WOODLAND TRUST

Pepper Wood

Management Plan

2020–2025

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Pepper Wood
Location:	Fairfield, nr Bromsgrove
Grid reference:	SO937749, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 139
Area:	59.58 hectares (147.23 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Pepper Wood is just under 133 acres of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland dominated by Oak and Birch. In 2017 the Trust acquired a further 13 acres adjoining the north-west boundary of the wood known as 'Gorsy Piece', an area of wet rough pastureland with a thin outer-ring of ancient woodland on its western boundary, together with other secondary field-edge woodland. The wood lies close to the village of Fairfield and forms a significant landscape feature. There's a high diversity of tree and shrub species with ground flora being equally as diverse including several rare or uncommon species e.g. large Leaved Lime (Tilia platyphyllos), small-leaved lime (Tilia Cordata), wild service tree

(Sorbus torminalis), herb-paris (Paris quadrifolia) and lilly-of-the-valley (Convallaria majalis).

Once known as 'Pyperode', the site is a remnant of the ancient Feckenham Forest in north Worcestershire with records for the area dating as far back as to the 1200's. The site was originally purchased by the Trust as a Community Woodland to be managed by local volunteers known collectively as 'The Pepper Wood Community Group' (PWCG). This was one of the Trust's first Community Woodlands and has been managed successfully by the volunteers for over three decades following the group's formation shortly after acquisition in 1981. The volunteers are largely self-sustaining, carrying out much of the day to day site management required. Tasks include maintenance of the path network and car park as well as undertaking silvicultural practices such as rotational coppicing which in turn produces a variety of different woodland products e.g. firewood, bean poles, pea sticks, heatherings and stakes, all of which are sold locally.

Historically, the site was managed as coppice with standards. However, following the Second World War in 1948/49, it was largely clear felled. As a consequence, older mature trees of eighty years or more are limited in number on site, the majority being even-aged. Little management followed the clear felling until the winter of 1983/84 when the Trust reintroduced a coppice with standards system carried out by the PWCG over approximately a fifth of the site. The volunteer's work has helped improve biodiversity at the wood, supporting the sites notification as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1990.

Surrounding land use is predominantly unimproved grassland with the nearest woodland concentration approximately 700 metres south-west (Randan Wood ASNW), an area cared for by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

A total of 170 vascular plants have been recorded at the wood including a number of less common species such as thin spiked wood sedge and broadleaved and violet helleborine; invertebrates including White Admiral, the very local terrestrial caddis fly (Enoicyla pusilla) and other moths of restricted distribution.

The site slopes gently away to the south west with an underlying geology of Dodford Clays over red sandstone. This gives way to thick poorly drained acid clay soils creating many permanent wet areas. Management access throughout the year can be quite challenging as a result.

A small car park (capacity six vehicles) is located to the south of the wood making the site easily accessible and very popular with local visitors. A range of permissive footpaths are

available from this point providing the opportunity to experience coppiced and high forest areas. A Public Bridleway (PB) bisects the site in a North-South direction, passing through the car park. All paths with exception of the PB and short sections along some permissive routes are unsurfaced. The Pepper Wood Community Group have been instrumental in alleviating the problem of poor path conditions and surface drainage over the years, undertaking localised path improvements where required.

The three key features of the site are:

Semi Natural Ancient Woodland
Community Group
Informal Public Access

2.2 Extended Description

Pepper Wood is just under 133 acres of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland dominated by Oak and Birch. In 2017 the Trust acquired a further 13 acres adjoining the north-west boundary of the wood known as 'Gorsy Piece', an area of wet rough pastureland with a thin outer-ring of ancient woodland on its western boundary, together with other secondary field-edge woodland. The wood lies close to the village of Fairfield and forms a significant landscape feature. There's a high diversity of tree and shrub species with ground flora being equally as diverse including several rare or uncommon species e.g. large Leaved Lime (Tilia platyphyllos), small-leaved lime (Tilia Cordata), wild service tree (Sorbus torminalis), herb-paris (Paris quadrifolia) and lilly-of-the-valley (Convallaria majalis).

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heatherings and stakes, all of which are sold locally.

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Informal Public Access

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Pepper Wood is located a short distance of approximately 5-10 minutes walk from the village of Fairfield. There are two main access points at the wood located at either end of the surfaced bridleway (Public Right of Way bridleway 76- Belbroughton Parish) which bisects the site. The north access point off the bridlepath is open (no gate) and leads off wood lane. The southern access point off the bridleway leads off the car park, (also open with exception of a bollard in the centre to prevent vehicle access) where there are also two further smaller entrances through squeeze points located closely. The two smaller entrance points which lead east and west out of the car park join a way marked route which runs around the site. The first 30 feet or so of the bridleway route to the south is shared with the short driveway to the small car park which can accommodate 6 cars quite comfortably. The bridleway is the only surfaced route through Pepper Wood along which wheelchairs and pushchairs could travel. It is also quite flat along its course, just a gentle rise towards the north. The other paths can get quite boggy in the wetter months and are prone to seasonal variation. They are also quite steep section most notably in the western portion of the wood.

Public transport - There are several bus stops in the village of Fairfield along the main street about 10 minutes walk away.. The nearest train station is in Bromsgrove approximately 4 miles away. You can try www.transportdirect.info or www.traveline.org.uk on the internet for the most up to date details for public transport in the area.

Toilets - Nearest is at Bromsgrove bus station approximately 4 miles away

** Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

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Long term, Pepper Wood will be maintained as predominately high forest semi-natural woodland with a proportion of the site managed under a coppice with standards regime undertaken by the community group.

The tree, shrub and floral diversity in coppiced areas is due to the sites long term history of management through coppice-with-standards (C-W-S). Monitoring and survey work has confirmed that for this rich habitat to be maintained, a continuation of coppicing in compartments where this has been reintroduced would be required. Coppicing will, therefore, continue to provide structural diversity as presently much of the site remains even-aged following clear-felling at the end of the second world war. Coppicing increases species diversity on site and many of the species found in coppice areas are wholly reliant upon the conditions created through this work. In addition, coppicing is also essential to the viability of the Pepper Wood Community Group who utilise the material produced to support their activities and close involvement at the site. A primary objective in the site's acquisition was that it should be a 'community woodland' managed principally through input of local volunteers utilising produce to supply local markets. It is therefore, a priority to ensure the group continues to function with support from the Woodland Trust and other sources as necessary to maintain its long term viability.

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High forest areas will be a diverse mix of species, ages and structures with a well-developed shrub and field layer. Much of the high forest is currently even-aged with low species diversity resulting in a low level of resilience in the face of threats such as climate change, pollution, pests and diseases. Phased intervention is, therefore, required to improve the condition of these areas through thinning and small regeneration coupes. This will allow more light to penetrate the woodland floor, encouraging greater species diversity and native broadleaved regeneration. While deer are present in the area, current browsing levels aren't affecting the ability of the woodland to regenerate. However, deer pressure will be monitored to ensure acceptable levels of regeneration are secured following any silvicultural intervention.

Gorsy Piece will continue to buffer and extend Pepper Wood thereby increasing the core area of this semi-natural forest complex. It will contain a mixture of grassland and

naturally regenerated woodland. The proportions of each habitat will be largely dictated by the level of management access afforded to facilitate grassland maintenance. Currently, there's a lack of direct vehicle/machinery access to this area, it can only be reached on foot through Pepper Wood SSSI to the east thereby restricting the potential for cutting or grazing management. Historic OS maps (1986 and 1883) show Gorsy piece as woodland. However, it's more recent clearance has resulted in quite an interesting wet grassland habitat which includes species such as such as ragged robin, bugle, wild angelica, marsh bedstraw, greater birds-foot trefoil, common spotted orchid, sedge and rush species. Such marshy grassland is becoming increasingly scarce in the county due to drainage and agricultural improvement and should be retained as far as possible. Allowing the area to scrub over and regenerate would result in the loss of a range of invertebrates along with many floristics. Adjacent grassland cover would also compliment Pepper Wood, serving as a valuable hunting habitat, which is increasingly in short supply for species such as barn owl and kestrel.

Elsewhere, Pepper Wood will be allowed to develop naturally with exception of essential tree safety work.

There are a limited number of older tree specimens within Pepper Wood due to the clear felling in the 1940's and its historic management as coppice with standards. These trees are an important deadwood habitat resource for invertebrates. Given the site's limited representation of older tree specimens, where they do exist (e.g. along the Hockley Brook in the north of the site) they will be retained. To supplement this, older tree specimens and veteran trees of the future will also be retained elsewhere in the wood and allowed to grow onto over maturity. This will provide a more desirable balance of older trees with younger specimens in 50-100 years time.

The Woodland Trusts corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland will be achieved through continued path and ride management in order to provide a range of routes through the site. Paths are currently very well used and enjoyed by local visitors. As part of the ride and path maintenance which includes annual mowing, improvements to sections of path will be undertaken through widening and scalloping along narrow and heavily shaded sections. Where very wet path sections fail to improve through ride edge coppicing to assist surface drying, the stoning of short sections will also be considered. Visitor pressure has resulted in extreme widening of some muddy path sections in their attempts to avoid difficult surface conditions. This has resulted in visitors continually

walking on the outside edge of muddy areas, thereby increasing the overall surfaced area damaged.

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

Management and protection of Semi-Natural Ancient Woodland (SNAW) is a core objective for the Woodland Trust and, therefore, a key feature and a priority in terms of future management at Pepper Wood. The wood is a mosaic of NVC woodland types dominated by W10a (Quercus robur-Pteridium aquilinum-Rubus fruticosus woodland) and W16b Quercus spp.-Betula spp. - Deschampsia flexuosa woodland. Along the streams are W7 (Alnus glutinosa-Fraxinus excelsior-Lysimachia nemorum) woodland. There's a rich diversity of tree and shrub species. Stand types vary from wet alder valley woodland with large leaved lime along the northern boundary in the West to drier, more acidic health-like/woodland characteristics in the higher areas

Approximately 20% of the site is currently managed as C-W-S following its reintroduction by the Pepper Wood Community Group shortly after acquisition in 1981. Ride edge coppice work has also been undertaken since 2001 through compartments 3 and 4 to further diversify the age structure of trees. Through monitoring these areas, improvements in the habitat value and associated wildlife has been observed e.g. next box scheme. However, much of the remaining wood lacks structural diversity with a closely spaced tree crop of uniform age following the site's clear felling in 1948. Survey work has identified these areas as the least diverse and rich in terms of their conservation and habitat value, compared with other areas of the wood.

There is an area of minimum intervention in the north of Pepper Wood around Hockley Brook which exhibits good species and structural diversity and provides a wet habitat that is poorly represented elsewhere on site.

Gorsy Piece has history of both open ground and closed canopy spanning many hundreds of years. The previous landowner cleared the surface of scrub and woodland regeneration

prior to Trust's purchase of the extension in 2017. Currently, the area contains wet rough pastureland with an outer (western) boundary of ancient woodland together with other secondary field-edge woodland. The marshy grassland is mostly dominated by the tussocky tufted hair-grass with species including as ragged robin, bugle, wild angelica, marsh bedstraw, greater birds-foot trefoil, sedge and rush species, common spotted orchid.

An old earth bank is most prominent historic/archaeological feature on site running the full length of sub-compartment boundary 4a. Mature Oak and Ash are situated along the length of the earth bank , estimated to have been established around 1900.

Significance

Pepper Wood is a remnant of the much larger ancient Feckenham Forest which covered large parts of the West Worcestershire and Warwickshire. Ancient woods have been in existence for many centuries – long enough to develop ecosystems that are rich, complex, and irreplaceable. They require protection and careful, sensitive management. Because they have developed over such long timescales, ancient woods have unique features such as relatively undisturbed soils and communities of plants and animals that depend on the stable conditions ancient woodland provides, some of which are rare and vulnerable. They are also living history books, with features such as mediaeval boundary banks, charcoal hearths and old coppice stools that tell us how woodland was used in centuries past.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:-
The site can be challenging to work due to limited and difficult access condition (permanently wet ground)

Some earth work features such as wood banks, clay pits, earth work track ways and ridge and furrow are contained within the wood and need to be avoided and protected as part of any planned work.

Opportunities :-
Pepper Wood Community Group have been sensitively and effectively managing coppiced areas of the wood since 1981. They are largely self-sufficient, extremely experienced and very efficient in carrying out a varied and significant proportion of the work programme required on site. Their focus has been to carry out work on the coppiced compartments

due to resource/manpower constraints.

Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage, squirrel damage, pathogens and tree disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

High forest areas will be maintained and exhibit good structural and species diversity with sufficient regeneration of native tree species to ensure the wood's resilience in the face of threats such as climate change, pests, diseases and pollution etc. A proportion of the wood (approximately 20%) will continue to be managed as coppice with standards to maintain the rich assemblage of associated species and the abundance of locally typical ancient woodland indicator species present.
Gorsy Piece will be maintained as a mixture of open grassland and scrub, complementing the surrounding wooded areas. The extent of each habitat will determined by the level of management access afforded as this is currently only available on foot only but ideally no less than 5% of the open area (approx. 0.15ha).

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

Coppice-with-standards up to 1ha per year will be carried out on a flexible rotation of between 5 and 10 years in length depending on coupe characteristics within the following compartments:

1b, 1c, 1f, 2b, 2c, 2e, 2h, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3f, 4g, 4h, 4i. This work will be carried out by the PWCG.

90% of stools to have healthy regrowth after 3 years.

To improve species diversity within high forest stands 3h and 4c, potential seed source trees of less common species e.g. Lime, cherry and wild service will be identified and the area immediately around them thinned to provide an improved environment for tree seeds to establish and regenerate into the surrounding woodland. In addition, elsewhere within these subcompartments, in order to improve structural diversity two 0.5 ha regeneration coupes will be created within this plan period,

A policy of minimum intervention will continue within compartment 4d as this exhibits

good species and structural diversity and a wet habitat which is easily damaged and poorly represented elsewhere in Pepper Wood.
The further development of scalloped edges creating a more diverse edge habitat will be undertaken along the rides in 3h and 4c focussing on existing areas of bilberry and also areas along wet sections of path to aid improvement in their condition. These will be selected annually through prior inspection by the Site Manager.
Deer browsing impact will be monitored using the Woodland Trusts Deer Impact Assessment Form to note change in browsing pressure and instigate further control measure if required. Further protection of regeneration will be undertaken in the first instance and if the latter proves insufficient, deer population control via culling will also be considered.
Frequency of assessment: 2020 to provide baseline data and thereafter, the first year following selective fell areas in 3h and 4c. then bi-annually thereafter or as browsing conditions dictate (i.e. with reduced or increased frequency according to the deer impact assessment findings).

In Gorsy piece, a pathway between 3-6 metres in width with two to three large glades extending up to 30 metres in length and depth along the path edges will be created and thereafter maintained on an annual basis. It is envisaged the PWCG will undertake much of this work due to current access limitations.

5.2 Community Woodland Group

Description

The Woodland Trust acquired Pepper Wood as a 'Community Woodland' to be managed by a local, self-sufficient team of volunteers. Of the ten or so Community Woodland sites acquired by the Trust at the same time as this wood, Pepper Wood remains one of just a few with a strong, committed volunteer workforce (known here as the Pepper Wood Community Group - PWCG). They remain very active to this day and are integral to management of the site undertaking much of the management required.

Significance

The PWCG is one of the longest established and most successful community woodland groups still effectively operating at a Woodland Trust site. The group have managed Pepper Wood for over three decades and in this time, accumulated a wealth of woodland management knowledge and experience and demonstrated exemplary community engagement work. They exemplify what's achievable through adopting a 'woodland culture' and collective volunteer support.

Creating and developing a woodland culture is an important strategic aim for the Trust i.e. more woodland, more woodland near to people, more people appreciating, valuing and using woodland, more diverse ownership and greater accessibility of woods. The PWCG embody many of the Trust's aspirations though actively engaging the local and wider community both in a social and business capacity. The need for a greater woodland culture in the UK has been widely recognised and currently there are circa 700 known community woodland groups across the country which have the potential to be part of a movement that inspires other groups

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:-
The group's resources i.e. man power and equipment means that much of their time is focused on coppicing and associated work, the former of which extends to approximately 1/5 of the area of Pepper Wood. Therefore, additional work required over and above these operations, may require periodic appointment of referred contractors by the Woodland Trust.

Opportunities:-
While the PWCG are restricted due to manpower and resources, they manage and focus their time very effectively. They have extensive experience and knowledgeable in coppice with standards management and other woodland craft work. Through their intimate site and local area knowledge, they have explored and linked into local timber markets. They have also inspired like-minded volunteers and community groups through demonstration and practical advice and support, to carry out similar work as part of other community woodland projects.

Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage, Tree pests and diseases, Changes and fluctuations in the volunteer group's dynamics and capacity over time.
The number of active volunteers over time e.g. recruitment and retirement rates.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In 50 years time the Pepper Wood Community Group will be functioning successfully, continuing to practice their coppice and other site improvement activities.
A varied mix of local produce from renewable resources through coppicing e.g. firewood, bean poles, heatherings and stakes, charcoal etc. will be delivered, thereby maximising the woodland resource feeding, into local markets and supporting local business and enterprises where possible.

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

The PWCG to continue their coppicing regime (work as detailed under the Key Feature. The Site Manager will meet with the PWCG each year to confirm and agree the following year's programmer of work as well as discuss and training and recruitment of requirements e.g. first aid +F

A rotation length of between 5-10 years to be adopted dependent on subcompartment regrowth. Coppice coupes to be no greater than one 1ha annually. Standards retained to be species other than birch where possible and include a variety of age classes with restocking by coppice regrowth.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

Increasing enjoyment is a core objective for the Woodland Trust and as such, informal public access is important as a key feature and a priority in terms of management at Pepper Wood. The site is very well used by local people and contains a good network of rides and paths of approximately 5km in length, including a number of circular options and linear surfaced route (the Public Bridleway) that bisects the wood in a north-east south-west direction which is suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

There are two public entrance points into the main body of Pepper Wood; to the south from Dordale Road through the car park and from the north leading off Wood Lane. There are ladder boards with the name of the wood at each of these entrance points to welcome visitors. These access points are open without any estate works (stiles/gates). There is a further entrance on the northern boundary of Gorsey Piece adjacent to the Public Footpath which runs outside the site. Again, there is welcome signage at this point but no estate works/entrance furniture. There are a number of wooden benches on site allowing visitors to relax and enjoy the views and surrounding woodland.

The car park to the south can accommodate 7-8 cars with considerate parking and includes a well-used dog poo bin which was installed and is very kindly serviced free of charge by Belbroughton Parish Council.

Significance

Public access to this woodland helps fulfil one of the Woodland Trust's corporate objectives, to “Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees”. It enables access to a landscape containing ASNW with great variety and interest set amongst open grazed fields. It also provides an opportunity for the Woodland Trust to promote the message of ancient woodland habitats and the importance of its protection. Pepper Wood is a very well used which is both aesthetically pleasing and an important accessible resource to those with a keen conservation interest. The wood is easy to reach being just a short distance from a number of large towns including Bromsgrove and Stourbridge. The site also contains a small car park with routes accessible to active walkers and less-able or pushchair users along the surfaced bridleway.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:-
Parts of the ride network becomes particularly wet in the winter months which makes some areas of the wood a lot more challenging to access.

Opportunities:-
The site is well used and valued as a recreational resource by visitors both casually and for those with more specific conservation interests. Paths are maintained annually and are easy to follow. There's a good variety to choose from and they're genuinely interesting in their appearance. Although some sections of the path become very wet at certain times of the year, visitors appear undeterred by such conditions and consider it part of the "real" woodland walk experience! Where path conditions in specific locations have deteriorated making them very difficult to follow, use of ride widening and small unobtrusive crossing points using material from the wood have been used to reasonable effect.

Factors Causing Change

Further Increase in public use of the woodland, fly Tipping/dumping, weather variables e.g. extended and increased surface areas subjected to flooding or standing water near or over pathways.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To provide a free and easily accessible woodland with a varied network of rides including provision for a small informal car park at its existing location. To maintain the existing open space components of the site.

Delivering a high quality visitor experience in line with a category 'A' Access designation (high usage with more than 20 people using one entrance per day). Free and open access through a well maintained path and entrance network and horse riding route along the Public Bridleway. All external entrances will be in good order and are safe and welcoming.

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

Paths (approx. 5k) and x3 entrance points are maintained through appropriate cutting and strimming throughout the year to they're clearly defined, welcoming and easy for visitors to follow (carried out by the Pepper Wood Community Group according to site conditions and growth rates, 2 to 3 times each year). The car park is maintained with any tipped material or litter collected by the Trust's Estate Management Contractor. EMC contractor to

inspect and maintain woodland trust signage and other site infrastructure.

Annual ride edge coppice work (as also noted under SNAW Key Feature) will be carried out along rides running through compartments 3h and 4c and along selected sections which are very dark and narrow. Maximum dimensions 30m long by 30 metres deep. Exact location for each coupe to be agreed with the PWCG as part of annual work programme meeting should. The ride edge coppicing will enhance visitor enjoyment, improve structural diversity and maintain the open space component of the site. Where particularly wet path sections fail to respond to both ride edge coppicing and drainage work to improve their condition, consideration will be given to the use of boardwalks and stoning in short sections. This will help ensure no further loss of ancient woodland is experienced as a result of the high public use and attempts to avoid wet sections by walking further towards the outer-edge of muddy paths thereby causing an expansion of existing damaged surface areas.

Tree safety surveys to be undertaken in line with current Woodland Trust Policy i.e. Zone As every 2 years maximum cycle length and every 4 years for Zone B areas.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and glade cutting through Gorsey Piece	24/09/21
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and glade cutting through Gorsey Piece	24/09/22
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and glade cutting through Gorsey Piece	24/09/23
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and glade cutting through Gorsey Piece	24/09/24
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and glade cutting through Gorsey Piece	24/09/24

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designa
1a	0.90	Other	1975	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlar Site of Special Scientifi Interest
Sub compartment 1a Older stand of coppice with standards. Oak standards are of no notable form. Last coppice cut ta place at around approximately 1975-1978. Coppice species remain frequent to dominant consist of a number of species. Hazel, Hawthorn, Birch, Oak, Ash and large leaved lime although this spe remains rare within sub-compartment 1a. Some of the coppice stools are of a reasonable age.							
1b	0.80	other oak spp	1975	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlar Site of Special Scientifi Interest
Sub compartment 1b Coppice with standards. Very sparse Oak standards ranging from 30-35 years of age are of no notable form. Understorey is abundant consisting of Oak, Ash, Rowan, Aspen, Birch and Hawthor							

coppice.

1c	0.70	other oak spp	1950	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 1c
Coppice with standards. Oak standards are of no notable form, age 50 years with one much older mature maiden Oak, estimated 80-90 years of age. Sub-compartment was last coppiced in the w of 1994-1995. Understorey is abundant to dominant consisting of coppiced Oak, Birch, Hazel an Rowan.

1d	0.30	other oak spp	1950	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 1d
A small thin sub-compartment of stored coppice acting as a shade running the length of the east boundary of compartment 1 and a small proportion of the western boundary.
Main canopy species is comprised of Oak predominantly and Birch with a number of the oak stem showing reasonable form.
The understorey is frequent and composed of Oak, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rowan coppice. The occasional crab apple is also present.

1e	0.20	other oak spp	1973	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 1e
Shade stand of predominantly Oak maidens and coppice. All estimated to have been established around 1940-1945. The stand has been coppiced in the past and has now been left and as a resu become stored coppice.
Oak standards are of no notable form.
Other canopy species include Birch and a rare Ash, and are estimated to have been established in 1973.
Understorey is occasional consisting of Hazel, Holly, Hawthorn, Birch and Rowan. A small numbe Aspen are also located in sub-compartment 1e.

1f	1.00	other oak spp	1995	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 1f
Coppice with standards, Oak standards are sparse and are of no notable form.
Coppice was last cut in the winter of 1995-1996. Coppice species are abundant and consist of Ha Hawthorn, Field Maple, Birch, Goat willow, Oak and Rowan.

Species composition varies greatly with some areas of predominantly Oak and other areas being comprised of mixed species.

1g	0.20	Oak (pedunculate)	1997	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 1G
Old stand of Oak coppice which has now progressed over time into an area of stored coppice. Ag varies throughout the sub-compartment with Oak trees being established between 1945 and 197 within the main canopy. A small number of Oaks are of reasonable to good form.
Coppice understorey is occasional to rare consisting of Holly, Oak, Rowan and Birch. Bracken and Bramble are dominating the ground cover. This area has been coppiced in 1981/2, 1997/8 and 2009-10.

2a	2.30	other oak spp	1947	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 2a
An area of stored coppice, predominantly Oak. Age varies throughout the sub-compartment with small proportion of Oak and Ash established in 1918 or before. A number of younger Ash stems present penetrating the main canopy. A small group of 20-30 Wild (Gean) Cherry stems are locat

the southern part of sub-compartment 2a.
A small group of thinned Aspen stems are located in the northern part of the sub-compartment, situated along the ride edge.
Understorey is coppiced Hazel, Holly, Birch, Goat willow, Oak, Hawthorn and a small percentage o Ash. Coppice is frequent to abundant as a whole but dominant in places.

2b	1.00	other oak spp	2013	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 2b
Coppice with standards, few Oak standards remaining. Oak stems are of no notable form.
Coppice was last cut in the winter of 1993-1994, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (this subcompartm was divided into two in 2001)and coppcied again in 2013/2014 winter (the northern half of this compartment). Coppice is dominant with many coppice shoots per hectare Consisting of Oak, Ash Hazel and Rowan.

2c	0.90	other oak spp	1992	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 2c
Coppice with standards. Standard Oaks are comprised of both coppice and maiden stems left afte

the area was converted from stored coppice. Standards are of no notable form established in 194 before.
Coppice was last cut in the winter of 1992-1993 and is patchy in places but as a whole remains f frequent being comprised of mainly Birch but also containing a number of Oak and Rowan.

2d	0.70	other oak spp	1994	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlar Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 2d
A small sub-compartment of stored coppice acting as a shade. Predominantly Oak maiden stems established in 1948 or before. Other species within the main canopy include coppiced Birch and Rowan estimated to have been established between 1958 and 1968.
Sub-compartment 2d has been coppiced (1996/7) removing nearly all the pole length trees from understorey which has now become occasional to rare consisting of Holly and Rowan.
Brash from the thinning was windrowed.

2e	0.90	other oak spp	1997	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlar Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 2e
Coppice with standards. Remaining Oak standards are maiden stems of which a number are of

reasonably good form.
Coppice is frequent. Cut in the winter of 1997-1998 and again 2005/6 and 2006/7. Coppice spe include Grey and Goat willow, Hazel, Hawthorn, Birch, Rowan and Oak of which a proportion has quite severely deer damaged.
Brash from the coppice has been windrowed.

2f	0.20	Ash	1983	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 2f
Small sub-compartment as the pond as a dominant key feature. All species within the stand are estimated to have been established between 1968 and 1983. Species include Aspen, Birch, Oak, and one Crab apple which remains another feature of the sub-compartment.
Area is wet with Juncus appearing quite frequently within the ground flora.

2g	0.10	other oak spp	1973	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 2g
Shade stand of predominantly Oak maidens and coppice. All estimated to have been established around 1940-1945. The stand has been coppiced in the past and has now been left and as a resu

has become stored coppice.
Oak standards are of no notable form.
Other canopy species include Birch and a rare Ash, and are estimated to have been established in 1973.
Understorey is occasional consisting of Hazel, Holly, Hawthorn, Birch and Rowan. A small numbe Aspen are also located in sub-compartment 2g.

2h	0.70	other oak spp	1996	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 2h
Sub compartment 2h is an area of coppice with standards, the remaining maiden oaks are of reasonably good form.
Coppice cut in winter 1981/2 and 2004/5. Coppice species include hazel, hawthorn, birch, rowan oak of which a proportion has become quite severely squirrel damaged.
A large rowan is located in the north eastern corner of sub compartment 2h

3a	0.10	other oak spp	1947	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 3a

Small coupe of predominantly Oak, with the occasional Birch. Sub-compartment 3a has over time progressed to a stage of stored coppice.
Oaks are of no notable form. last coppiced 1987/8.
Understorey is occasional consisting of coppiced Oak, Hazel and Hawthorn.

3b	0.60	other oak spp	1987	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 3b
Coppice with standards. Standards remain fairly numerous but have not produced any Oaks of an notable value.
Understorey is abundant to dominant consisting of coppiced Oak, Hazel, Birch, Rowan and Goat willow, last cut in the winter of 1987 to 1988.

3c	0.80	other oak spp	1988	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 3c
Coppice with standards. Oak standards covering an estimated 50 % of the canopy area, establishe around approximately 1948.
Understorey is frequent to dominant consisting of coppiced Birch, Oak, Rowan, Hawthorn and Ha

last cut in the winter of 1988-1989.							
3d	1.10	other oak spp	1989	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest
Sub compartment 3d Coppice with standards. Standards remain sparse and are of no notable form. Understorey is dominant consisting of Birch, Oak, Rowan and Hazel coppice, last cut in the winte 1989-1990.							
3e	0.10	other oak spp	1938	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest
Sub compartment 3e Small coupe of stored coppice acting as a shade crop. Oak coppice is estimated to have been last around 1928-1938. Younger Oak maidens are mixed in throughout the stand as is a proportion Birch. Oaks are of no notable form. Understorey is frequent to occasional with a mixture of young Birch, Hazel, Oak, Rowan and Aspe							
3f	1.40	other oak spp	1990	Coppice	Mostly wet	Ancient	Ancient

					ground/exposed site	Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest
Sub compartment 3f Coppice with standards. Oak standards are sparse but those that remain are of reasonable to goo form. Understorey is abundant comprised mainly of Oak and Birch coppice with other not so frequent species such as Rowan and Holly. Coppice was last cut in the winter of 1990-1991.							
3g	0.20	other oak spp	1978	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest
Sub compartment 3g Older stand of coppice with standards. Standard Oaks are of no notable form. Coppice was last cut around 1978 and is frequent to dominant, consisting of Birch, Oak, Hazel, Hawthorn and Goat willow.							
3h	13.50	other oak spp	1947	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special

						Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 3h
Sub-compartment 3h is a large area of old neglected coppice, consisting of maiden and coppiced as well as coppiced Birch, Ash and Aspen.
Understorey is frequent made up of varying ages of Oak, Birch, Hazel, Holly, Hawthorn and Yew a well as the occasional to rare Crab Apple.
Also situated towards the northern end of the sub-compartment is a small block of young Wild Service trees.
Dead wood is abundant within this sub-compartment.

4a	0.20	other oak spp	1940	High forest	Archaeological features, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlar Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub-compartment 4a is divided by the car park entrance, running parallel to the main road. An o earth bank is most prominent running the full length of the sub-compartment boundary. Mature and Ash are situated along the length of the earth bank estimated to have been established arou 1900.
Other Oaks within the sub-compartment are estimated to have been established in the 1940s, ar are of no notable form.
Understorey is frequent consisting of Hawthorn, Field maple, Hazel, Oak and Rowan. The underst is being managed over the winter of 1998 - 1999 selectively thinning the understorey and leavin most of the larger Oak stems.

4b	6.90	other oak spp	1947	High forest	Archaeological	Ancient	Ancient

					features, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 4b
Sub-compartment 4b is an area of over mature coppice consisting of both maiden and coppice o stems which are most prominent throughout the main canopy species. Form of the Oak is reason Other species within the sub-compartment include large leaved lime however this remains rare, Rowan and Birch. Some areas of sub-compartment 4b are more heavily stocked than others with more stems per hectare.
Understorey is occasional to frequent and is composed of Holly, Rowan, Birch and Oak.
Ground cover is dominated in places by Bramble.

4c	9.30	other oak spp	1947	Coppice	Archaeological features, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub-compartment 4c is an area of over mature coppice, consisting of both coppiced and maiden and Ash stems. Ash becoming more abundant towards the northern boundary. Birch is also prese within the main canopy.
Other species located within the compartment are Small Leaved Lime and Wild Service Trees altho these remain rare.
Singling has taken place throughout the sub-compartment on a number of Oak and Ash coppice stools.

Understorey is frequent consisting of Oak, Ash, Birch, Holly and Hawthorn.
Dead wood is abundant within this sub-compartment.

4d	5.50	other oak spp	1900	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Compartment 4d is the oldest least disturbed area of Pepper wood running along the length of Hockley Brook. Generally the trees are of a much older age and a larger number of species are represented within the sub compartment.
Species include oak, ash, aspen, birch, rowan, holly, poplar, small leaved lime, crab apple and ye which one specimen is particularly notable for its old age.
Understorey is frequent consisting of oak, ash, birch , holly, hazel and hawthorn.
Dead wood is abundant within this sub-compartment.

4e	1.00	other oak spp	1947	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub-compartment 4e is an area being converted back to Oak high forest over the 1998-1999 pe
Most of the remaining Oaks are of reasonable to good form after having been quite heavily thinn
Understorey is sparse consisting of the occasional to rare Oak, Hawthorn and Holly. Most of the understorey was removed as part of the thinning process.

4f	0.80	other oak spp	1975	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest
Sub compartment 4f Coppice with standards. Oak standards are numerous and are no notable form. Other species wit the stand include Rowan, Goat willow, Birch and Aspen. Coppice is estimated to have been cut around 1975-1978, and is abundant. Coppice is predomin made up of Hazel.							
4g	1.00	other oak spp	1940	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest
Sub compartment 4g Coppice with standards. Standards are comprised of both old Oak coppice and some more matur maidens, both estimated to have been established around 1940-1945. Form of the Oak is not notable. Coppice species consist of Hazel, Oak, Birch and Rowan and is by no means abundant. coppiced 1983/4, 1998/9 and 2010/11							
4h	1.20	other oak spp	1984	Coppice	Mostly wet	Ancient	Ancient

					ground/exposed site	Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 4h
Coppice with standards. Standards are made up of Oak maidens estimated to have been establish around 1940-1945, and are reasonable to good form.
Coppice was last cut over the winters of 1984-85 and 1985-86, 2011/12 and 2012/13. Coppice growth has not been vigorous but is made up of many smaller stems per hectare producing a de thicket. Coppice species include Hazel, Oak, Hawthorn, Birch, Rowan and Blackthorn.

4i	1.00	other oak spp	1986	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	Ancient Natural Woodlan Site of Special Scientifi Interest

Sub compartment 4i
Coppice with standards. Standards are comprised of Oak maidens estimate to have been establis around 1940-1945 and are of no notable form.
Coppice was last cut in the winter of 1986-1987 and 2000/2001. Growth rates vary throughout t sub-compartment, however the understorey remains frequent to abundant consisting of Hazel, C Hawthorn and Birch.

5a	5.29	Pedunculate/common oak	2011	Non-wood habitat		Ancient Semi	

						Natural Woodland, Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access	

An area of wet rough pastureland (approx 3.25 ha) with an area of ancient a woodland on the out
(western) boundary, together with other secondary field-edge woodland (approx 2.04 ha) .
Ash and oak saplings scattered throughout.
The field area is a marshy grassland type mostly dominated by the tussocky tufted hair-grass. Sp
indicators leading to a fairly special wet grass habitat include: ragged robin, bugle, wild angelica
marsh bedstraw, greater birds-foot trefoil and sedge and rush species. Common spotted or poss
heath spotted orchid also present (survey was out to of season).
Other grassland species noted include (2019)

Clustered dock
Cock's-foot
Common bent
Common spotted orchid
Compact rush
Creeping buttercup
Creeping cinquefoil
Cuckoo flower
False oat-grass
Figwort
Glaucous sedge
Hard rush
Hogweed
Marsh ragwort
Marsh thistle
Meadow buttercup
Meadow vetchling
Meadowsweet
Pedunculate oak (seedlings)

Pendulous sedge
Perforate St John's -wort
Red fescue
Self-heal
Sharp-flowered rush
Smooth tare
Tufted hair-grass

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	4h	Coppice	0.30	0	0
2021	3h	Selective Fell	0.50	70	35
2021	3h	Thin	0.50	40	20
2021	3h	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	60	6
2021	4c	Thin	0.50	40	20
2021	4c	Selective Fell	0.50	70	35
2021	4h	Coppice	0.50	12	6
2022	2b	Coppice	0.00		6
2022	3h	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	50	5
2023	1c	null	0.50	12	6
2023	3h	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	50	5
2024	1f	null	0.50	12	6
2024	3h	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	50	5
2025	1f	null	0.50	12	6
2025	3h	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	50	5
2030	3h	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	50	5
2030	4c	Selective Fell	0.10	750	75
2035	4c	Selective Fell	1.00	75	75

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.