



Lottie's Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 or contact the Woodland Trust (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.

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. 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

Site name:	Lottie's Wood
Location:	Sunniside
Grid reference:	NZ210594, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 88
Area:	17.99 hectares (44.45 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Green Belt, Smoke Control Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Named by locals after former dairymaid Lottie Brabban and forming part of the Great North Forest. Plantings consist of native broadleaf trees and shrubs, except a few Scots pine. The site also boasts rides, glades, pastureland and a hay meadow.

2.2 Extended Description

Lottie's Wood is an established new native woodland planted on 17.86 hectares (44.13 acres) of former arable and pasture land lying on a north-facing slope of relatively fertile (loam over boulder clay) soils. It is situated to the north of the A692 running through Streetgate, next to Sunnyside in Gateshead, Tyne & Wear (NZ 211 595). A 1.69 ha strip of mature broadleaved woodland forms its western side and consists mainly of alder, sessile oak, ash, rowan and birch with an under storey of holly and hawthorn. Black Burn flows northwards through this along the outside of the Trust's boundary.

The remainder consists of 12.55 ha of woodland creation designed and planted in 1994/1995 by local people and contractors and 5.31 ha consisting of rides, glades, wildflower and hay meadows and 0.36 ha of existing gorse and woodland scrub, accessed by a network of permissive paths.

The wood, named by local people, forms part of the former Great North Forest and is known as Lottie's Wood after former dairymaid Lottie Brabban and is located in urban fringe of Gateshead and is very well used by local people for informal recreation. It is surrounded by arable and pasture farmland and existing woodland along its western boundary and to the north.

Management access to the wood is taken off the A692 through East Farm Court, a executive housing development on the site of the former East Sunnyside Farm. Three pedestrian entrances provide public access to the wood, one directly off the A692 to the south, another down the bank from the B6316 Sunnyside Road to the west and one providing access from the north out of adjacent woodland.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

For visitors wishing to reach the wood by public transport, bus stops are located on the A692 Gateshead Road next to the shops just south of the wood, from where the wood can be reach within 2 to 3 minutes walk along this road. For visitors by car, no parking exists at the wood so visitors driving to the site will have to find on-road parking in Sunnyside or Streetgate. Parking on the A692 is not recommended, as this is a busy single carriageway road.

Although no public rights of way exist on Lottie's Wood, public access is provided by an extensive network of permissive grass paths, rides and glades, along with the extensive areas of open ground provided by the hay and wild flower meadows. The site occupies a site that gently slopes to the north and generally provides easy walking with paths and rides been cut three times a year to facilitate this. Two pedestrian entrances provide public access to the wood, one directly off the A692 to the south and another down the bank from the B6316 Sunnyside Road to the west. The entrance off the A692 is a metal kissing gate whilst that from the B6316 requires visitors to climb over a stile.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The established native woodland, which is the major part of the site, will be managed so it is as resilient as possible to future changes. Hence, the wood will be as diverse as possible in species and in tree age class.

The existing mature woodland area (compartment 1b) will be maintained with minimal intervention, allowing natural processes to shape it, and the open meadows and rides will be maintained as open ground habitat

Open access will be retained at the wood in perpetuity. A good standard of access provision and visitor facilities will be provided at the wood, which acknowledges the level of use. There will be a good network of well-managed paths for pedestrian access and more popular paths will be made open and sunny in parts, to enhance visitor enjoyment. Continued investment in visitor facilities will be made at Lotties Wood to ensure the wood is welcoming.

The wood will be made as safe as practicable through regular safety inspections of high-risk tree zones and access infrastructure.

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 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

This site is part of the Welcoming Sites Programme, which aims to improve the visitor experience to this site. The Welcoming Site Programme will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that will improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to the wood. An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths will further encourage the appreciation of the woodland both on the site and in the locality. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme and will provide a clear welcome: entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors. An engagement plan will set out a developed programme of engagement activities and events further enhancing public visits to the site. The site will be a truly valued resource in the local community and well respected.

'Its position in the landscape'

Named by locals after former dairymaid Lottie Brabban, Lotties Wood is sizeable establishing woodland located in what was part of the former Great North Forest and the site made a significant contribution towards creating the wider community forest.

Located on the north west edge of Sunnyside village the wood is already a significant landscape feature, rides, glades and meadows allowing very pleasant local views over farmland and north towards Whickham, with Gateshead and Newcastle, only 6.5km away to the northeast.

The wood covers an area of approximately 18 hectares and contains of 6.5 ha of open grassland managed as wildflower meadows. 10 hectares of woodland were planted on former arable and pasture land between 1994 and 1995 with native broadleaved trees and shrubs, and 1.5ha of mature broadleaved woodland forms the western side with the Black Burn flowing northwards along the Trust's boundary.

It borders the village and Sunnyside to the west, with the outskirts of Whickham forming the northern boundaries, separated by remaining farmed grassland. To the east and south the woodland borders open farmland, with Watergate Forest Park only 0.5 miles to the north east on the A692 and Derwent Walk Forest Park only 2 miles to the north west.

'General description of the access'

Although no public rights of way exist on Lottie's Wood, public access is provided by an extensive - approximately 3km - network of permissive grass paths, rides and glades, along with the swathes of open ground provided by the hay and wild flower meadows. The site occupies a site that gently slopes to the north and generally provides easy walking with paths and access points cut and cleared at least three times annually. A main pedestrian entrances provide public access directly off the A692 to the south (adjacent to a public footpath) , with two additional access points (although not via public footpaths) from the west (B6316 Sunnyside Road) and from the north. The entrance off the A692 is a metal kissing gate whilst that from the B6316 requires visitors to climb over a stile.

Initial route-finding is difficult and disorientating given the similarity of the terrain, path surfaces and woodland age, and with additional desire line routes through the establishing woodland. The paths are all unsurfaced, and during wet weather do become wet and muddy quickly. Within the path network are open viewpoints, wildflower meadows, historic monuments (bell pit coal mines) and sculptured seats. There is no provision made for bikes or horse access.

The paths are very well used by locals and visitors who can expect to enjoy a very pleasant walk through established young woodland, with the previously mentioned features being popular waymarks for those in the know. The path network outside the woodland to the north and west link with or allow opportunities to explore the long distance trails in the vicinity, including the Great North Forest Trail to the south and the Tyne and Wear Trail which passes close to the eastern boundary.

'The visitor profile'

There are no current visitor numbers available, but the woodland is generally busy throughout the day, and with over 11,000 households within the immediate postcode, and with the huge population of Newcastle and Gateshead, estimated to be 750,000 people within 8 miles.

'Events and activities'

There are currently no people engagement events planned for Lotties Wood, but during the planting the adjacent woodland extension at nearby Hedley Hall, there will be small scale community and schools and corporate events planned during the initial planting phase in 2018 and early 2019. Increased visitor engagement is planned as part of the short term objectives for the Lotties Wod.

'Nearby Woodland Trust sites'

There are a significant number of Woodland Trust sites within a 10 mile radius of Lotties Wood, with Pontburn Woods to the west being the largest at 271 acres, with a concentration of woodlands to the east within Washington new town, mostly small urban woodlands. To the south, only a few minutes away is the significant 170 acre woodland of Hedley Hall Wood, along with Langley Moor Wood a few miles further.

'Volunteering'

There are no current volunteers, the nearest Woodland Trust activity is at Hedley Hall Wood, although the development of a volunteer group, or volunteer roles for the wider locality is an objective.

'specific furniture/ access point description'

Currently the signage provision on site is limited to the standard sized name boards at each of the 4 entrances. Access points are all squeeze stiles or kissing gates, with a step over stile accessing the western access. Two sculptured commemorative seats are located within the wood. The entire furniture, signage and access point will all be significantly revised during a significant expansion of the woodland management and access provision planned for 2018 - 2022.

Significance

Increasing enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes. Improving parking and trails and engagement opportunities is particularly important given the sites proximity to nearby huge population of Newcastle and Gateshead, estimated to be 750,000 people within 8 miles. Promoting access to woodland sites such as Lotties, and links with local businesses for events and facilities for visitors is also a key part of the Hedley Hall site development. This will help improve enjoyment of the site for existing users and encourage a more diverse range of new visitors to the site. Hedley Hall Wood was the Woodland Trusts original flagship site within the Great North Forest and is also undergoing a similar significant revision of the woodland management and access provision.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is a significant expansion of the woodland management and access provision planned for 2018 - 2020. There is an opportunity to improve the access around the wider site with a surfaced path, revamp of the entire site signage, way marking and existing entrances. The short term upgrades in infrastructure, trails and on site interpretation will support the needs of the identified key visitor groups, as well as providing development opportunities for events, volunteering and community engagement.

Access to the woodland from the main entrance in the village is limited by the busy main road, where there is no pavement or crossing point provided. There is scope to combine the two adjacent access points for the wood and the public footpath to create one single access with signage.

This infrastructure work is just part of a wider programme of woodland management on the site as a whole as harvesting work is likely to start in this established woodland over the next 5 years. This work will create a greater diversity of habitats, by creating a mosaic of age structures, allow species diversity through regeneration, which in turn will give the woodland more resilience for the future

There is the opportunity for sustainable events and schools programme to be established, including demonstrations and workshops (linked with Hedley Hall Wood).

Education and involvement of the community are a key priority for this site. There are 30 Schools registered for the various Woodland Trust Schools schemes (Green Tree Schools, DEFRA and People Postcode Lottery programmes) within 10km of the site. There is great potential for developing an onsite education area and resources. Given the size of the site and range of habitats and areas there is also potential to develop areas dedicated to forest Schools without having any major impact on the site or other users.

Community groups and Volunteers: The site offers great potential for engagement with volunteers and community woodland groups. There could be potential to develop the wood allotment model or similar and there is also possible local business opportunities linked to coppicing, wood fuel, charcoal and events / training.

There are a host of nearby visitor attractions including, Beamish Museum and Causey Arch (Beamish is a world famous open air museum, telling the story of life in North East England during the 1820s, 1900s & 1940s. It's a very popular museum and holds Visit England Visitor Attraction Quality Scheme Gold Award. The museum has existing links with nearby Hell Hole Wood a Woodland Trust site leased to the museum. Beamish is a world famous open air museum, telling the story of life in North East England during the 1820s, 1900s & 1940s). Along with the long distance walking trails to all sides, there is significant scope to work in association with these existing tourist attractions to promote the work of the Trust and attract more visitors through Hedley Hall Woodland, which will have a trickle-down effect on visitors to the wider cluster of Woodland Trust sites including Lotties Wood.

Factors Causing Change

Increased numbers of visitors will require significantly improved infrastructure on the site and greater engagement with visitors, volunteers, and community engagement. It will also require a greater level of annual maintenance, with a periodic (10 year) refurbishment of the entire welcome facilities as well as a higher expectation of the quality of the infrastructure and interpretation provided.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will provide an extensive area of well-established woodland, with open grassland, for quiet informal recreation to a wide range of users both from the local community and from further afield. The use of the site will be promoted through positive relationships locally with neighbouring tourist destination sites, with good signage and interpretation.

Entrances and signage will have a welcoming appearance and there will be a network of well-maintained paths providing a range of circular routes suitable for walkers with viewpoints over a range of varied habitat types, integrated with active woodland management and where possible linking to the surrounding path network. Interpretation and waymarking that is fully integrated with, or compliments existing routes and tourist opportunities will provide visitors with information on routes and points of interest.

The use of the site for education will have increased, and linked with other Woodland Trust sites, will have a sustainable events and schools programme established, including demonstrations and workshops, as well as opportunities for local communities and to utilise the woods to produce products from sustainable woodland management, and as an educational and recreational resource

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

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines. Achieved by ensuring that: entrances & signage are welcoming to visitors and well cared for (annually).

All managed paths are kept well-drained and free from encroaching vegetation by strimming, and that access features (e.g. bridges, steps, entrances, boundary features, etc. are kept in good order (annually).

All viewpoints are maintained free of encroaching vegetation, where it is obscuring the view (annually).

The site is kept safe and welcoming by: repair of vandalism (when needed); clearing of fallen or dangerous trees where access is obstructed (as needed); and regular site safety surveys (as per risk assessment).

The visitor welcome & experience will be further enhanced by the following infrastructure improvements by the end of the current plan period:

Significant improvement to the welcome signage, including replacement of the existing signs, roadside welcome signage, interpretation and at key locations through the woodland (eg wildflower meadow, historic landmarks) Minor entrances will be formalised with a consistent access standard (eg kissing gate and named welcome and exit signs)

The network of paths will be reviewed along with the woodland management programme to provide a variety of paths, rides and glades so that people can continue to enjoy free access on foot throughout the wood, with a clear maintenance plan for the site. Potentially a surfaced all abilities trail as well as longer unsurfaced routes.

Paths, rides and open spaces will be mown on an annual basis up to three times a year to ensure that access for walkers is maintained at all times. This will include ride side coppicing to help keep the narrower rides and paths in the wood from being closed off by encroaching vegetation. Furniture, including feature benches, information points and areas including the former bell pits will be maintained annually or as required.

New volunteer activity and volunteer roles will be developed and encouraged, along with the opportunities developed at Hedley Hall.

Identified areas of the woodland will be used for education, with forest schools and other local user groups suited to the aims and objectives of the Woodland Trust will be encouraged wherever possible.

The use of the site for education will be promoted, and linked with other Woodland Trust sites, will have a sustainable events and schools programme established, including demonstrations and workshops, as well as opportunities for local communities and to utilise the woods to produce products from sustainable woodland management, and as an educational and recreational resource

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Establishing woodland, planted in 1994 and 1995 covers 9.50 ha and a small area of existing gorse and woodland scrub covers a further 0.36ha. The remaining 2.69ha consists of rides and glades. The woodland composition is almost exclusively of native broadleaved trees and shrubs, except for a small element of Scots pine (0.15 ha).

Most shrubs are concentrated along the margins of the planting blocks, though hazel and holly are also planted in mixture with the trees. Gorse and broom were only planted in a small area immediately north of the existing gorse scrub to extend this habitat

Significance

Native broadleaved woodland is a vital habitat for many plants and animals found in the UK. Over the centuries, our countryside has lost most of its natural tree cover, with a consequent loss of biodiversity. By planting new native woodland we are helping to reverse this depletion and fragmentation of the countryside. Planting on former farmland provides a net gain in biodiversity that will increase as the wood develops. Consequently, increasing the area of new native woodland is one of the Trust's four key corporate objectives that the creation of Lottie's Wood helps to fulfil.

Opportunities & Constraints

The trees and shrubs planted at Lottie's Wood are now well established and in time will grow to form mature woodland. The presence of overhead and underground services restricts further planting in some areas whilst additional planting within the meadow areas is likely to run into public opposition, especially from neighbours along the western boundary who would, over the long-term, lose their panoramic view out towards the Cheviot Hills.

Factors Causing Change

The potential impact of ash die-back disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure that resilient native high forest broadleaved woodland, with an uneven age structure is successfully established, allowing natural processes to become the dominant management regime

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

The trees and shrubs on Lottie's Wood are now well established and would normally require thinning and intervention to ensure a diverse age structure and the development of a resilient woodland. Ash disease is likely to cause significant losses among the ash planted on site. To monitor the potential impact of ash die-back, a second woodland condition survey will be carried out in 2022 to formally assess what impact any potential losses have had on the wood and if any mitigation action needs to be carried out.

5.3 Open Ground Habitat

Description

Lottie's Wood contains around 6.13 ha of open ground. Most of this is contained within the wildflower and hay meadows that make up the majority of the western half of the wood but also includes the rides and glades within the woodland creation area in sub-cpt 1a.

Significance

Herb-rich grasslands and wildflower meadows are increasingly rare habitats as modern farming practices reduce biodiversity through the greater use of pesticides, fertilisers and other intensive farming practices. Besides their intrinsic value as habitats, the meadows provide important habitat diversity within the body of the wood whose value will increase as the wood matures. Besides ecological considerations, these open areas are important for the access they provide the public to the wood and for their aesthetic contribution to the landscape, as well as preserving the panoramic views from the wood out into the wider landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Such large areas of open space could offer the opportunity for further tree planting, though public opposition to this is likely to be a major constraint because neighbouring houses would object to losing their panoramic view towards the Cheviot Hills as the trees mature. This concern was brought up at the original design meeting when the wood was proposed. The value of these open areas as habitat is likely to increase as the wood matures as well as being important aesthetically. The low floristic value of the former pastureland provided the opportunity to convert this area into a wild flower meadow in 2006/07 under the Trust's Forest of Flowers project, substantially increasing the biodiversity value of this part of the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Increasing shade along rides with canopy development, invasive weed species (thistles, nettles, willowherb) in compartment 1c (sown wildflower meadow)

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create and maintain areas of herb-rich grassland consisting of a diverse sward both in terms of species composition and structural diversity.

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

Both the wildflower meadow in sub-cpt 1c and the grassland meadow in sub-cpt 1d will be maintained into the future as species rich open ground habitats through annual cutting regimes. The condition of sub-cpt 1c will be assessed during this plan period and any further work required to prevent the spread of thistles and other rank vegetation and to encourage floristic diversity carried out before the end of 2019. However it may be that tree planting in the areas of extensive invasive weeds may be a better long term option.

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	12.55	Pedunculate/common oak	1995	High forest	Services & wayleaves		Community Forest, Green Belt, Other
<p>Sub-cpt 1a forms the bulk of Lottie's Wood, accounting for 12.55 ha of the 17.86 ha site. Establishing woodland covers 9.50 ha and a small area of existing gorse and woodland scrub covers a further 0.36ha. The remaining 2.69ha consists of rides and glades. The woodland composition is almost exclusively of native broadleaved trees and shrubs, except for a small element of Scots pine (0.15 ha). The woodland was planted the site in November 1995, except for around 1500 trees that were planted by school children and members of the public during National Tree Week in November 1994 and 1995. Predominantly English oak and ash, with hazel being the most abundant shrub. Most shrubs are concentrated along the margins of the planting blocks, though hazel and holly are also planted in mixture with the trees. Gorse and broom were only planted in a small area immediately north of the existing gorse scrub to extend this habitat. A sculptured seat is located in the glade, made by artist Matthew Jarrat, based on drawings made by children from Marley Hill Primary School and was installed on site during 1996. Several services cross sub-cpt 1a, including a 132 kV overhead power line, a 36.75 inch water main, two 18-inch high-pressure gas mains and a sewer.</p>							
1b	1.69	Ash	1920	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation		Community Forest, Green Belt, Other

Sub-cpt 1b consists of a band of mature/semi-mature broadleaved woodland running along the eastern bank of Black Burn with a area of established trees on the upper slope above this. The canopy created by the older trees consists of high forest woodland made up of ash, alder, sessile oak, birch, hawthorn and sycamore. Mature ash dominates the canopy at the northern end and alder towards the middle. At the southern end, the sub-cpt becomes more open and scrubby with few mature trees. The oldest trees grow along the edge of the burn and were probably planted, whilst the remainder of the older tree cover appears to have regenerated naturally. Hawthorn forms the only canopy in places, particularly along the mid-slope and is dominant among the understory. The established plantings along the top of the slope consist of native trees and shrubs such as ash, wild cherry, English oak, silver birch, rowan, hazel and alder planted in 1995 among the gorse scrub. Within the understory, besides hawthorn, holly, rose sp. and honeysuckle also occur, along with some elder and sycamore. The ground flora is generally poor, consisting of grasses and invasive species such as bracken, bramble, thistles, nettles and umbellifers.

1c	1.70	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation		Community Forest, Green Belt, Other
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An area of former pastureland extending to 1.70 ha at the southwest end of the site surrounded by a post and wire fence and a hedge planted in 1996 and consisting of common hawthorn (60%), blackthorn (20%), hazel (5%), elder (10%) and guelder rose (5%) planted in 0.75m Acorn guards. A sculptured fence and entrance made and installed by sculptor Phil Townsend in 1997 is situated alongside the A692 and forms the main entrance to Lottie's Wood. The pasture was previously managed under a Countryside Stewardship Agreement and grazed with cattle but was converted to a wildflower meadow in 2006/07 by deep inversion ploughing and sowing with the following wild flower seed mix.

Perennials 8kg
 30% Red Champion
 20% Ox-eye Daisy
 1% Devils Bit Scabious
 15% Meadowsweet
 2% Field Scabious
 3% Foxglove
 5% Hedge Bedstraw
 5% Ladies Bedstraw
 15% Meadow Buttercup
 2% Hedge Garlic
 2% Vipers Bugloss

Annuals 30kg
 55% Corncockle
 10% Corn Spurrey
 10% Corn Marigold
 10% Corn Poppy
 10% Corn Chamomile
 5% Cornflower

Whilst converting this area to wildflowers, two bell pits (early coal mines) were discovered as soils mark in the ploughed soil. The location of both shafts have been marked on the ground and the one near the path has been marked with a stone plinth and information board by the local Sunnyside History Society.

1d	1.92	Open ground		Non-wood habitat			Community Forest, Green Belt, Other
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Sub-cpt 1d covers 1.92 ha. It consists of a lowland hay meadow which, during August 1997, was spread with herb-rich cuttings collected from Durham County Council's Derwentcote Steel Furnace Meadow in the Derwent Valley in order to increase its floral diversity. It was previously managed under a Countryside Stewardship Agreement along with sub-cpt 1c, which expired in September 2005 and was placed back into stewardship, along with other grassland areas within sub-cpt 1a in 2007 under the new Entry Level Stewardship Scheme.

A number of services cross the meadow, including a 132 kV overhead power line, a 36.75 inch underground water main, two 18-inch high-pressure gas mains and a sewer. Cathodic protection apparatus also exists on site next to the pedestrian entrance on the western boundary. This consists of a telemetry kiosk, ground-bed and underground cables.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	12.50	20	250
2020	1a	Selective Fell	0.20	50	10
2026	1a	Thin	12.50	12	150

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.