC W10a oak-bracken-bramble, W15b beech-wavy hair grass and W16a birch-oak-wavy hair grass) with a narrow strip of alder woodland (W7a alder-ash-common nettle) on alluvial soil along the stream. A history of minimal intervention has left a relatively even age class across compartments 1a and 2a with some coppice stools likely not cut since The Woodland Trust acquired the site in 1983. Mature birch is the most abundant tree with sessile oak, rowan, beech, holly, sweet chestnut, alder buckthorn and aspen. Ground flora is mostly bracken with some heather and wavy hair-grass. In the less acidic parts of the site hazel coppice and pedunculate oak are more common with carpets of bluebells in the spring. Cpt 2b contains approx.3.7ha of P63 hybrid larch and Scots pine (PAWS). Due to the light shading effect of these species, and previous heavy thinning, the ancient woodland components have largely survived and there is a significant broadleaved element to the area. Restoration work in 1998 (thinning and clear-felling) has increased the growth of bracken and holly to the detriment of other ground flora species but ride-side strimming has increased species such as bluebell, wood anemone and wood sorrel by controlling the competition with bracken. The site contains well over 100 species of vascular plants with more than 20 species being woodland specialists. The stream and valley bottom within cpt.1a provide another habitat type. The stream is subject to occasional permitted sewage discharge during periods of heavy rain and the bankside vegetation includes the very invasive Himalayan balsam (Impatiens glandulifera) which can threaten native ground flora. The bankside vegetation is further impacted by heavy dog use on site resulting in a lack of riparian vegetation.
Significance
The site is species-rich despite poor soil types and previous episodes of unsuitable management. The site is a valuable semi-natural habitat on the edge of a large urban area. The amount of ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. Ancient woodland is now restricted to 2% of the UK with approximately 40% of England's ASNW found in the south east. ASNW is important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years. This allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites. Ancient woodland is irreplaceable and the prevention of its loss, and restoration of planted ancient woodland sites are key aims of the Woodland Trust.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities -To fully restore the planted ancient woodland (PAWS) and increase biodiversity. - To fully restore the heathland habitat, increasing heather and other heathland flora

Constraints
- Silvicultural management constraints: steep terrain, long extraction route owned by third party and heavy public usage.

Factors Causing Change

- Invasive Himalayan balsam
-Extensive Holly
- Extensive Bracken
-Erosion of the riparian vegetation by dogs

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To secure and enhance the ancient woodland components of the site; aim to achieve a resilient woodland with structural diversity (using the Modules 4 and 5 Ancient Woodland Restoration guides) by implementing woodland management techniques and encouraging natural colonisation.

In 50 years' time Hurst Wood will have been managed with the long term objective of allowing the mixed woodland types (W7a, W10a, W15b, W16a) to senesce and develop largely by the processes of natural succession, thereby resulting in a long term increase in the amount of deadwood & veteran trees. Periodic management of ride edges will provide a further mosaic of habitats favouring early successional species and woodland specialist plants.

The long-term objective will be to support structurally diverse robust ancient woodland, comprising predominately native broadleaf species such as oak, beech, birch and sweet chestnut. Ancient woodland components will continue to be evident and lower storeys secured by natural regeneration. The understory will comprise of native shrubs with a ground layer of specialist woodland plants and ancient woodland indicator species including bluebell, dog's mercury and wood anemone.

The area of PAWS Cpt. 2b will have been restored to native broadleaved woodland by the gradual removal of conifers until they comprise less than 20% of the canopy and no longer pose a threat to the remnant ancient woodland components.

The small area (0.30 ha) within Cpt. 2a of former heathland will have been restored to open habitat with the removal of bracken and woody species.

An increasing amount of dead and decaying wood habitat will be present through standing and fallen dead trees and ancient living trees. Veteran trees of the future will be developing in character and mature oaks, sweet chestnut and beech will have been halo thinned around to ensure they are not shaded out by other species.

The presence of invasive non-native and threatening species to be absent or minor with containment and eradication work still continuing.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (10 years)

To encourage the process of natural succession and create a diverse age structure, minimal silvicultural interventions will take place during this plan period (2025-2035):

- Annual removal of Invasive non-native species, cherry laurel and Himalayan balsam. Himalayan balsam to be hand pulled within cpt.1a ,patches of laurel throughout the woodland, will be cut, uprooted and herbicide applied.

- Annual removal of bracken within 0.30 ha of Cpt. 2a, to allow more space and light for heathland flora.

- Hybrid larch in the 2.8ha area of PAWS (compartment 2b) will undergo a 30% thin in 2026 and 2034 with trees shading well established native broadleaves removed through ring barking and felling to reduce future competition with the developing native broadleaf canopy, decrease the amount of needle litter and increase the amount of standing deadwood habitat, as per recommendations from the 2019 and 2025 PAWS assessment.

- 30% thin of Holly to reduce shading of ground flora within each compartment:
Cpt. 1a in 2026, 2028 and 2033
Cpt. 2a in 2027, 2029 and 2032
Cpt.2b in 2028 and 2034.

Veteran and Ancient trees will be mapped alongside notable trees which will be halo thinned within Cpt.1a in 2027

- Ridge Edge Management:
Ride side coppicing/widening programme, this work will protect and enhance the biodiversity interest and the internal woodland structure. There will be an annual programme of works to cut the vegetation within the zone 1 annually, Zone 2 areas, 5- 6 metres width to be cut on a rotation of 3-5 years and Zone 3 areas 12-15 metres to be cut on a rotation of 12-15 years.

2026/2027: 190 meters of Zone 2 and 153 meters of Zone 3 will be cut
2027/2028: 190 meters of Zone 2 and 247 meters of Zone 3 will be cut
2029/2030: 337 meters of Zone 3 will be cut
2030/2031: 343 meters of Zone 2 will be cut
2032/2033: 437 meters of Zone 2 will be cut
2034/2035: 527 meters of Zone 2 will be cut
2035/2036: 343 meters of Zone 2 will be cut

- Thermal Imagery Census (TIC) Drone survey and full Herbivore Impact Assessment (HIA) to be undertaken in 2029.

-5-yearly formal woodland ecological condition assessment to be undertaken in 2030 and in 2035 to inform the next management plan review. Assessments will cover the range of threats outlined in factors causing change above.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Hurst Wood sits in the middle of three towns, Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall and Southborough with a combined population of over 78,000. The wood is an urban fringe site backing onto a residential area and three schools. A well-used public footpath, owned by a third party, runs through the centre of the wood giving access to a large local population of over 22,000 people within 2km of the site.

With its meandering stream and slopes of bluebells the wood provides a tranquil rural escape from the urban surroundings. There are also 3 other Woodland Trust woods close by, namely: Friezland Wood, Nellington Wood and Hargate Forest.

The site has a good network of maintained, but predominately unmade, paths and rides which are steep in places and can get very wet in winter. Hurst Wood has two access points, north and south of the site, connected by the third party PROW (Public Right of Way) which runs through the middle of the woodland. The main entrance point is from Coniston Avenue where visitors park and walk into the woodland from the PROW. Infrastructure such as steps and footbridges have been installed by the Woodland Trust to improve access to parts of the site. The site is heavily used by the public (WT access category A) where there is high level of pubic access (15-20 visitors using once entrance every day).

Significance

Hurst Wood provides access to a large area of woodland on the doorstep of people living in Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall and Southborough, it allows quiet informal recreation within a very busy and built up part of the country. The area has been designated as part of the Metropolitan Green Belt and as a Local Wildlife Site and Biodiversity Opportunity Area, bordering the High Weald National Landscape, providing great nature value to its visitors. The public right of way through the site allows the connectivity between the woodlands and the neighbouring towns.
Hurst Wood provides a safe, well-maintained amenity for a large local urban population, it is easily accessible to a large number of people on foot as well as providing an amenity for 3 neighbouring schools.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
- To improve the path network's accessibility in winter months,
-Volunteering opportunities to help tackle the invasive non-native species on site

Constraints:
- Unsuitable for less-abled visitors due to terrain of surfaced paths, width restricted access points, site infrastructure and access track owned by third party.
- The quiet, isolated nature of the wood which is easily accessible has resulted in acts of vandalism and anti- social behaviour, with bike tracks and dens being created within the wood.
- Walkers exceeding the 4 dogs per person limit can lead to uncontrolled dogs on site, which can create conflict among site users.
- The river riparian habitat has become heavily eroded due to footfall and bank erosion from dogs entering the river.
- The path network becomes very waterlogged in the winter months resulting in paths becoming very wide.

Factors Causing Change

- Damage to riparian habitat by people and dogs
- Damage to ancient woodland caused by den building
- Motorbike encroachment
- Path creep and development of desire lines along informal path network
- Ash dieback
- Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will have a well-used and well maintained network of rides and paths with appropriate infrastructure consistent with its WT access category A usage. Opening up of targeted rides will improve the visitor experience, increase light levels, allow the paths to dry out and provide benefits for biodiversity.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (10 years)

During this plan period, the short term objective is to continue to provide public access at Hurst Wood which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:

- Annual monitoring for tree hazards along boundary trees (Zone A) and every two years along footpaths (Zone B); address any safety concerns as required

- An annual path cut and entrance maintenance, approx. 3.0 Kilometres of path network

- Infrastructure (steps, access points, and footbridges) to be monitored annually and maintained/replaced as necessary.

-Replacement of wooden footbridge with hand rails in 2026.

-Installation of information frame with 4 panel slots for posters and site information in 2026.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	December
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
2026	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	April
2026	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	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,	June
2026	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	June
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	September
2026	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.	November
2026	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	November
2026	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	November
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2027	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	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	June

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	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2027	WMM - Ancient / Veteran Tree Work	Works associated with the on-going management of ancient, veteran or culturally significant trees including the creation of next generation of such trees. Activities may include works to prolong the life of the tree, removal of competing trees, the creation of new pollards	November
2027	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	November
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2028	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	May
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2029	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2029	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	May
2029	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2029	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2029	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	November
2029	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2029	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	December
2029	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	December
2030	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	May
2030	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2030	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	November
2031	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	May
2031	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,	June
2031	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2032	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2032	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	May
2032	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	June

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2032	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2032	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	November
2032	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2033	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2033	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	May
2033	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,	June
2033	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2033	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2034	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2034	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	May
2034	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,	June
2034	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2034	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	November
2034	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.	November
2034	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2035	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,	June
2035	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	8.13	Birch (downy/silver)	1950	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
Mixed native broadleaves of mixed age along small stream in valley running north-south. Canopy of oak, beech, birch, sweet chestnut etc. Understorey of holly, hazel, etc. Some planting along stream including oak, alder etc. Riparian vegetation is being severely eroded due to dog pressure from the path that runs along the stream edge.						
2a	5.25	Birch (downy/silver)	1950	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
Mixed broadleaves including oak, beech, sweet chestnut coppice, birch and sycamore. Abundant bluebells in some areas. The cpt is mainly on sloping ground except for a level area of approx. 1ha, formerly a meadow. This area now has naturally regenerated oak of approx. 50 years old with one small open area. The bank and ditch defining the meadow can be seen on the eastern and northern boundaries. Includes an area of open ground managed as lowland heath until 2008. Since mowing was stopped this area has regenerated with scattered oak and birch over heather and bracken.						
2b	3.7	Hybrid larch	1963	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Tree Preservation Order
P63 Hybrid larch with mixed broadleaves (oak, sweet chestnut, holly, birch, rowan etc.). Heavily thinned in 1998. Ground flora contains abundant bluebells where not swamped by bracken or holly. Also wood sorrel, wood						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
anemone and other ancient woodland indicators. The western part of the cpt. slopes steeply down to a central ride through the wood. Along the ride there are some scots pine. The southern edge of the cpt. has a broadleaved fringe containing birch, oak, ash, holly and hazel. It also comprises a small area in the south (0.3ha) that was previously P63 hybrid larch clear felled in 1998 restocked with P99 oak and natural regeneration of oak, birch, rowan etc.						

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.