



# Mackintosh Davidson Wood

## Management Plan

# 2012-2017

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## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

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## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk). Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, 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.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on 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 heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential 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 allow our woods to be used to support 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. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
10. Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Mackintosh Davidson Wood
<b>Location:</b>	West Knoyle
<b>Grid reference:</b>	ST857316, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 183
<b>Area:</b>	57.48 hectares (142.04 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This beautiful, varied wood is a mixture of newly planted areas and ancient semi-natural woodland. Fields, rides, glades and open areas add variety and increase wildlife habitat. Nine entrances in all, mainly via stiles, and a good network of paths.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Mackintosh Davidson Wood is situated just to the south of the village of West Knoyle near the Wiltshire/Dorset border. Here the scarp slopes of the South Wiltshire Downs tumble down to the Blackmoor Vale to the west and the Vale of Wardour to the south and east. The local countryside is varied: arable farmland, grazing land and hedgerows. Part of Mackintosh Davidson consists of ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW). Other areas of ASNW are found nearby; to the southwest, north west, and Hang Wood which borders with Mackintosh Davidson, to the northeast.

The wood lies near to the Mere Fault, where Cretaceous chalk, greensand and gault clay gives way to older Jurassic Kimmeridge clay, this, together with its watercourses has helped shape the local landscape. Soil is of the Denchworth type (National Soil Survey no.712b) and is slowly permeable clay with fine loams, seasonally waterlogged, landslips and associated irregular terrain is locally common.

The site was acquired by the Trust in 1993, thanks to a generous benefactor. It was named Mackintosh Davidson Wood to preserve for posterity, family links between Charles Renee Mackintosh and the Davidson Family. Before the Trust's ownership the land had changed very little since the Parish Map of 1736. The Domesday Book reveals that some two thirds of the Parish was woodland - part of the great Forest of Selwood - largely cleared in the fourteenth century. The village is recorded (in 1235) as being "one of the townships answering to the forest Eyre of Penselwood" and was evidently larger and more important than during the more recent past. Small areas of ancient woodland within the site form natural links to this part of Wessex's forested past.

The woodland creation at Mackintosh Davidson links existing woodland fragments to each other and to Hang Wood to the northeast - a situation that last existed in medieval times. The new woodland was planted in 1995 and 1996, using a mix of locally occurring broadleaf trees and shrubs, on the plateaux and gently sloping areas beneath two prominent knolls that are either side of a wooded valley. A tributary of the River Lodden runs through this valley, bisecting the site. Other streams run to the east and west cutting through the land, sometimes in narrow gullies. The site already has considerable wildlife value and this is likely to increase as the woodland continues to establish and mature.

There are three main sections that preserve the character of the area, these are: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and woodland/scrub fragments; wood pasture across most of the site managed under a standard Farm Business Tenancy; newly planted areas - including rides, glades and other open areas. Within these areas are a variety of interlinking habitats, including aquatic and marginal (ponds, springs and streams), old hedgerows, veteran trees, and wet woodland.

The site can be accessed from 8 locations with several public footpaths crossing the site. There are steep sections and the paths can be muddy and uneven underfoot.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

#### General Location:

The woodland is located within the small village of West Knoyle, Wiltshire. Public access is available from 8 entrances. Six of these feed from public rights of way which cross the site and allow access from/to the wider countryside. The main entrances lead from the main road through the village. The main entrance grid reference is at ST854319

#### Paths:

There is one part surfaced path within the woodland leading from main entrance. There are two very steep sections of surfaced path and the path can become icy in winter and slippery/muddy when wet. The main entrance here is a management gate (locked) with a squeeze pedestrian access gap to the side. The rest of the extensive public rights of way and permissive paths are un-surfaced. The site is seasonally wet and can get very muddy underfoot. Both the northern and southern sections of the site are relatively flat (excluding the two knolls) however the central area, linking the two, does involve steep climbs. Within the site, due to grazing and initial deer protection, there are also stiles and a number of kissing gates (deer specification) which are narrow.

#### Parking:

There is a small parking area at the main entrance. This is not Woodland Trust land and therefore we would ask visitors to park considerately and not obstruct the management access to neighbouring land. Parking is possible on the main road but again we ask visitors to be considerate to local residents and ask visitors to park considerately and not obstruct the access to residents' properties.

#### Public Transport:

The nearest Train station is located at Gillingham which is approximately 4 miles from the woodland along un-paved country lanes. There is no bus service to the village, but the Connect2 Wiltshire Bus service does operate in the area and can be contacted on 01747 861222.

#### Public amenities

The nearest Public toilets can be found in Shaftesbury: Bell St car park (4 miles) and Gillingham High St car park (5 miles) which also offer facilities for the disabled and baby changing facilities are available in Warminster.

### 3.2 Access / Walks



## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision for Mackintosh Davidson Wood is to provide a dynamic ecosystem of woodland and open ground managed as a wood pasture system. This will have a wide variety of habitats, including open ground habitats such as semi improved grassland, within a mosaic of semi-natural native woodland, and scattered open-grown trees and ungrazed Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. The system will be dynamic with woodland cover and open ground being allowed to expand and contract over time in response to natural processes, providing that the overall value of Key Features is maintained. Approximately 70% of the Wood will be under tree/scrub cover with the remaining area as pasture, rough grassland and ride networks. The Wood is to remain welcoming for visitors, with paths maintained in a good condition having regard to their locations and natural limitations (mud, unstable land, usage etc).

## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

### 5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

#### Description

This Key feature covers the site's ancient semi-natural woodland, mature woodland beside streams, associated wet woodland and associated emergent scrub areas which are found in compartments 1(a-d). In addition, 1a-c are County Wildlife Sites (Monitored by the Wildlife Trust)

Oak and ash woodland is prevalent (NVC type W8) but there are also areas of alder carr and other wet woodland types.

Some areas of slumped land are partially stabilised by the roots of old oak and ash trees. Some such areas remain undisturbed, due to their inaccessibility.

Hazel is often common in the understorey, as is holly, hawthorn and blackthorn - these latter two species, together with dog rose and bramble, form most of the scrubby fringes.

There are some areas of good natural regeneration of native trees and shrubs. Some of the scrub is now growing out into rough grassland.

Ground flora includes ancient woodland indicators such as: dog's mercury, moschatel, bluebell, pendulous sedge; there are also many ferns and mosses. There are good levels of dead wood - standing and fallen.

These existing areas of established woodland form important wildlife corridors, connecting with old hedgerows, pastures, rough grassland, scrub and the three streams.

#### Significance

The ancient woodland areas are vestiges of the old Forest of Penselwood, part of the much larger Ancient Forest of Selwood, largely felled in medieval times. They provide important links to the past, have developed over many years and hold a rich variety of woodland flora and fauna. The veteran trees on stream banks form local landscape features and the Wood is at a distance from any major centres of population so wildlife is usually undisturbed.

Links to Hang Wood (SSSI) and through hedgerows, streams and rough grassland into other semi-natural habitats in the surrounding area, adds to the wood's importance in the local ecological structure.

The site contributes to the Trust's corporate objectives of:

1. ensuring no further loss of ancient woodland
2. protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
3. inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

### **Factors Causing Change**

Deer may prove a threat to natural regeneration and squirrels may damage young sycamore and beech. Uncontrolled Grazing.

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

To maintain and enhance the current semi natural woodland areas as high forest, continuous cover native broadleaved woodland. These areas will be allowed to develop with minimal intervention with trees developing to maturity and senescing, providing valuable dead wood habitats, as long as public safety allows.

It is not envisaged that these woods will be grazed by domestic livestock as is the case with the rest of the site. This will ensure as natural an environment as possible with limited disturbance to wildlife - including ground flora, dead wood and veteran tree habitats.

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

To encourage the buffering of these ASNWs through the development of the planted areas. There will be no intervention in the plan period other than change through natural processes such as windblow etc. The ASNW will be protected from grazing by stock, to protect the woodland flora and fences will be maintained accordingly. Areas where important and notable species have been identified are to be monitored with regards to any impact (positive or negative) through management methods.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Mackintosh Davidson Wood is a mixture of new woodland linking existing ancient woodland areas and open spaces, laid out with public access, recreation and enjoyment in mind. An extensive system of paths (including public footpaths and permissive paths) through a network of rides, glades and rough grassland areas, to give good access to all parts of the site over variable, hilly land that can be wet, muddy and slippery at times. The site contains two rounded grassy knolls from which extensive views can be enjoyed over three counties.

### Significance

Locally the wood links into an extensive rights of way network and provides an important area for quiet informal recreation for visitors to and enjoy a large tract of woodland containing a rich diversity of habitats and species, thus working to achieve the Trust's corporate objective to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

The wood is in a unique part of the Cranborne Chase and South Wiltshire Downs AONB and the knolls and varied landscape of the Wood is the most distinctive feature of the area.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to promote the wood on a local level through e.g. leaflets/beer mats at local pubs to promote medium/long distance walks to include the Wood and to improve onsite signage so visitors can more easily orientate themselves within the site.

Opportunity to enhance the enjoyment of visitors by re-instating an information boards, welcoming Woodland Trust signs and waymarking within the site.

Constraints:

Parking in the village is limited

Much of the site is seasonally wet, and some of the paths can be very wet/muddy in bad weather and there are a couple of steep slopes. Narrow kissing gates can be restrictive.

### Factors Causing Change

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The existing open spaces, entrances and ride/paths network are maintained and appropriate for the level and type of use providing many varied walks and links to the local public rights of way network. Although the need for public access is likely to remain at a low level, the path and ride network will benefit walkers, naturalists and those appreciative of varied scenery, in a quiet area, enhanced by woodland and other semi-natural landscapes. Retention of existing viewpoints, enhanced by specimen open grown oaks on the knoll summits and dedication area planted in 2011.

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

Entrances and ride/path network/infrastructure are maintained and appropriate for level and type of use through regular inspections and maintenance within the Estate Management Contract, ensuring the site remains welcoming and accessible.

- Maintain public access and entrances through path cuts (three per year) through the Estate Management Contract
- Site Manager to monitor the rides/paths and stiles/gates to ensure passable and adequately maintained

## 5.3 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

### Description

This key feature includes the grazed/rough pasture, glades, rides, young secondary woodland, scrub/woodland edge and riparian habitats within the site. In several places the ASNW is extending the woodland edge into the new plantings and creating valuable scrub areas

The pasture and areas of rough grassland are currently managed through grazing. Their positioning links into the ride network to provide good links within the site and with the wider countryside. A good network of rides and hedgerows provide linear habitats throughout.

Three streams, flowing south and south-westward have helped shape the landscape that contains wooded valleys and gullies. There are several old ponds, scattered across the site.

Three 3 specimen oaks were planted on each knoll in 2004 to establish as future landscape features. An area of dedication planting near the main entrance planed in December 2011 will provide future visual interest.

### Significance

The wood contains many important habitats such as ASNW, wet woodland, veteran trees, semi-improved grassland and riparian zone. These have been enhanced by the planting of new woodland to link and buffer the existing habitats and future integrated management will further enhance the biodiversity of the site.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunity

The removal of tubes, stakes and deer fencing will enhance the visual appeal of these areas.

#### Constraints:

The grazing plan needs careful monitoring to ensure the site is not poached too badly. This is especially important in times of bad weather.

### Factors Causing Change

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

A wood where the majority is managed under a wood pasture system, with varied and mixed habitats beneficial to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

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

To integrate the management of the pasture and woodland creation areas to allow the site to develop through natural processes. The removal of internal barriers under previous management plan period to allow the introduction of grazing animals into the establishing woodland enables a good comparison between the impacts of the grazing on the different areas of the site - primarily between compartments 2a and 2b.

1. Complete the removal of all remaining tree shelters by end of plan period
2. Continuation of grazing agreement. Monitoring is required to ensure suitable stocking levels are maintained through monitoring levels of damage to trees, height and diversity of sward, success of natural regeneration and levels of ground poaching as this will all determine the levels of intervention required. Site Manager to undertake monitoring check of level of poaching, damage to trees, success of natural regeneration. Involve professional to monitor of impacts (positive and negative) of grazing on the sward - involve survey repeating the baseline survey undertaken by Sharon Pilkington July 08.
4. Visual observation from the viewpoints every five years and short note on file to monitor how canopies are starting to join. (Can be backed up by photos, if appropriate).

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## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	4.10	Oak (pedunculate)	1920	High forest		Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Cpt 1a is adjacent to the main road through West Knoyle and forms a wooded fringe to the western side of the site. The extreme southern end of the copse is outside the Trust's ownership and is separated by a ditch. An informal but reasonably defined path runs through 1a near the western edge, which links with a public footpath running just inside the Trust's southern boundary. In the south-eastern corner a wooden bridge cross the stream as the path continues through a kissing gate into cpt 2a. This compartment is a scheduled area of ASNW known as Puckwell Coppice, named after the "Puckwell", a hollow from which issues a seasonal stream from the ground in the north eastern corner. This stream runs in a small valley southwards, gradually deepening as it progresses. The canopy is complete and oak and ash dominate although there are some fine tall alders in wetter places as well as the occasional sycamore, beech and birch. The wood is multi aged - some larger oaks are likely to be over 150 years old. There are many dead wood habitats (fallen and standing). Under the canopy grows a patchy mix of hazel, holly, wych elm, blackthorn and hawthorn as well as some natural regeneration of beech, ash and alder. The ground flora is, in places dominated by masses of pendulous sedge. Other areas contain typical ancient woodland flora i.e. dog's mercury, large drifts of bluebells, primroses, lesser celandine, bugle etc. Wetter shady areas have fine examples of hart's tongue ferns; while under some alder carr there are colonies of opposite leaved golden saxifrage. (See existing information species list for Puckwell and Mitchell's Coppice). Compartments 1a-c are designated as a County Wildlife Sites (Monitored by the Wildlife Trust)</p>							
1b	1.60	Oak (pedunculate)	1853	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

1b is an area of mature ash and oak woodland with regenerating ash as well as willows and hazel under. It has an ancient character, particularly to the north of the stream that runs east west through the length of 1b. The wood is known as Mitchell's Coppice. In addition to the structure mentioned in 1a above, the wood also contains some areas of wet woodland that are dominated by goat and crack willows. (See existing information - Wildlife Conservation -species list for Puckwell and Mitchell's Coppices). Compartments 1a-c are designated as a County Wildlife Sites (Monitored by the Wildlife Trust)

1c	2.50	Oak (pedunculate)	1853	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
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1c consists of a mixture of wet woodland, woodland of an ancient character, blackthorn and hawthorn scrub and some rough grassland. It is a vital wildlife corridor forming the steep wooded banks of the upper reaches of a stream that originates in Hang Wood (SSSI to the north east). It is divided by a concrete track, which runs over a raised causeway. The part of 1c to the west of the track is included in the County Wildlife Site. Canopy Tree species are: oak, crack willow, to north east of track; mainly oak and ash to south west - scrubby blackthorn and willows grow in the understorey. Sedges, brambles, ferns, mosses and tall marginal plants, are found in the ground flora. The part of Compartment 1c which is west of the concrete track is designated as a County Wildlife Sites (Monitored by the Wildlife Trust).

1d	1.00	Oak (pedunculate)	1853	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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1d is the strip of woodland of ancient character to the east of cpts 2b and 3d, between the deer fence and the streambed and forms the eastern boundary of the site.

It has a unique character, containing large oaks, ashes and field maples with gnarled roots clinging onto the deeply cut rivulet bank. Some trees have regenerated from stub pollards or old coppicing. In places the stream cuts deeply through the clay sub-soil revealing some harder rocks in the bed.

It forms a complete wildlife corridor between Hang Wood (SSSI) to the north and a wild seeming small woodland area to the south. It links with other rivulets and the old hedgerow that runs up the western side of the field (cpt 3d). This point is an area of larger oaks and ashes with fallen and regenerating goat willows as the main valley of the stream is approached. The stream and the valley are more significant in the south and contain some old hazel coppice. Other shrub layer species include blackthorn and holly.

Ground flora includes ancient woodland indicators, such as moschatel, bluebells, dogs mercury, as well as harts tongue ferns, liverworts and mosses. Hedgerow plants such as primroses and red campion are also common.

Public footpaths enter the site from the north (via a stile and kissing gate) and the west (via a bridge and kissing gate) through this compartment.

2a	10.60	Oak (pedunculate)	1995	Wood pasture		Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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This is a large area mainly of new woodland, including some open spaces, scrub and rides. The young trees and shrubs were planted between 1/11/95 and 15/11/95 with species including oak, ash, birch, and field maple, hazel and hawthorn. It was formerly two fields, north and south, separated by a hedgerow, now being incorporated into the new wood. Varying planting densities were used as below, having regard to existing woodland and topography: Shrubby margins at 625 plants per ha. The main part of the southern half of 2a - 816 plants per ha. The northern half of 2a - 2250 plants per hectare. The planting mix was chosen to fit in with locally occurring native broadleaf species and to enhance the landscape and local biodiversity. The planting was laid out following sinuous lines; varying planting groups and incorporating a broad ride running parallel with cpt 1a. In the south a public footpath follows a broad ride and leads from cpt 1a to the river valley that separates 2a from 2b. It is bounded to the northeast by the main track from the car parking area. At present there is grassy growth throughout 2a with a mixture of meadow plants. This compartment does not form part of the grazing agreement and is appreciated as a livestock free compartment by local walkers as well as providing a useful comparison to other planted areas that are grazed.

2b	15.90	Oak (pedunculate)	1996	Wood pasture	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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2b is a large area of new plantings divided into various sections by a network of broad rides, glades and paths. The northern western most corner is an important conservation feature being an area of rough unimproved grassland, blackthorn scrub, leading down to the stream. It lies to the south east of the central river valley (cpt 1c) that separates 2a from 2b. The main rides/glades leave strategic gaps in the new plantings providing fine views to the two knolls (cpts 3a and 3c) that are such a significant landscape feature of this site. They also allow access to the eastern field (cpt 3d) and all other parts of the site and enhance the local footpath network. Planting took place between 1/11/95 and 1/12/96 using a complex mix of spacing and locally occurring native broadleaf trees and shrubs with species including oak, ash, birch, and field maple, hazel and hawthorn. Some rough grass areas have been left where the land slopes towards the stream (there are also landslips in this area). There is a further semi open area, fringed by naturally regenerated trees bordering Hang Wood (SSSI) to the north. The cpt also includes a pond (see conservation map) off the ride leading to the southern knoll (cpt 3c) nearby are two dedicated benches. To the southeast is a small triangular field, also included in 2b surrounded by old hedgerows, which show signs of historic laying. There are no paths through this area.

3a	9.80	other oak spp	1996	Wood pasture	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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Most of cpt 3a is a grazed field surrounding a knoll rising 152m above sea level. And is the most northern of the two knolls found on the site. It is a prominent landscape feature. A belt of trees has been planted to the north west of the summit along the Trust's boundary and forming a screen from village properties. Two clumps have also been planted on the village side of the slope and 3 feature oaks planted on the summit in 2004. Another area was planted in December 2011 as a dedication area at the bottom of the south western slope consisting of 6 oaks and 10 hazel. In the south eastern corner, before the land dips steeply to the stream (cpt 1c) 1.5ha has been planted with a mix of small native broadleaved trees and shrubs, forming an extension to and a shrubby wood edge to Hang Wood (SSSI) adjacent. This compartment has a well-used public entrance in its northern corner and by the management gate with pedestrian squeeze gap from the road, slightly further south. To the southwest 3a is bounded by the main track.

3b	2.80	Woody shrubs		Min-intervention	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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3b is an area of rough grassland and mixed scrub, mainly on a steep slope above the central stream valley. It runs parallel with Mitchell's Coppice - cpt 1b to the north and is separated from 3c to the south by an old hedgerow. A public footpath runs diagonally up the slope from the northwest corner of 3b to the south-eastern corner. Landslips have helped form irregular terrain in this area.

3c	5.60	other oak spp	2004	Wood pasture		Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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This compartment contains the most southern of the two knolls on the site. It is more prominent than the the knoll in compartment 3a and has fine views over The Vale of Wardour across to the old Dorset town of Shaftsbury and across the Blackmoor Vale to Gillingham and Somerset. Three oaks were planted on the top of the knoll in 2004. In the east is a group of crack willows, some fallen, around an old pond. Meadow grasses dominate, but there are wild flowers including buttercups, and daisies.

3d	3.40	other oak spp		Wood pasture	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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This compartment is largely open field with planting in a band across the northern section. It is enclosed by stock netting to the north, a deer fence to the east and by an old hedgerow to the west. The grass mix is similar to that in 3c.

Keeping the field as grazing land helps to maintain the character of the local landscape, with its "small ancient woods linked by a network of species rich hedges enclosing pastures and meadows" (from English Nature Natural Areas - no 80 Wessex Vales).  
 Good views can be enjoyed from this field to the south towards another Trust site, Duncliffe Wood.

## 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. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

## **Windblow/Windthrow**

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