

Keil's Den

(Plan period – 2022 to 2026)



WOODLAND
TRUST SCOTLAND

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 Connecting People with woods & trees
 - 4.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

Compartment Map

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Keil's Den

Location:	Largo Grid reference: NO414039 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 59
Area:	18.17 hectares (44.90 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Location, Altitude, Aspect

Keil's Den is a long narrow wooded glen set in an agricultural landscape. The wood is located on the steep slopes of both the west and east banks of the Keil Burn as it runs almost directly north-south. The main entrance to Keil's Den lays 0.5.km north of Lower Largo and the main A915. Both banks of the burn slope very steeply for the majority of their length, although the site includes some flat land on the top of the slopes and low lying floodplain where this exists. The southern end of the burn is at a height of approximately 30m above sea level, rising to a height of over 70m above sea level on the banks in the north of the wood.

Physical Geography

The soils are derived from drifts of carboniferous sandstones, shale and limestone's, with rock exposures in the burn bed. This gives rise to brown forest soils that tend to be slightly acid and sandy in some places but with gleying and more basic flushes in others. The MLURI climate data identifies the area as warm dry lowland which is moderately exposed with fairly mild winters. The Keil Burn itself is approximately 3m wide as it flows through the glen.

Woodland Description

Keil's Den is predominantly gorge ash woodland consisting of both native and introduced species, and clearly has a long history of management. A rich woodland specialist ground flora is present throughout the den part of the woodland, indicating an ancient woodland origin. The species equate most closely to NVC W9/W10.

The main native component is ash, but there is also a significant component of beech and sycamore, the result of 19th century plantings. There are smaller numbers of birch, rowan, cherry and oak, alder, willow, Scots pine and larch. There is also a diversity of shrub species including hawthorn, hazel, holly, elder, elm and blackthorn. Following loss of the mature elm component of the canopy over recent decades, the woodland has an open structure in many areas and is in transition, with ash, beech and sycamore all freely regenerating in patches, despite the presence of roe deer.

Ash dieback disease is affecting many of the ash trees. An area of ash was felled at the north of the site in 2020 for public safety, and the area replanted with native trees.

Only the northern tip of Keil's Den is shown on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient Woodland of Semi-Natural Origin. However, the whole woodland is shown on the 1855 1st edition OS map and the rich woodland specialist ground flora throughout the den also indicates that the den part of the woodland is ancient in origin.

The south-eastern spur (in Trust ownership) and two other spurs which extend E/W from the den, are thought to be designed landscape features linking the Largo House policies with the den woodland. The lower diversity of their ground flora also reflects this.

The prevalence of veteran beech and a number of tracks within the wood show that the site has been managed over at least the last 200 years or so. There are no known archaeological features in the wood, although there is a quarry of unknown date near the middle footbridge.

The structure of the woodland is varied, including mature woodland and developing young trees of various ages. The

ground flora is generally representative of ancient woodland, the key components being woodrush, bluebell, dogs mercury and broad-buckler fern, with bracken and grasses encroaching into the more open areas. The ground flora is being threatened by shade in some areas, particularly under clumps of pole-stage beech, where no vegetation grows under the canopy. Many of the mature beech are beginning to decline and form a valuable veteran tree resource and deadwood is abundant. A number of the old and dead trees have also been identified as bat roosts.

Species rich den (gorge) woodlands are characteristic of this part of Fife and provide valuable habitat in an otherwise open agricultural landscape. Woodland generally, and ancient woodland in particular, has a low coverage in Fife and is highly fragmented. The wooded den extends north from the Trust's land along the Keil Burn for another 1km (also Ancient Semi Natural Woodland). The south-easterly spur has a lower floral diversity and is thought to be a planted landscape strip linking the Largo House policies to the den woodland (as are the two other adjacent woodland strips not in Trust ownership).

Other Habitats Description

There are patches of open ground on the woodland edge adjacent to the field edges, with a ground flora of mainly grasses with some bluebell and some more brambly areas. On the eastern bank of the wood, (cpt 1c) there is a larger open area of about 1ha dominated by grasses and bracken and punctuated with shrubby hawthorn thickets. The burn provides an important riparian habitat and on its narrow flood plain there is a complex of open areas of varying wetness, typified by NVC M27 and featuring meadowsweet, bottle sedge, common spotted orchid, marsh hawksbeard and common valerian. The invasive variegated yellow archangel has spread from the SE entrance, and on neighbouring land near the car park, with control of this is ongoing. A patch of invasive snowberry appeared in the SE strip, which was dug out in 2021.

Wildlife

The bird life is varied in Keil's Den, including great, long-tailed and blue tits, wagtail, chaffinch, blackbird, great-spotted woodpecker, buzzard, robin and pheasant. The woodland is important for bats due to the number of mature, over-mature and standing dead trees, and a bat survey must be carried out before undertaking any work on such trees. Other mammals include moles, roe deer, rabbits, foxes and badgers.

Site History

The site was bought by the Woodland Trust in 1992, from the previous private owner at Monzie Castle, Creiff. Seventy five per cent of the money for the purchase was raised by the local community in only two weeks! The work carried out by the Trust since the woodland has been in its ownership has concentrated on public access works and planting of some large open areas. Several mature beech trees next to paths have also been felled when become unsafe (with advanced decay fungi).

The coffin trail runs from Hatton Law over middle bridge and through to Upper Largo cemetery. The path was wide enough for 4 coffin bearers. The route of the path has now changed to edge of fields.

Public Access

The woodland offers extensive public access with 3.61km of paths, most of them claimed public rights of way. The main path follows the boundary round the site at the top of the den, and another path crosses the den in the middle, giving the option of doing a half-circuit. There are six entrances to the wood, through kissing gates or open gaps for pedestrians. Three of these entrances join up with paths across neighbouring fields, and the other three

entrances exit onto minor roads.

The paths are generally un-surfaced, and can be uneven with roots, steep and narrow in places. There are also muddy patches. Some paths have been surfaced with hard-core and whin dust: at the south-east end of the site a 300m section from the road to the Keil Burn was upgraded by a team from the Robert Gough Centre; the steep path crossing the middle of the site was surfaced in in 2014, along with 2 other steep sections replacing steps, and in 2016 the path north of the road bridge was surfaced as very muddy.

There are two footbridges across Keil Burn: in the middle of the site a timber bridge was built in 1999 (replacing an old bridge); and in 2014 a new bridge was installed at the south end to replace the stepping stones (kindly funded by Miss Ogilvy Shepherd). There is no footbridge where the path crosses the burn at the north of the site, but it is possible to cross over on the road bridge. There is a small informal car park (on private land) at the bend in the road to the north-east of the wood, where there is space for 6 cars. This has been surfaced with hard-core and whin dust in 2012 and is with agreement of our neighbour. There is also space for two cars in front of the gate at the south-east entrance opposite Largo Country Caravan Park.

The attractive nature of the site and the path network attracts an estimated 9000 visits per year. Users are mainly local regular walkers, with smaller numbers of occasional visitors. Access on foot from Upper Largo and Lower Largo is along a minor road with no pavement. The wood is 1km from the Fife Coast Path to the south. Most of the paths are part of the core path network.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Woodland

The long term vision (100 year plus) is to maintain a diverse, species rich, broadleaved woodland with a high proportion of native species. There will be considerable structural and age class diversity, as well as areas of open ground and wetland. Throughout most of the woodland there will be a secure, vigorous and diverse ground flora characteristic of broadleaved native woodland (NVC W10 & W8). The canopy will be punctuated with occasional mature and over-mature trees and there will be frequent standing and fallen deadwood.

Public Access

The site will provide quiet informal recreation to local users and visitors. The path network will be maintained as well-drained and clear of obstructions and overhanging branches and entrances will be maintained in a welcoming condition.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

The woodland offers extensive public access with 3.61km of paths, most of them claimed public rights of way and are part of the core path network. The main path follows the boundary round the site at the top of the den, and another path crosses the den in the middle, giving the option of doing a half-circuit. There are six entrances to the wood, through kissing gates or open gaps for pedestrians. Three of these entrances join up with paths across neighbouring fields, and the other three entrances exit onto minor roads.

The paths are generally un-surfaced, and can be uneven with roots, steep and narrow in places. There are also seasonally muddy patches. Some paths have been surfaced with hard-core and whin dust: at the south-east end of the site a 300m section from the road to the Keil Burn was upgraded by a team from the Robert Gough Centre; the steep path crossing the middle of the site was surfaced in 2014, along with 2 other steep sections replacing steps, and in 2016 the path north of the road bridge was surfaced as was very muddy.

There are two footbridges across Keil Burn: in the middle of the site a timber bridge was built in 1999 (replacing an old bridge); and in 2014 a new bridge was installed at the south end to replace the stepping stones (kindly funded by Miss Ogilvy Shepherd). There is no footbridge where the path crosses the burn at the north of the site, but it is possible to cross over on the road bridge (slope up to road through gap and narrow pavement). There is a small informal car park (on private land) at the bend in the road to the north-east of the wood, where there is space for 6 cars. This has been surfaced with hard-core and whin dust in 2012 and is with agreement of our neighbour. There is also space for two cars in front of the gate at the south-east entrance opposite Largo Country Caravan Park.

There are welcome (some wooden and some plastic) signs and “enjoyed your visit” signs at all the entrances, as well as ladder boards at the northern and north-eastern entrances.

There are currently 3 volunteer wardens who help to look after this wood.

There is little opportunity for events here due to narrow paths and lack of parking.

Kirkton of Largo Primary School is the closest school and within walking distance of the wood (just under a mile away) but this is along a narrow road with no pavements.

Significance

The attractive nature of the site and the path network attracts an estimated 9000 visits per year. Users are mainly local regular walkers, with smaller numbers of occasional visitors. There are two caravan sites nearby, Woodland Gardens Caravan & Camping and Largo House Caravan Park (residential).

Access on foot from Upper Largo and Lower Largo (population 2,524), is along a minor road with no pavement. The

<p>wood is 1km from the Fife Coast Path to the south. The nearest Woodland Trust site is Largo Serpentine, around a mile away.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p>
<p>Constraints: Steep slopes, narrow paths, and lack of car parking space.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<p>Climate change and greater use is causing paths to become muddier.</p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>
<p>The site will provide quiet informal recreation to local users and visitors. The path network will be maintained as well-drained, and clear of obstructions and overhanging branches.</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p>
<p>Paths will be maintained in a safe and usable condition - free from obstacles, encroaching vegetation, excessive muddiness and litter. Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines and site access coding (B). Paths will be cut twice a year. Entrances will be maintained with Woodland Trust signs to make them welcoming.</p> <p>Regular safety inspections of trees next to paths and estate features (e.g. bridges) will be carried out, along with any work as necessary.</p> <p>The hedge by the entrance opposite caravan park will be cut annually for visibility when pulling out of the car park.</p>

4.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

<p>Description</p>
<p>Keil's Den is predominantly a gorge woodland consisting of both native and introduced species, and clearly has a long history of management. A rich native woodland ground flora is present throughout the Den, indicating an ancient woodland origin. The species equate most closely to NVC W9/W10. The south-easterly spur has a lower floral diversity and is thought to be a planted landscape strip linking the Largo House policies to the den woodland. Many of the mature beech are the result of 19th century plantings.</p> <p>The main tree component is ash, beech, birch and sycamore. There are smaller numbers of rowan, cherry, elm, oak, alder, willow, larch and Scots pine. There is also a diversity of shrub species including hawthorn, hazel, holly, elder and blackthorn. Following loss of the mature elm component of the canopy over recent decades, the woodland has an open structure in many areas and is in transition, with ash, beech and sycamore all regenerating in patches, despite the presence of roe deer. There is a threat to the woodland specialist ground flora from shading from beech.</p> <p>The structure of the woodland is varied, including, mature woodland, young trees, open ground punctuated with shrubby thickets, and wetland adjacent to the burn. The ground flora is generally representative of ancient woodland, the key components being woodrush, bluebell, dog's mercury and broad-buckler fern, with bracken and grasses encroaching into the more open areas.</p>

Many of the mature beech are beginning to decline and form a valuable veteran tree/deadwood resource. Course hardwood deadwood is also abundant from the previous loss of elms.

Ash dieback (chalara) is affecting many of the ash trees - which is particularly bad in the northern end which has a larger population of ash trees. An area at the north tip had a large population of ash with chalara, and this was felled in 2020 and replanted with native trees.

There is an area on the east side which was planted with conifers in the 1950s, with larch and Scots pine. The northern end (cpt 1d) was felled and replanted with mixed broadleaves in 1996. The southern end (cpt 1e) has been thinned, and although still has some light shading conifers amongst the beech, sycamore and elder, there is plenty of light and this area. Both ends are now classed as restored planted ancient woodland. Vegetation comprises of grass, brambles and some bluebells.

There is occasional dead wood.

Significance

Only the northern part of Keil's Den is shown on the SNH Ancient Woodland Inventory as Ancient of Semi-Natural Origin. However, the whole woodland is shown on the 1855 1st edition OS map and the rich woodland specialist ground flora throughout the den part of the site also indicates that it is ancient in origin. The wooded den extends north from the Trust's land along the Keil Burn for another 1km (also ASNW). The south-eastern spur (in Trust ownership) and two other spurs which extend E/W from the den, are thought to be designed landscape features linking the Largo House policies with the den woodland. The lower diversity of their ground flora also reflects this.

Species rich den (gorge) woodlands are characteristic of this part of Fife and provide valuable habitat in an otherwise open agricultural landscape. Woodland generally, and ancient woodland in particular, has a low coverage in Fife and is highly fragmented.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Steep ground and narrow paths prevents vehicular management access in many areas.

Factors Causing Change

Loss of old mature beech due to blowing over or safety felling.

Beech regeneration (with little other regeneration of other species) will change the species composition of the next generation.

Chalara (ash dieback disease) killing the ash.

Invasive variegated yellow archangel plant is spreading from entrance opposite caravan park, which would take over if not controlled.

Invasive snowberry in the SE strip, which could take over if not controlled.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The tree canopy will be almost entirely broadleaved with a high proportion of native species. There will be considerable structural and age class diversity, as well as areas of open ground and wetland. Throughout most of the woodland there will be a secure, vigorous and diverse ground flora characteristic of broadleaved native woodland (NVC W10 & W8). The canopy will be punctuated with occasional mature and over-mature trees and there will be frequent standing and fallen deadwood.

Beech and its regeneration will need to be controlled if ancient woodland ground flora is threaten by shade (but this has been put on hold in the short term due to the impact of ash dieback disease).

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

Ensure the establishment of young planted trees. Remove tree shelters when no longer needed (cpt 1b & c, 0.3ha by 2030).

Regular tree safety inspections will be carried out, with any trees felled for public safety where necessary (annual inspections).

Fell any ash trees suffering from ash dieback disease (chalara) within falling distance of the paths when they become a safety issue. Dead ash trees within the rest of the wood will be left as deadwood.

Stop invasive variegated yellow archangel from spreading into the rest of the wood. Spray plants in SW strip with glyphosate and monitor results (cpt 1c, 0.02ha, annually until eradicated).

Stop invasive snowberry spreading from SW strip by digging up any bushes as they occur. Monitor regrowth and treat with glyphosate if necessary.

Cut two bracken glades near path to encourage a more diverse flora (cpt 1c, 0.05ha, annually).

5. WORK PROGRAMME

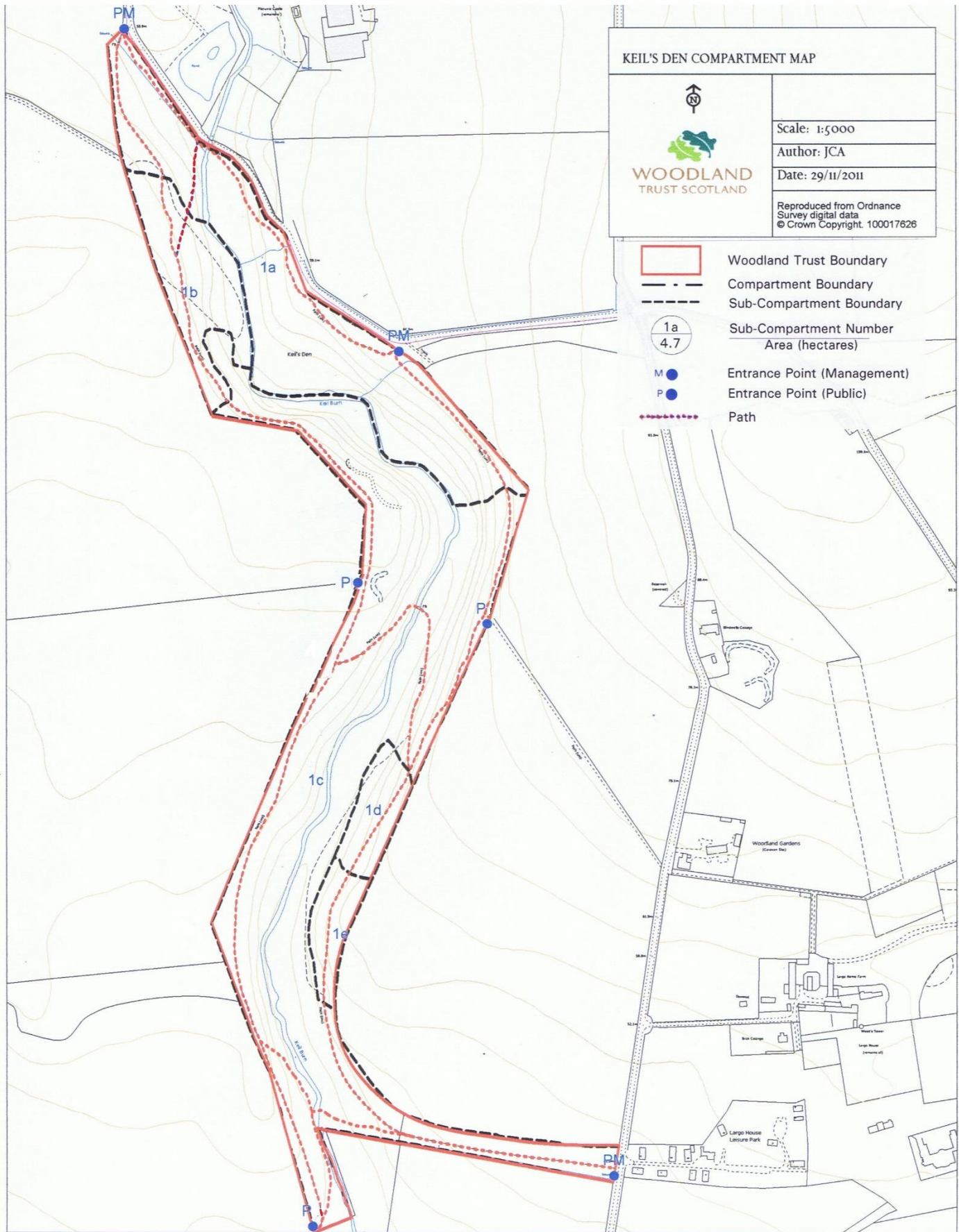
Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	April
2022	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	April
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	November
2023	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	April
2023	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	April
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	November

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants— such a repeat cutting and control treatments	April
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	April
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	November
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	November
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	4.6	Mixed broadleaves	1950	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This area lies on shallow to moderate west-facing slopes with well-drained slopes, wet flushes and flatter marshy areas near the burn. The woodland has a diverse structure, ranging from dense canopy to open areas of bracken. Ash is the dominant species overall, and is abundant from regeneration to early mature, with occasional mature trees. Mature beech is also frequent and beech regeneration is locally abundant in patches throughout. Sycamore and birch of all ages are occasional. There is frequent alder and goat willow in wetter areas. In the understory are frequent hawthorn and elder and occasional hazel and holly. There is a small area planted in 1997 of goat willow, aspen and alder at the northern end (0.1ha) and crab apple, bird cherry and holly on the western rim (0.1ha). A further small area was planted by Silberline in 2009 with birch. Ground flora consists of abundant bluebell and dog's mercury, and frequent woodrush and broad buckler fern. Ground flora is sparser or non-existent under pole-stage beech. There is a large open area with scattered hawthorn in the centre of the compartment where grasses and bracken dominate, and smaller open areas exist on the woodland edge. Just south of the road bridge is a small wetland complex (NVC M27) of some interest featuring meadowsweet, bottle sedge, common spotted orchid, marsh harks beard and common valerian. Deadwood is frequent.</p>						
1b	1.47	Mixed broadleaves	1997	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Moderate east-facing slopes run down to flatter ground near the burn. There is 1.0 ha planting (1997) consisting of oak (40%), ash (20%), rowan (20%), hazel (10%) hawthorn (5%) and blackthorn (5%). A further 0.25ha (400 trees) was planted in 2008 in a bracken glade, and 0.3ha (660 trees) planted in 2020 to replace ash suffering from chalara at the northern tip (alder, willow, oak, elm, rowan, hazel, hawthorn, crab apple). The remainder is mostly open ground, but a number of dead trunks lying on the ground suggest that the area was opened up as a result of elms dying and the presence of large numbers of bluebells suggest that the area was previously wooded. Besides bluebells, the ground flora is composed of grasses (in particular creeping soft grass) celandine and a great deal of bracken.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1c	10.94	Mixed broadleaves	1950	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Woodland of varied structure consisting of abundant beech, ash and sycamore, of various ages. There is also frequent birch, occasional oak and wild cherry, and rare lime. In the understory there is frequent hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and occasional elm and hazel. Scattered throughout the area are a number of large, mature beech trees (200 years plus). The ground flora varies from sparse or non-existent where pole-stage beech dominates the canopy, to abundant in areas where the canopy cover is less dense, with abundant woodrush and bluebells, frequent dogs mercury and broad buckler fern and occasional wood anemone and honeysuckle. The ground varies from very steep to flat areas on the inside of bends in the burn, where there are some small open areas. Close to the burn these are marshy areas with extensive butterbur but on drier ground there are bluebells under bracken. There are also small open areas on the woodland edge with bluebells and grasses under bracken. At the far southern end some elm coppicing was carried out in 1997 and now forms a shrubby thicket.</p> <p>The invasive variegated yellow archangel and snowberry are present near the SE entrance (they are being controlled).</p> <p>Ash is suffering from chalara. A small group near the middle bridge were felled and replanted with natives in 2020.</p>						
1d	0.64	Mixed native broadleaves	1996	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Young planting (1996) of Scots pine, birch, rowan and holly in an area where conifers were previously felled. The ground flora of the area is of abundant bramble, rosebay willowherb and grasses with occasional woodland specialist flora, including bluebell.</p>						
1e	0.54	Scots pine	1950	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Mature Scots pine and larch, planted in the 1950s, with an understory of frequent elder, and occasional beech. A few individual larch trees have blown over in previous years. The ground flora is of grass, brambles and some bluebells. There is occasional dead wood.</p>						



Ancient Woodland

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

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

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

Ancient Woodland Site

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

Beating Up

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

Broadleaf

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

Canopy

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

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

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

Conifer

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

Continuous Cover forestry

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

Coppice

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

Exotic (non-native) Species

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

Field Layer

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

Group Fell

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

Long Term Retention

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

Minimum Intervention

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

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

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

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

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

Origin & Provenance

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

Re-Stocking

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

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

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

Sub-Compartment

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

Thinning

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

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

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

Weeding

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

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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