

Thompson 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
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 New Native Woodland
 - 4.2 f2 Wood Pasture
 - 4.3 f3 Other
 - 4.4 f4 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat
 - 4.5 f5 Informal Public Access
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Thompson Wood

Location:	Thompson	Grid	reference:	tbc	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	0
Area:	119.50 hectares (295.29 acres)								
External Designations:	Tree Preservation Order								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Thompson Wood is located in the village of Thompson in South Norfolk , five miles south of the town of Watton . Thompson Wood was bought by the Woodland Trust in December 2021 through a combination of generous bequests and public donations. The site is 113 hectares and is the Woodland Trusts largest site in Norfolk and one of a number, of the Trust's larger sites in East Anglia.

When the Trust bought the site, the land use was predominantly intensive agriculture with very limited tree cover on the site. There are a limited number of intact hedgerows and a number of mature hedgerow trees including Ash and Oak in existing hedgerows or on the site of former hedgerows. Some of these trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order. The restoration of the hedgerows began on the site in 2022 with 650m of native hedging planted by contractors and volunteers from the local community. The fields are in an agricultural tenancy until planting begins, with the predominant crop a grass seed crop and two areas of root vegetables. The margins of the fields have been left as an uncropped buffer to the mature hedgerow trees. The site is currently in the planning phase for planting with planting expected to take place in the 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 planting seasons.

The site also has two ponds, both of which provide wildlife value to the site. The south eastern area of the site contains a wetter area of habitat which is currently left as set aside and allowed to naturally develop. This area also contains numerous depressions which are likely to be former ponds some of which are of a particular speciality to the area known as Pingo's . Pingos can also be known as a kettle lake, which is a rare and unusual type of pond and the Brecks is one of the few places in the UK that these occur in any numbers. They were created at the end of the last ice age and have been left almost untouched since then. As the glaciers retreated they left hard lenses of ice pressed into the ground, with soil over the top of them. When things warmed up it caused the lenses to melt forming a depression filled with water .

The site nestles in between two parts of Thompson Village . On the Eastern boundary of the site lies Thompson Water, Carr and Common Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which are also part of the Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation. This area is managed by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and consists of over 166 hectares, which comprises a number of habitat types and species. Most notable, are the lowland and alkaline Fen habitats, Eutrophic lakes, Wet Woodland, Lowland Calcareous and Acid Grasslands and the glacially created Pingos, which support one of the UK's only populations of Northern Pool Frog. In recent years the Norfolk Wildlife trust has expanded its land holding in the area with the purchases of land at Watering Farm, Mere Farm and Stow Bedon covert and plans to expand the habitat provision in the area. Also on this boundary on the north eastern edge is an area of privately owned land in conservation management which is grazed by Highland Cattle.

A few miles to the West lies the Ministry Of Defence training ground STANTA , which also has the designation SSSI. The Stanford Training Area SSSI, also forms part of the wider Brecks Special Protection Area and Brecks Special Area of Conservation . The site is also on the edge of the Brecks National character Area (85) and also adjoins National Character Area 84 Mid Norfolk and 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands.

The site has existing areas of public access which include a bridleway at the southern end of the site which is an unsurfaced bridleway and an unsurfaced public footpath on the North Eastern Boundary. These paths are well used by the local community and these also give opportunity for visitors to link up with the Great Eastern Pingo Trail which runs through part of Thompson Common. There is an active local community within the village of Thompson

and the surrounding area . St Martin's Church is a key feature in the local community and the church sits just off the eastern boundary of the site.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Thompson Wood will be a complementary habitat ,which supports landscape scale conservation around the Thompson Water SSSI area and will support the SSSI and European site by providing water quality and buffering benefits as well as providing an increase in biodiversity within the local landscape. The site will be part of a much larger conservation landholding managed by numerous organisations within the Thompson area.

The site will become a mixture of Secondary Woodland, Wood Pasture, open grassland habitat and wetland/ pingo areas. The site will be split into approximately 48ha of secondary woodland, 15.3 ha of Wood Pasture, 34 ha of open grassland and 15.4ha of wetland habitat.

The secondary woodland will be planted to become a Birch and Oak dominated woodland which will have been planted using a variety of techniques including traditional planting and direct seeding and will have a density of 2500 stems per hectare. The woods tree species will include, Pedunculate Oak,Downy birch ,Silver birch ,Common beech ,Aspen Hazel ,Common alder ,Rowan ,Crab apple ,White willow ,Crack willow ,Field maple and Small Leaved Lime. The Shrub species that the woods support will be Hawthorn, Goat willow, Dog Rose, Guelder rose ,Holly ,Blackthorn ,Alder Buckthorn and Common Dogwood. The woods species are complementary to the local area and the wood will be managed through a mixture of good silvicultural practice and natural regeneration. The ground flora will develop to give a diverse ground flora characteristic of the area.

The Wood Pasture habitat will be also be oak and birch dominated with an approximate stem density of 400 stems per ha across both planted and natural regenerating tree species. The Wood pasture will consist of a ground flora of grassland/pasture land, characteristics of the local area. Tree species in this area will consist of a mix of Pedunculate Oak,Downy birch,Silver birch, Common beech, Aspen, Hazel ,Common alder, Rowan, Crab apple, White willow, Crack willow and Field Maple. The wood pasture will develop through a mixture of planting and natural regeneration with a mix of protected and unprotected trees to provide structural diversity . Some areas of scrub will have developed naturally .The wood pasture will complement both the Secondary Woodland and the Open Grassland and wetland areas by providing the transition habitat from high forest to grassland. Grazing stock will be a key management tool for the wood pasture and will move between the wood pasture and the open grassland . The Wood pasture will have a stocking rate of 0.25 LU/ha/annum which provides low density grazing across the wood pasture. The expectation is that at least 30% of the area will trees and scrub, and the other 70% being grassland.

The open grassland habitat will be characteristic of the local area and provide habitat diversity to the site. The grassland will provide habitat for wildflowers and various species of ground nesting bird such as Skylark and Meadow Pipit ,as well as mammals. Areas will be allowed to develop elements of scrub and bramble to further diversify the habitat, however the predominant habitat will be open grassland. The open grassland areas will be stock grazed to allow a more natural development of the area and will have a stocking rate of 0.25 LU/ha per annum which provides low density grazing across the grassland. The habitat will be reminiscent of the National Vegetation Classification communities U1 *Festuca ovina* - *Agrostis capillaris* - *Rumex acetosella* and U2 *Deschampsia flexuosa* but will also allow for natural colonisation and regeneration.

The wetland areas bordering Thompson Common will be a diverse habitat containing a number of restored pingos and ponds. The habitat will be allowed to develop in a way that complements the Norfolk Wildlife Trust site adjacent and provide pingo restoration on a landscape scale. The restored pingos will provide additional habitat for the rare

Northern Pool frog and other wetland associated species such as plants and dragonflies and will be managed to ensure there are pingos with varying degrees of scrub and open water across the Woodland Trust and Norfolk Wildlife Trust complex. The area will be grazed by stock and will form part of a contiguous grazing block through both Thompson Wood and Thompson Common allowing natural management of the area. Scrub will be allowed to develop in these blocks and will be managed naturally by the grazing stock. Some pingo like ponds may also be created in the area to provide habitat diversity . The pingos will showcase quality conservation restoration and the Woodland Trust will work closely with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust , University College London and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust to provide a number of restored pingos, ponds and wetter habitats. The ditches in the south eastern will provide an additional wetland habitat and will be managed regularly to complement the wider wetland area and provide an additional biodiversity benefit.

The site will provide long term collaborative working opportunities with the local neighbouring landowners Norfolk Wildlife Trust, on a landscape scale. The size and scale of Thompson will also ensure that the site provides demonstration opportunities to other parties in Norfolk , on the process of creation of Woodland at scale, Wood Pasture and restoration and management of Pingo's. The site will regularly host visits and demonstrations showing off good quality woodland and conservation management.

The site will be open to the public in perpetuity, with an established ride and path system which allows access to the site. Low key public access will be maintained at the site , and the paths, signs and other furniture that allows safe access for the public will be maintained in good order . A small car park for visitors will be provided on Griston Road for up to 12 cars allowing easy access to the site. The wood will link to the local public footpath networks and will be part of the much wider access provision in the area as well as providing linkages to the Great Eastern Pingo Trail. Thompson Wood will provide opportunities for the local community to undertake outdoor recreational activities such as walking and wildlife watching and will provide the local community with a close accessible woodland. Volunteers will play a key part at Thompson Wood and the site will have a thriving Volunteer team consisting of Woodland Wardens and a Woodland working group (subject to sufficient interest). The site will support and work closely with local third party volunteer conservation organisations to provide a range of opportunities and tasks. The local community will have played a key role in the establishment of the site through community engagement events such as planting events and other conservation tasks. The local school will also be involved in the establishment of the site through site based activities such as tree planting and species surveys. Interpretation will provide information on the site and the local area and shared messaging across the landscape will provide users of the site and beyond in the wider landscape with clear , consistent messaging. Public access to areas of wood pasture, wetland and open grassland will be restricted due to the conflict with grazing animals and disturbance to wildlife

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 New Native Woodland

Description
The areas of proposed new native woodland will be created on former arable land. This land has been managed as agricultural land for many years and is under a mix of root crop and grass seed crops. There are some remnant hedgerows and feature trees within these areas.
Significance
The woodland planting will create additional woodland habitat within the county of Norfolk, a county in which only 9% of the county is wooded. The additional 113 hectare site at Thompson Wood will increase the land holding the Woodland Trust owns in Norfolk to 258 hectares.
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to develop one of the larger scale woodland creation projects in Norfolk - demonstrate a variety of techniques to deliver this - buffers existing conservation sites <p>Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - condition of soil from former arable usage.
Factors Causing Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - deer - extreme weather events - tree disease
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The secondary woodland will be planted to become a Birch and Oak dominated woodland which will have been planted using a variety of techniques including traditional planting and direct seeding and will have a density of 2500 stems per hectare. The woods tree species will include, Pedunculate Oak, Downy birch, Silver birch, Common beech, Aspen, Hazel, Common alder, Rowan, Crab apple, White willow, Crack willow, Field maple and Small Leaved Lime. The Shrub species that the woods support will be Hawthorn, Goat willow, Dog Rose, Guelder rose, Holly, Blackthorn, Alder Buckthorn and Common Dogwood. The woods species are complementary to the local area and the wood will be managed through a

mixture of good silvicultural practice and natural regeneration. The ground flora will develop to give a diverse ground flora characteristic of the area. The total woodland creation for the site will be approximately 48 ha.

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

The areas of new native woodland will be planted on the site over a number of planting seasons and will be planted with a variety of species including Pedunculate Oak, Downy birch, Silver birch, Common beech, Aspen Hazel, Common alder, Rowan, Crab apple, White willow, Crack willow, Field maple and Small Leaved Lime. The Shrub species that the woods support will be Hawthorn, Goat willow, Dog Rose, Guelder rose, Holly, Blackthorn, Alder Buckthorn and Common Dogwood. The woodland planting areas will be enclosed with deer fencing which will be installed in two stages.

Fencing

Deer fencing will be installed around the woodland planting compartments 1a, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f and 1g with 0.74ha of 1d being included within the wood pasture and wetland habitat stock fencing.

Installation of deer fencing- compartments 1a and 1c - Autumn 2024
- compartments- 1d, 1e, 1f and 1g - Autumn 2025

Ground preparation

Much of the site is currently down as a short grass crop of Italian rye grass. There are two areas that have been used for root crops on the western and south western edge of the site. The areas of the site that are currently under a rye-grass crop will not need any ground preparation for planting, other than a late autumn cut to reduce the height of the grass. The areas that have been used for root crops will need preparing for planting. This will be undertaken with a light cultivation and seeding using a low growing grass seed mix.

-Ground preparation - Autumn/ Winter 2024/25

Planting

Planting will be undertaken to achieve a density of 2250 stems per ha across the woodland areas of the site. The trees will predominantly be planted by contractors, however there will also be opportunities for the local community to be involved in tree planting events. The trees will be planted in mixed species blocks and will be planted with a variable planting matrix. This will provide a higher density of trees towards the centre of the block with a lower density towards the edge which will provide greater structural diversity to the block.

-Planting- compartments 1a,1b,1c & part 1d - Autumn/Winter 2024/25 - 11.02 ha
- compartments 1d & 1e - Autumn /Winter 2025/26 -19.46 ha
- compartments 1e & 1g - Autumn Winter 2026/27- 17.5ha

Maintenance

-Inter row mowing

Inter row mowing will be required in the first few years following planting to allow the trees space to fully develop. This

will be completed using a mix of techniques including brushcutters , hand propelled mowers and tractor mounted mowers and will be undertaken in the spring and summer to reduce grassland growth around the trees and shrubs.

Inter row mowing- compartments 1a,1b,1c & part 1d - 2025,2026 & 2027

- compartments 1d & 1e - 2026,2027 & 2028

- compartments 1e & 1g - 2027,2028, & 2029

-Beat up

A beat up will be required in all phases of planting to replace any trees that may have failed . This will be undertaken by a walk through survey, followed by the replacement of any trees for up to three years following planting. This will be completed through a combination of staff, volunteers and contractors.

-Beat up -compartments 1a,1b,1c & part 1d - 2025,2026 & 2027

- compartments 1d & 1e - 2026,2027 & 2028

- compartments 1e & 1g - 2027,2028, & 2029

Herbivore management

Herbivore impacts will be managed on the site predominantly through deer fencing around the woodland blocks. There will also be some on site deer management through the use of a trained deer stalker. Deer populations will be monitored through Habitat Impact assessments and thermal survey data to provide detail on the population within the Thompson Wood site. A deer management plan will provide detailed information on the deer management methods for the site and will be kept regularly updated following surveys. A Habitat Impact Assessment will be undertaken annually in combination with the wood pasture areas to monitor the impact of deer on the site.

- Habitat Impact Assessment - 2025,2026,2027,2028 & 2029

A woodland condition assessment will be undertaken at the end of this plan period to monitor the success of planting and inform the next management plan.

- Woodland condition assessment- 2028

4.2 f2 Wood Pasture

Description

The areas of proposed wood pasture will be created on former arable land. This land has been managed as agricultural land for many years and is under a mix of root crop and grass seed crops. There are some remnant hedgerows and feature trees within these areas.

Significance

The wood pasture at Thompson Wood will become part of a limited wider wood pasture provision in the county and will complement existing local wood pasture at Merton Hall and Breccles Hall.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

- creation of wood pasture which is a limited habitat in Norfolk
- to undertake conservation grazing both on site and in the wider landscape

Constraints

- availability of grazing stock and suitable graziers
-

Factors Causing Change

- deer
- grazing
- tree disease
- extreme weather events

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Wood Pasture habitat will be also be oak and birch dominated with an approximate stem density of 400 stems per ha across both planted and natural regenerating tree species. The Wood pasture will consist of a ground flora of grassland/pasture land, characteristics of the local area. Tree species in this area will consist of a mix of Pedunculate Oak,Downy birch,Silver birch, Common beech, Aspen, Hazel ,Common alder, Rowan, Crab apple, White willow, Crack willow and Field Maple. The wood pasture will develop through a mixture of planting and natural regeneration with a mix of protected and unprotected trees to provide structural diversity . Some areas of scrub will have developed naturally .The wood pasture will complement both the Secondary Woodland and the Open Grassland and wetland areas by providing the transition habitat from high forest to grassland. Grazing stock will be a key management tool for the wood pasture and will move between the wood pasture and the open grassland . The Wood pasture will have a stocking rate of 0.25 LU/ha/annum which provides low density grazing across the wood pasture. The total area of Wood pasture to be created is 15.3 ha, with an expectation that at least 30% of the area will trees and scrub, and the other 70% being grassland.

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

The Wood Pasture habitat will be created through a mix of planting and natural regeneration with a mixture of protected and unprotected areas. Tree species in this area will consist of a mix of Pedunculate Oak,Downy birch,Silver birch, Common beech, Aspen, Hazel ,Common alder, Rowan, Crab apple, White willow, Crack willow and Field Maple. The wood pasture will develop through a mixture of planting and natural regeneration with a mix of protected and unprotected trees to provide structural diversity.

Ground preparation

Much of the site is currently down as a short grass crop of Italian rye grass . . The areas of the site that are currently under a rye-grass crop but are within the stock fenced wood pasture / open grassland area will require some ground preparation. This will be undertaken with a light cultivation and seeding using a low growing grass seed mix mixed with

area appropriate native wildflower seeds .

-Ground preparation - Autumn/ Winter 2024/25

Fencing

The areas of wood pasture will be fenced with stock fencing in conjunction with some of the grassland areas and wetland areas to create diverse grazing units across the site.. Some areas will be left unfenced to further provide habitat diversity.

-Fencing install - Phase 1- Autumn / Winter 2024/25

- phase 2 -Summer 2025/26

Planting

Planting will be undertaken to achieve a density of 400 stems per ha across the wood pasture areas of the site . The trees will predominantly be planted by contractors , however there will also be opportunities for the local community to be involved in tree planting events. The trees will be planted in mixed species blocks and will be planted with a variable planting matrix. This will provide a higher density of trees towards the centre of the block with a lower density towards the edge which will provide greater structural diversity to the block.

-Planting- compartments 2a- Autumn/Winter 2024/25- 4.6ha

- compartments 2b & 2c - Autumn /Winter 2025/26 - 8.28ha

- compartments 2d- Autumn Winter 2026/27- 2.4ha

Tree protection

The trees planted in the wood pasture area will be a mix of planted and natural regeneration , and they will be a mix of protected and unprotected. The wood pasture area gives the opportunity to use a variety of protection methods including, fencing, individual eco-tree guards and overplanting to deliver the required 400 stems per ha. The tree protection for the wood pasture areas will be installed at the time of planting.

-Tree protection installation - compartments 2a- Autumn/Winter 2024/25

- compartments 2b & 2c - Autumn /Winter 2025/26

- compartments 2d- Autumn Winter 2026/27

Maintenance

Beat up

A beat up will be required in all phases of planting to replace any planted trees that may have failed . This will be undertaken by a walk through survey followed by the replacement of any trees for up to three years following planting. This will be completed through a combination of staff, volunteers and contractors.

-Beat up -compartments 2a- 2025,2026 & 2027

- compartments 2b & 2c - 2026,2027 & 2028
- compartments 2d - 2027,2028, & 2029

Herbivore management

Herbivore impacts will be managed on the Wood pasture through a combination of tree protection and deer management, through the use of a trained deer stalker. Deer populations will be monitored through Habitat Impact assessments and thermal survey data to provide detail on the population within the Thompson Wood site. A deer management plan will provide detailed information on the deer management methods for the site and will be kept regularly updated following surveys. A Habitat Impact Assessment will be undertaken annually in combination with the wood pasture areas to monitor the impact of deer on the site.

- Habitat Impact Assessment - 2025,2026,2027,2028 & 2029

A woodland condition assessment will be undertaken at the end of this plan period to monitor the success of planting and inform the next management plan.

- Woodland condition assessment- 2028

Grazing

The areas of wood pasture that are fenced by stock fencing will be grazed in conjunction with some of the open grassland the wood pasture and wetland areas. These will be grazed at a rate of 0.2 LU /Ha per anum. This will allow the natural management of the habitat through grazing and provide a diverse sward height. .

- Introduction of grazing to site- 2025/26

4.3 f3 Other

Description
The site has two ponds, both of which provide wildlife value to the site. The south eastern area of the site contains a wetter area of habitat which is currently left as set aside and allowed to naturally develop. This area also contains numerous depressions which are likely to be former ponds some of which are of a particular speciality to the area known as Pingo's . Pingos can also be known as a kettle lake, which is a rare and unusual type of pond and the Brecks is one of the few places in the UK that these occur in any numbers. They were created at the end of the last ice age and have been left almost untouched since then. As the glaciers retreated they left hard lenses of ice pressed into the ground, with soil over the top of them. When things warmed up it caused the lenses to melt forming a depression filled with water
Significance
Pingo's are an nationally important habitat and predominantly confined to the Breckland area within the UK. The association of the Northern Pool frog in this area is also nationally important. The wetland area borders the Thompson Common and Water Sites of Special Scientific interest and will be critical in providing resilience within the landscape.

<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creation of new complementary habitat adjacent to existing SSSI - restoration of historical pingo features - improving biodiversity in the landscape <p>Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restoration area is waterlogged much of the year so management must be timed to reduce impact to site
<p>Factors Causing Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - climate change - water use changes in local area - invasive species- calamagrostis / crassula
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p> <p>The wetland areas bordering Thompson Common will be a diverse habitat containing a number of restored pingos and ponds. The habitat will be allowed to develop in a way that complements the Norfolk Wildlife Trust site adjacent and provide pingo restoration on a landscape scale. The restored pingos will provide additional habitat for the rare Northern Pool frog and other wetland associated species such as plants and dragonflies and will be managed to ensure there are pingos with varying degrees of scrub and open water across the Woodland Trust and Norfolk Wildlife Trust complex. The area will be grazed by stock and will form part of a contiguous grazing block through both Thompson Wood and Thompson Common allowing natural management of the area. Scrub will be allowed to develop in these blocks and will be managed naturally by the grazing stock. Some pingo like ponds may also be created in the area to provide habitat diversity . The pingos will showcase quality conservation restoration and the Woodland Trust will work closely with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust , University College London and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust to provide a number of restored pingos, ponds and wetter habitats. The ditches in the south eastern will provide an additional wetland habitat and will be managed regularly to complement the wider wetland area and provide an additional biodiversity benefit. The total area of wetland habitat to be created will be 15.4ha .</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p> <p>Within the five year management plan the aim will be to begin the restoration of Pingo's on the site as well as the creation of other wetland features . The landscape will be adapted to provide a similar topography to that found at Thompson Common , with the habitat being allowed to naturally regenerate following the restoration/creation of the wetland features. The wetland areas will be stock fenced and grazing introduced at a low stocking rate to manage the habitat in a natural manner. The ditches on the site will be maintained to maintain hydro-logical continuity across the site.</p> <p>Pingo Restoration</p> <p>The pingo's will begin to be restored with initial funding from the Natural England Species Recovery Project grant , led by Norfolk Wildlife Trust with the Woodland Trust and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation as supporting</p>

organisations. The funding runs until the 31st March 2025. The species recovery funding will focus on the initial restoration of up to ten pingo's on the Thompson Wood site. The project will undertake the initial scoping of potential restoration candidates, undertake hydro-logical monitoring to confirm suitable pingo restoration candidates and also undertake the restoration of up to ten Pingo's. Following the end of the Species Recovery project, a further plan will be developed and implemented to undertake further restoration of the pingo's and wetland habitats on site with an additional area of pingos/ponds to be restored in future covering a combined total area of up to 1.4ha.

- initial scoping of features - November 2023
- hydro-logical monitoring of features using dipwells and auto recorders- December 2023- September 2024
- restoration of up to 10 pingo's- Autumn/ Winter 2024/25
- further restoration of pingos - Autumn 2027 onwards

Stock Fencing

Stock fencing to the wetland area will be installed as per the Woodland Trust fencing specifications 3.06 and 3.13 and will form part of a fence system surrounding both the wetland habitat and the wood pasture habitat. Management gates will be installed to allow movement of stock between areas as well as a management gate provided between the Woodland trust site and Norfolk Wildlife Trust site to allow a landscape approach to grazing.

Installation of stock fencing Wetland areas - Autumn/ Winter 2024/25

Grazing

Grazing will be introduced to the wetland areas and will be combined with grazing in the wood pasture areas to provide natural approach to the habitat management of the area. This will combine with natural regeneration to provide a diverse habitat structure. Grazing will be introduced as soon as possible into the wetland and wood pasture areas at a low density of 0.25 LU/HA per annum. Options for a landscape scale grazing approach in collaboration with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust will be explored .

-Introduction of grazing to site- 2025/26

Ditch Management

The ditches will be managed every seven years and this will involve the clearance of the ditches to maintain water flow and ensure the continuation of hydro-logical connectivity. . The ditch slubbings will be spread adjacent to the fence line . The water control structure adjacent to the end of Butters Hall lane will be reinstated and maintained to create the ideal wetland conditions for the site. The ditch system and any associated infrastructure will be mapped and used to create a ditch management plan.

- Culvert reinstatement & repair adjacent to Springfields- Autumn 2024
- Ditch clearance adjacent to Springfields- Autumn 2024
- Ditch clearance- complete length- Autumn 2026

4.4 f4 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description
The areas of proposed semi natural open ground habitat will be created on former arable land. This land has been managed as agricultural land for many years and is under a mix of root crop and grass seed crops. There are some remnant hedgerows and feature trees within these areas.
Significance
The semi natural open ground creation will increase the level of lowland acid grassland in the immediate area and complement existing habitat at the nearby Stanford Training Area
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creation of a landscape scale grazing operation - creation of a complementary habitat to improve biodiversity <p>Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - availability of local grazing stock
Factors Causing Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tree disease - climate change - extreme weather events
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The open grassland habitat will be characteristic of the local area and provide habitat diversity to the site. The grassland will provide habitat for wildflowers and various species of ground nesting bird such as Skylark and Meadow Pipit ,as well as mammals. Areas will be allowed to develop elements of scrub and bramble to further diversify the habitat, however the predominant habitat will be open grassland. The open grassland areas will be stock grazed to allow a more natural development of the area and will have a stocking rate of 0.25 LU/ha per annum which provides low density grazing across the grassland. The habitat will be reminiscent of the National Vegetation Classification communities U1 Festuca ovina - Agrostis capillaris - Rumex acetosella and U2 Deschampsia flexuosa but will also allow for natural colonisation and regeneration. 34 ha of open grassland will be created on the site.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Creation of semi natural open ground will be undertaken though seeding using a native low growing grass seed mix . Some areas of open grassland will be fenced in conjunction with the wood pasture to provide diverse grazing units whist other areas of open grassland will form part of the wider habitat complex. These areas will also have elements of wildflower seeded within them . The areas will become a haven for wildlife and will provide homes for species such as the Skylark.

Seeding

The areas of open grassland will be seeded using a native grass seed mix of low growing grasses ideally species such as *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Rumex acetosella* and *Deschampsia flexuosa*. This will provide a habitat and species structure similar to habitat found in the nearby Brecks.

- grass seeding operation - Phase 1 - Autumn 2024/25
- Phase 2 - Autumn 2025/26

Fencing

Some areas of open grassland habitat will be fenced either with stock fencing as part of the wood pasture and wetland areas or with deer fencing as part of the woodland creation areas. Some areas will be left unfenced to further provide habitat diversity.

- Fencing install - Phase 1- Autumn / Winter 2024/25
- phase 2 -Summer 2025/26

Grazing

The areas of open grassland that are fenced by stock fencing will be grazed in conjunction with the wood pasture and wetland areas. These will be grazed at a rate of 0.2 LU /Ha per annum. This will allow the natural management of the habitat through grazing and provide a diverse sward height. An area of sheep grazing will be introduced to the area at the western edge of the site behind the houses on Hall lane and Church Lane.

- Introduction of grazing to site- 2025/26

Hedging

Hedges will be restored on the site to improve habitat connectivity in the local landscape. In 2023 the first stage of hedge planting was completed with approximately 1000 metres planted. An additional 980m will be planted on the rest of the site predominantly on the roadsides. The hedges will be protected with a mix of rabbit proof fencing and biodegradable Eco tree guards.

- Hedge planting -Autumn/Winter 2024/25

4.5 f5 Informal Public Access

Description

The site has existing areas of public access which include a bridleway at the southern end of the site which is part unsurfaced bridleway and unsurfaced permissive bridleway and an unsurfaced public footpath on the North Eastern

<p>Boundary. These paths are well used by the local community and these also give opportunity for visitors to link up with the Great Eastern Pingo Trail which runs through part of Thompson Common. There is an active local community within the village of Thompson and the surrounding area . St Martin's Church is a key feature in the local community and the church sits just off the eastern boundary of the site.</p>
<p>Significance</p>
<p>The creation of new access provision will greatly enhance the access opportunities in the local area and provide the local community with a long term publicly accessible site that will be used by future generations.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to increase the level of access provision in the village of Thompson - to improve the accessibility of green space to the local community - to link to existing access networks in the local area <p>Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limited parking in the local area - accessibility by public transport
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased footfall to site as site develops - increased housing provision in the local area - vandalism - usage by prohibited vehicles
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>
<p>The site will be open to the public in perpetuity, with an established ride and path system which allows access to the site. Low key public access will be maintained at the site , and the paths, signs and other furniture that allows safe access for the public will be maintained in good order . A small car park for visitors will be provided on Griston Road for up to 12 cars allowing easy access to the site. The wood will link to the local public footpath networks and will be part of the much wider access provision in the area as well as providing linkages to the Great Eastern Pingo Trail. Thompson Wood will provide opportunities for the local community to undertake outdoor recreational activities such as walking and wildlife watching and will provide the local community with a close accessible woodland. Volunteers will play a key part at Thompson Wood and the site will have a thriving Volunteer team consisting of Woodland Wardens and a Woodland working group (subject to sufficient interest).. The site will support and work closely with local third party volunteer conservation organisations to provide a range of opportunities and tasks. The local community will have played a key role in the establishment of the site through community engagement events such as planting events and other conservation tasks. The local school will also be involved in the establishment of the site through site based</p>

activities such as tree planting and species surveys. Interpretation will provide information on the site and the local area and shared messaging across the landscape will provide users of the site and beyond in the wider landscape with clear , consistent messaging. Public access to areas of wood pasture, wetland and open grassland will be restricted due to the conflict with grazing animals and disturbance to wildlife

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

The sites access provision will be developed over the course of the current plan and will include the creation of new permissive paths on the site alongside the ongoing management of the current public footpath and bridleway as well as the creation of site interpretation. A visitor car park will be created in the North west corner of the site along Griston road and will link directly to the path network on site . Volunteer activity on site will increase with the usage of third party volunteer groups for habitat management tasks and the creation of Woodland Wardens to help monitor and patrol the site . The local community and school will be involved in the site through a series of planting events .

Path management

The current 1180 m of Paths and rides are to be maintained annually with a ride system cut 3 times annually to a minimum of 2m to allow unhindered access for the public, as detailed in EMC Spec 2.01. .The wood will be welcoming with the entrances clearly signed and accessible.

Permissive path creation

Permissive paths will be created across the site to allow public access around the site . These will be predominantly grass paths and will be created through the mowing of the paths to 2m as per EMC spec 2.01. In some areas the grass for the paths will be planted at the same time as the areas of semi natural grassland habitat . In total an additional 4800 metres of permissive path will be created bringing the total length of publicly accessible footpaths and bridleway on the site to approximately 6000 metres.

- path creation - Autumn 2024/25
- Autumn 2025/26

Car Park creation

A visitor car park will be created at the North Western corner of the site adjacent to Griston road. This will provide parking opportunities for visitors to the site and will connect to the permissive access across the site. The car park will be designed to be in keeping with the local area.

- Car park design and planning- 2024
- Car park construction - 2025/26

Site interpretation

The site will have new interpretation created and installed to provide visitors with information about the site and access routes. The signage will be installed in key areas such as the car park and key entrances. The interpretation will be developed to ensure key messaging is consistent across the wider landscape . An interpretation plan will be developed to implement this.

- creation of interpretation plan - Winter 2025
- installation of interpretation - Spring/Summer 2025

Volunteers

Volunteers will play a key role in the management of the site and a mix of volunteering opportunities will be available on site . Third party volunteer groups will help with conservation tasks across the site to deliver conservation outcomes across the site. A number of Woodland Warden volunteers will be recruited from the local community to provide on the ground eyes and ears support to the site manager.

Recruitment of Woodland Wardens- February 2025

Public engagement

The site will provide a variety of opportunities for engagement with the local community . this will predominantly be delivered through community planting events on the site , allowing the local community to be involved directly in the creation of the woodland at Thompson Wood. There will also be opportunities to support the planting of new hedgerows on the site. The primary school in Thompson will also be a key stakeholder for the sites public engagement and will be involved in planting events at Thompson Wood.

Community Planting events- Winter 2024

Winter 2025

Winter 2026

Manage site safety through safety observations and inspections.

-Associated signage (Site name/welcome signs) to be kept in good condition and regularly maintained as detailed in EMC Spec 1.01 , with a five yearly review of access facilities by the Site Manager.

Access inspection - July 2027

Tree Safety surveys

-Zone A Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 12 months

-Zone B Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 18 months

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WC - Planting Ground Preparation	Works associated with the physical preparation of the ground to ensure it is suitable for planting such as ripping, grass seeding, mounding	October
2024	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	October
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works, hedge trimming etc	October
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2024	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	November
2024	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	December
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	January
2024	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	February
2024	NWH - Initial Creation Work	Works associated with the creation of new non-woodland habitats such as ponds, ground prep and seeding of grassland areas etc	February
2024	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	March
2024	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	March
2024	PE - Events - Tree Planting	Provision of materials needed to support public, corporate and school events associated with tree planting /activities such as refreshments / shelters / materials / mobile toilets	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April
2025	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	April
2025	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	April
2024	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	May
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2025	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	May
2025	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	June
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2025	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	June
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2025	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	August
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2025	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	September
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	October
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2025	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	November
2025	AW - Car Park Construction	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	December
2025	PE - Events - Tree Planting	Provision of materials needed to support public, corporate and school events associated with tree planting /activities such as refreshments / shelters / materials / mobile toilets	March
2025	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	March
2025	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	March
2025	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April
2026	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	April
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	April

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	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	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	June
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	June
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	September
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2026	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	December
2026	PE - Events - Tree Planting	Provision of materials needed to support public, corporate and school events associated with tree planting /activities such as refreshments / shelters / materials / mobile toilets	March
2026	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	March
2026	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	April
2027	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	April
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2027	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	February
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	August

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2028	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	April
2029	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	7.07	NULL	2024	Wood establishment		
1b	0.19	NULL	2024	Wood establishment		
1c	2.81	NULL	2024	Wood establishment		
1d	15.4	NULL	2025	Wood establishment		
1e	4.88	NULL	2025	Wood establishment		
1f	2.7	NULL	2026	Wood establishment		
1g	14.8	NULL	2026	Wood establishment		
2a	4.6	NULL	2024	Wood pasture		

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
2b	0.53	NULL	2025	Wood pasture		
2c	7.75	NULL	2025	Wood pasture		
2d	2.4	NULL	2026	Wood pasture		
3a	3.3	NULL	2024	Non-wood habitat		
3b	12.1	NULL	2024	Non-wood habitat		
4a	34.14	Hawthorn species	2022	Non-wood habitat		
Open Ground habitat						
-Hedging Adjacent to Church Road						

Ancient Woodland

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

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

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

Ancient Woodland Site

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

Beating Up

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

Broadleaf

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

Canopy

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

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

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

Conifer

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

Continuous Cover forestry

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

Coppice

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

Exotic (non-native) Species

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

Field Layer

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

Group Fell

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

Long Term Retention

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

Minimum Intervention

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

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

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

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

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

Origin & Provenance

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

Re-Stocking

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

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

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

Sub-Compartment

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

Thinning

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

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

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

Weeding

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

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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