

Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood

(Plan period – 2020 to 2025)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

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

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

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 F1 New Native Woodland
 - 4.2 f3 Archaeological Feature
 - 4.3 f4 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
 - 4.4 f5 Open Ground Habitat
 - 4.5 f6 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood

Location:

Normanton le Heath, Ravenstone, Leicestershire, Normanton le Heath Grid reference: SK390132 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. N/A Grid reference: SK387134 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. N/A Grid reference: SK375121 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. N/A

Area:

185.76 hectares (459.02 acres) 31.33 hectares (77.42 acres) 51.07 hectares (126.20 acres)

External Designations:

National Forest National Forest National Forest

Internal Designations:

Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood is the flagship wood of The Jubilee Woods project which aimed to create 60 new woods of 60 acres or more in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It sits within the National Forest area of Leicestershire, a largely agricultural landscape but with tree cover increasing across the region due to the efforts of the National Forest company. This large site (270ha) is neighbored by established secondary woodland to the north and other National Forest plantations to the south and west. Sence Valley Country park, a Forest Enterprise site, is located a short distance to the east with a bridleway and footpaths linking the two sites. Cattows farm shop and cafe provides local facilities that are accessible via public rights of way and permissive paths. The surrounding countryside is dominated by arable agriculture. It is a landscape of gently rolling hills and shallow valleys and this woodland makes a significant contribution to the diversity of habitats and landscape features in the locality. The woodland sits between the villages of Normanton le Heath and Heather, to the west of Coalville.

The wood itself is generally flat, although there are some gentle undulations and any views due to higher ground have been given careful consideration during the initial design phase of the planting. There is a brook that runs along the western edge of the site and out to the south, a tributary of the River Mease. The soil is predominantly comprised of clay, although wind and the effects of agriculture means that loam deposits are found at the foot of any slopes. The compartments towards the east of the site, where the large open cast pit once stood, are comprised of reclaimed soil and therefore the ground here is prone to waterlogging due to possible perched water tables, compaction and poor soil structure.

The main site was planted in 2012 with a range of native broad leaved species, most of which are planted in an intimate mix, compartment by compartment. A further 80ha was purchased in 2019, in two areas known as extensions 1 and 2. The stock is in generally good condition, apart from where water logging has occurred due to perched water tables. The ground flora underneath the trees tends to be grass but arable wildflowers are also present. Several old hedgerows cross the newly planted areas and are home to some larger trees, mainly ash. Although predominantly new planting, there is a small area of ancient semi natural woodland in compartment 3 and three other areas of secondary woodland across the north of the site.

As well as being part of one of the largest blocks of native broad leaved woodland within the National Forest area, the site is also home to a large lake and several areas of open ground, these make up about 10% of the site and support wetland and open ground species. The most significant areas of open ground are linked to either the retention of views or underlying archaeology. There is evidence of two historical structures interesting to archaeologists on the site, one of which is known to be Roman as well as a Roman road, the Via Devana, running through the site.

The key features of this site have been identified as New Native Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Open Ground Habitat and Connecting People with woods & trees.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision of the site is of a large native broad leaved high-forest habitat, recognised and valued as a living monument to Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. A flagship not only for the Jubilee woods project but also an outstanding example of woodland creation with public access at its heart. The bulk of the woodland will comprise a diverse planting of native broad leaved trees, with natural regeneration encouraged as the mechanism for recruiting new trees thereby ensuring a mixed age structure. Deadwood will be encouraged and allowed to stand, where it is safe to do so. As such, diversity of wildlife and native flora will also be well established, securing the site as an important refuge within the arable landscape. The site will also act as a refuge for people from modern life, remaining open and inviting to the public for informal recreation.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 F1 New Native Woodland

Description
New native broadleaved woodland (minus the ash component due to the appearance of "ash dieback" in 2012) planted between October 2012 and March 2015, with further planting planned within two extensions in 2019-2021.
Significance
Important contribution to the Woodland Trusts UK wide woodland creation target. Contributes significantly to the woodland creation target for the National Forest area. Forms the single largest continuous block of native woodland creation in the National Forest area. Improves the habitat diversity of the local area in what is predominantly arable and grazed fields or paddocks. Buffers an existing block of ancient woodland habitat.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: To demonstrate woodland creation on a large scale. To engage with and inspire supporters and garner further support for the Trusts work. To contribute significantly to the Woodland Trusts overall woodland creation targets and also woodland creation targets within the National Forest area. To buffer and enhance existing ancient woodland habitat. To enhance the habitat diversity of the local area which is predominantly arable and grazed fields / paddocks. Good natural regeneration of ash on site which should be encouraged given the threat of ash dieback. To bring in income by providing opportunities for further sponsorship of Jubilee Groves at the property or via the Woodland Trusts dedicate a tree scheme.

Constraints:

Due to the large amount of public involvement; local stakeholder engagement and key funding sponsors, there are many obligations to fulfill when it comes to ensuring the quality of the site.

Presence of noxious weeds on site requiring control under the agricultural and noxious weeds act.

Presence of grazing species on site such as rabbit and hare and potentially (though at a low level) deer.

Ash planted in compartment 4 by the National Forest Company in 2011 at risk from ash die back in the long term.

There have been problems with removal of tree shelters / spirals in compartments 1d, 1e and 4c. This has been attributed partly to natural factors, effect of wind etc. but also the result of vandalism and individuals allowing their dogs to use them as dog chews.

Drainage and flooding issues along the eastern boundary of the woodland as a result of surface run off and overflow of Blowers Brook during periods of heavy rainfall. Attempts to mitigate this with a series of drainage works was made 2013 / 2014 and will be looked at again should the need arise.

Over the next plan period, increased pressure from grey squirrels will mean that the woodland faces a new challenge.

Factors Causing Change

Although removed from the planting plan due to ash die back, natural regeneration of ash is prevalent in parts of the site. Dependent upon the ultimate impact of ash die back this natural regeneration could result in a positive improvement to the species composition on site in the longer term.

Ash stock planted in 2011 by the National Forest Company in compartment 4 as a percentage of the woodland component is showing signs of ash die back which will significantly alter the planting component in this area.

Flooding following heavy rainfall along eastern boundary results in planting stock sitting in standing water. This seems to be effecting tree health and development.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To see a well-developed, sustainable, healthy, well-structured woodland by the year 2063 with a good mix of component woodland habitat of varying native species types and open space. For the bulk of the site, intervention will be limited to first thinnings in order to create a more open woodland as the trees grow; safety works and occasionally, to encourage diversity of species and structure where the condition assessment demonstrates a need. Planting in compartments 6 and 7 however has been undertaken to encourage trees of a commercial quality, and these compartments will be seen as having a commercial factor as well as habitat being a key feature.

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

To seek establishment of at least 95% of the compartments 1 through 4s planted tree stock by 2020 and compartments 6 and 7 by 2028. This will be achieved by visual inspections and beating up when necessary. The flooded areas along the eastern boundary may be improved by some drainage works. Browsing herbivores will need to be monitored and steps

taken to control when necessary for the future development of the woodland. Compartments 6 and 7 are newly planted or yet to be planted and the young trees will be subject to competition from weeds. This will be controlled with a reduced use of glyphosate where possible but some spraying will be required as well as regular inter row mowing. The established secondary woodland in compartments 2c, 3c and 7c will require thinning to respace the trees and to allow natural regeneration and the establishment of woodland flora. Surveying will establish the quantity of trees to be removed but is likely to be around 30% of the current established stands.

4.2 f3 Archaeological Feature

Description

The property contains a number of significant areas of archaeology which following consultation with Leicestershire County Councils Archaeologist have been left unplanted to ensure that they remain undisturbed. These areas consist of:

The Via Devana Roman Road (Colchester to Chester) which runs along the boundaries of compartments 1a and 1b and is also designated a public right of way.

A Romano British Settlement on the eastern boundary of compartment 1a which partly straddles land owned by the Woodland Trust and partly straddles adjacent farm land.

A further Romano British settlement in the southern section of compartment 6b.

An area of open space in compartment 1c left unplanted due to the range of finds discovered there via field walking (though geophysical surveying revealed no features of interest). These include neolithic flint shards, medieval pottery and a bronze age axe head (palstave) in mint condition discovered by a farm hand following ploughing in the 1970's.

Significance

Archaeological remains in this part of North West Leicestershire are relatively unexplored and have yet to yield their finds, the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood is significant in this regard in that it has been excavated and investigated to some degree in the past by Leicester University. Archaeology on site fits in with that explored elsewhere locally, particularly in relation to the Roman road which ran both through Moira in the National Forest (Conkers) and nearby Ibstock which in Roman times was a settlement that produced pottery which would have been exported along the road. Archaeology here is very important from both a local and national perspective in helping us understand how our ancestors lived. To have an area which shows such a long period of habitation from Neolithic hunter gatherer through to Roman and Romano British all in one place is also very significant.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To preserve and protect a unique area of archaeological interest that's accessible to the public all year round.

To utilise the features in-conjunction with the people engagement plan to tell the landscape story of the new woodland

down the ages providing an interesting draw for visitors to the property and also another potential aspect to the new woodland that may attract new supporters.

Constraints:

Areas of archaeological note need to be kept as open space and must at no time under go any significant disturbance as per consultation with Leicestershire County Councils Archaeologists during the design stage of the project.

The archaeology on the property is well known and loved by local people and is an important aspect of their local area and community. Archaeology on site needs to be preserved for this reason alone.

Factors Causing Change

Tendency for open areas left for archaeology to scrub up and become wooded over time, areas of archaeological importance need to be maintained as open space with minimal disturbance.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

That the features of archaeological interest be preserved in perpetuity remaining as undisturbed, open space.

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

To maintain areas of archaeological importance as undisturbed open space over the next 10 years through the periodic inspection of these areas and works carried out where necessary to ensure that they do not scrub over and become wooded. These areas are currently mechanically cut for hay, but in the long term the possibility of grazing these areas will be investigated.

4.3 f4 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

A 6.47 hectare block of ancient semi-natural woodland exists to the north of the property and is composed of a variety of native species including oak, ash, birch, rowan and elder. The edges of this woodland are buffered by small areas of plantation most likely planted by a farmer probably as part of a farm woodland grant sometime over the past few decades.

The woodland contains a number of ancient woodland indicator species including blue bells, wood anemones, wood sorrel and dogs mercury. The blue bell display in spring is widespread and very attractive.

The woodland has a public right of way running through it with entrances in the north western and south eastern corners. It's relatively well used by local people and suffers occasionally from anti-social behaviour often in the form of camping, fires and resultant littering.

At points the path through the woodland is narrow, muddy and overgrown. This needs to be fully cut back periodically to ensure continued access for visitors.

Significance

Ancient woods and other places with an unbroken history of tree cover are uniquely valuable. Although diminished to a tiny fraction of their former extent, they are still widespread in our countryside, and occasionally in our towns. Many have been recorded on ancient woodland inventories, but others, often the smaller fragments, remain unidentified and as such are especially vulnerable to damage and destruction. The wildlife value of these natural heirlooms lies in the fact that their ecological communities have developed over a long period of time, with features accumulating over hundreds or thousands of years. The result is a complex and integrated system, but four key 'High Conservation Value' ancient woodland features can readily be identified:

- Old trees and deadwood – important in themselves and for the bats, insects, fungi, and lichens that live on them.
- Woodland flora – characterised by species that survive best in woodland conditions.
- Woodland soils – often undisturbed and home to some of the most hidden, but also most functionally important elements of a woodland's system such as mycorrhizal fungi.
- Human traces – some ancient and hidden among the trees, others from the present.

Because these features, by definition, take a very long time to develop, they also take a very long time to replace, if they can be replaced at all. That is why their protection is a priority.

Leicestershire itself is one of the least wooded counties in the UK, though the situation has improved somewhat markedly within the National Forest area; regardless ancient woodland habitat is a unique and rare habitat type within the county and for that reason alone the protection and enhancement of this block of very important woodland habitat must be a priority.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To protect and buffer a block of semi-natural ancient woodland which contributes significantly to the diversity and landscape character of the local area.

Constraint:

Ash forms a significant component of this woodland, ash die back is therefore a significant risk to the quality and structure of the woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Occasional vandalism and littering

Potential effect of ash dieback in the longer term resulting in damage to the ancient woodland habitat through significant loss of the ash component.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Over the next 50 years to see a well-structured, diverse and resilient ancient woodland habitat maintained along with all its associated animal and plant components. To minimise the impact as much as possible that of ash die back upon the ancient woodland habitat should it arise as an issue in the longer term.

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

To monitor the condition of the ancient woodland habitat on an annual basis over the following 5 years until the next plan review period. Care will be taken over the ash content, especially over the footpath that runs through the woodland. As the ash in the woodland decreases, light levels will increase and this may change the structure of the woodland. Any dangerous trees over the path will be removed as and when necessary and if the composition of the woodland changes drastically and there is insufficient natural regeneration of trees, under planting may have to be considered.

4.4 f5 Open Ground Habitat

Description

There are numerous pockets of open space across the whole area, particularly associated with areas of archaeology in compartments 1a, 1c and 6b. An open vista has been retained in compartment 1d looking out from the top of the hill across the lake, similarly compartment 4c has a block of open space facilitating a view point towards Ashby-de-la-Zouch. There is also a large area of open space of around nine hectares behind the lake which has been left as an undisturbed wildlife area and comprises compartment 5a. Significant swathes of open space also exist underneath powerlines in compartments 3a, 3b and 7b.

These areas are currently grassed with open access to the public bar compartment 5a which is set up to be an undisturbed wildlife area.

Significance

Open space on site is multifunctional providing habitat diversity, aesthetic and landscape diversity within the new woodland itself, protection for areas of archaeology and variety and diversity for the visitor.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To provide points of interest in terms of view-points and vistas at varying points on site particularly in compartments 1d looking out across the lake and in compartment 4c looking out towards Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

To provide habitat diversity, pertaining particularly to compartment 5a which is undisturbed wildlife habitat. There may be more opportunity here for wetland creation or enhancement of wildflower areas.

To provide nectar and seed rich wildflower areas for native pollinators and birds.

Constraints:

Open space at viewpoints and in archaeological areas as well as any open space that is publicly accessible needs to be cut regularly to ensure that it does not become scrubby and inaccessible to the public / inhibit the function of a localised area.

Factors Causing Change
Natural succession from open space in the form of grassland or wildflowers to scrub / woodland.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To preserve and enhance open space in the long term through regularly monitoring, maintenance, habitat improvement (wildflowers / wetland) and through careful and selective thinning of trees where necessary to preserve or enhance view-points.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>To monitor and maintain open space through an annual cutting regime as part of the Estates Management Contract over the next five years. This will be done in the autumn to allow flowering plants to seed and disperse.</p> <p>To investigate the practicalities for wetland creation / enhancement work in compartment 5a before the end of the plan period.</p> <p>To establish an improved wildflower area in compartment 6b once the wildflowers initially sown there have removed much of the areas fertility.</p> <p>Ragwort and thistles are present on site so we will undertake control of this noxious weed around the perimeter and anywhere where we may be able to improve hay production for biodiversity benefits. We will retain these plants elsewhere.</p>

4.5 f6 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description
<p>Access/Infrastructure</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood (QEDJW) is the Woodland Trust’s flagship site within the National Forest. Planted in 2012 - 2015 as part of the Jubilee Woods Project, celebrating the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The site comprises large areas of newly planted woodland, including the Royal Groves, with grassy rides that give extensive access; an area of ancient woodland at the top of the site, and a large lake with a bird hide and dipping platform. There are also some old hedgerows that pre-date the planting by the Woodland Trust.</p> <p>Sainsbury’s sponsored an area of QEDJW of approx. 10 hectares to create a ‘Paralympic Grove’ in honour of the 2012 Paralympic Games, and the Daily Mail was also a significant contributor to the woodland’s creation – their readers were able to sponsor a tree within a specific ‘Daily Mail Wood’ with numbered sub-compartments.</p> <p>The wood has a surfaced car park with a one-way system and a height barrier on entry. There are 5 disabled parking bays and space for two coaches too. The wood has a plethora of entrances, with various signage assemblages present at each. There are several PROW that cross the site, including the National Forest Way. A surfaced, all-weather gravelly path runs from the car park down towards the lake and back up again, and there are a further two way-marked trails for visitors. Other features of interest for visitors include a large visitor barn with interpretation panels providing information about the history and wildlife of the wood, a land art sculpture, a coin trail which also acts as an interactive rubbing trail for children, a large sundial installation and a photography plinth.</p> <p>The general condition of the site is good. On arrival it is obviously a Woodland Trust property, the car park looks well maintained and the paths and rides are on the whole fairly wide and welcoming. It is the only WT wood outside of the Destination Sites programme to hold a Visit England accreditation.</p>

General communication drivers

QEDJW is located in between the villages of Heather and Normanton-le-Heath in north-west Leicestershire. The villages of Ibstock and Ravenstone are also close by, as is the town of Coalville. The cities of Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and Birmingham are all within a 1 hour drive.

The features of the site that provide interest are as follows:

- The lake in the centre of the site acts as a natural focal point for visitors when walking around the wood. It attracts a variety of wetland bird species, including over-wintering European migrants.
- The various interpretation elements present across the site mean there is interest beyond the woodland habitats themselves, and this also helps to interpret some of the site's history and heritage, and encourages people to engage and connect with the site.
- There is a roman road present, Via Devana that runs through the site past the visitor barn. Links to the area's more recent history of mining are also present; the lake was formed from an old open-cast mine.
- The ancient woodland at the top of the site provides a great contrast to the newly planted woodland, and is home to some great woodland spp, such as bluebells and wood anenomes.
- The topography of QEDJW also allows for some excellent views across the surrounding landscape.

The current visitor offer at QEDJW reflects the Woodland Trust's more recent move to drive visitor numbers up at some of its key sites, and provide a higher quality, more engaging visitor offer that will encourage people to connect with woods and trees, to raise awareness of the Woodland Trust brand and cause messaging, and to increase our supporter and membership base. It sits well within the wider offer provided by the National Forest as a whole, and should continue to be invested in and developed going forward.

The Woodland Trust has 16 other sites within the National Forest, the closest being Willesley Wood. The National Forest covers 200 square miles of the Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire) and is transforming the landscape via woodland creation with the aim of linking the two ancient Forests of Charnwood on its Eastern fringe with Needwood Forest to its West. The National Forest Company is leading the creation of the forest, with a vast array of partners also contributing.

Events

Woodland Trust events have taken place at QEDJW on an ad hoc basis over a number of years. Initially, community planting days were delivered when the site was first established; these have been followed by other occasional activities such as family picnics and an outdoor cinema. In addition, the Friends of QEDJW group, run monthly walks at the wood which are open for all to attend.

Schools

As far as we are aware, the site is not currently used by schools, but there are many close by (although none within walking distance):

Heather Primary School, Ellistown Community Primary School, Ibstock Community College, St Denys C of E Infant School, Woodstone Community Primary School, Hugglescote Community Primary School, Newbridge High School, St Clare's Catholic Primary School, Packington C of E Primary School, Newton Burgoland Primary School

There are also a number of nurseries, play groups etc that operate locally

Wider community engagement

The community groups active in the local area are unknown and an internet search does not reveal much. However, the National Forest as a whole is an area of much community activity, and there are many local history and wildlife groups

that may be interested in connecting with the wood.

A short distance from QEDJW is Cattows Farm; which includes a farm shop, tea room/café, pick your own, and woodland walks through their newly planted wood. The Farm also host various events throughout the year, including family orientated sausage and cider festivals and the Ashby Show. Cattows Farm currently open and close the car park gates at QEDJW, and there is scope to develop our relationship with them much further in the future, to add value to our visitor offer at QEDJW, to cross promote one another, and to raise the profile of QEDJW and the Woodland Trust in the local area.

Significance

As the Woodland Trust's flagship site within the National Forest, QEDJW provides an important free, accessible woodland as part of the wider Forest landscape. The Woodland Trust has a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Forest Company, so sites such as QEDJW will remain a key part of our regional portfolio going forward. Queen Elizabeth makes an important contribution to the National Forest – the largest woodland under single ownership, which as a whole is a brilliant example of landscape scale change. 25 years ago the landscape was largely characterised by the remains of the once predominant open-cast mining industry, with very little woodland or accessible green space. Now the area has a plethora of thriving woods for both local communities and, increasingly, visiting tourists to enjoy.

The variety of interpretation features, along with the mix of habitats and associated wildlife, means that the offer at QEDJW is a varied one for visitors, and one that we should build on and develop, particularly with regard to action-orientated interpretation/information and our engagement programme.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

General Comms Drivers

Two extensions to the existing QEDJW site mean there will be a plethora of opportunities in the near future, from access improvements, community involvement through consultation and tree planting, profile/support raising for the Woodland Trust, an increased engagement programme and revised/extended interpretation. It will also offer opportunities to further strengthen our partnership with the National Forest Company.

Events

There is scope to really build on our events and engagement activities at QEDJW. A regular programme of high quality events throughout the year that link to our national comms propositions and provide inspiring experiences to connect people with woods and trees will raise our profile and supporter base in the area, and increase the likelihood of visitors subsequently giving time/money/voice to the WT.

Volunteering

Building the volunteer base (numbers and roles) at QEDJW would be very beneficial. Volunteer support for event delivery will be important, and the Friends Of group could play an important role in engaging with visitors to site and adding value to their experience. Additionally, more onsite tasks could be undertaken by volunteers, including maintenance of onsite infrastructure and basic practical management tasks.

It would also be great to have a network of Talking Trees speakers across the National Forest area.

Schools

Promotion of the GTSA to all local schools, along with promotion of our Woodland Trust sites within the National Forest.

Engagement through future planting activity on the acquisition land.

Wider community engagement

Continue to work with Cattows Farm and develop this relationship – scope for cross-promotion (we do this to a degree already), could re-explore improving pedestrian access between the two sites, could host joint events? Attendance at Cattows Farm events to increase profile locally.

Opportunity for local profile raising via the ongoing photography project associated with the photo legacy point onsite. The associated images used to be housed in a local museum but this has now closed. One of the volunteers has identified a potential new home for these in the Ravenstone Village Institute building – used by lots of other groups/individuals.

Promotion of wood via local community outlets; libraries, tourist info etc.

Constraints:

General Comms Drivers

We need to be mindful of all of the other activities/offers within the area of the National Forest, and be confident in what makes ours unique/different, or how we link in with others. Strong brand presence/awareness/market penetration may be more difficult to achieve.

Events

We need to be aware of what other activities are on offer locally to avoid competition.

The scale of events delivered will be dependent on our ability to use an overflow car parking area when needed.

Welcome Sites

Limited staff capacity and budget

Schools

Lack of onsite facilities will potentially be a barrier to engaging with schools onsite – shorter sessions, along with working with those that are closest to the wood would overcome this to a degree.

Staff capacity to invest the necessary time to build relationships with schools will be limited – development of self-led resources and delivery of teacher training/INSET days could overcome this.

Wider community engagement

Staff capacity to invest the time necessary to build relationships.

Factors Causing Change

The extensions to QEDJW will significantly change the scale of the site and the potential to increase visitor numbers/deepen connection of visitors to the site.

The National Forest Company are striving to realise the National Forest as a destination area within the midlands and the wider country, and has a strong emphasis on growing the tourism industry throughout the forest area. This may result in increased visits from further afield in future years, and we will need to anticipate and be ready for this in terms of our visitor experience and offer, and how we potentially package ourselves up with other nearby facilities.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

QEDJW will be a 'jewel in the crown' that is the National Forest. It will be a key visitor attraction within the area and will be enjoyed, valued and utilised by both local communities and those visiting the Forest from further afield. Strong links to Cattows Farm and nearby Sence Valley add value to our offer and provide an excellent day out for adults and children alike. A thriving volunteer group act as ambassadors for the Woodland Trust as well as undertaking a variety of activities on site. High quality interpretation and an annual engagement programme ensure we have a strong brand presence and the woodland acts as a hub for generating support, membership and connecting people with woods and trees.

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

Ensure the site's key wildlife, themes and stories are adequately highlighted onsite and online through the creation of an up-to-date interpretation plan for QEDJW.

Ensure a high quality visitor experience is maintained by continuing to invest in VE components, including:

- Update map and on-the ground waymarking, (including updating all onsite map panels), Dec 2021
- Update and reprint leaflet – distribute accordingly, Dec 2021
- Update various small signage elements – car park, no access, photo plinth etc, Dec 2021
- Create primary welcome hub at car park main entrance, with provision for seasonal/temporary/community info, 2021
- Review and update bird hide interpretation, 2021
- Review planting-related signage across site – update/replace as necessary, 2021

Maximise potential for connecting people activity, income generation etc associated with the new extensions via creation of comms and activity plan, 2020

Support Friends of Group to grow numbers, increase capacity to deliver activity on the ground, and promote walks, 2020

Promote QEDJW throughout local area, including re-establishing relationship with Cattows Farm for cross-promotion, and promotion of site and GTSA to local school, 2020 / ongoing

Regular maintenance of the footpath network and car park will be undertaken as well as ensuring the signage on site is up to date with current WT specifications and is clear, readable and welcoming.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	January
2020	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,	February
2020	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,	February
2020	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
2020	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,	March
2020	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	May
2020	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	July
2020	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	July
2020	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	July
2020	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	July
2020	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

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2020	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls etc	October
2020	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	November
2021	SL - H&S Signage	Provision of on-site signage both temporary and permanent to alert visitor to safety risks or measures	June
2021	SL - Emergency Safety Works	Works associated with unplanned emergency safety works, other than tree safety, such as repairs/restoration works after damage caused by storms / floods /landslips	June
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	July
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	July
2021	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
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2021	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	November
2021	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	December
2022	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	February
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,	March
2022	Building - Repairs & Maintenance		March
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	March
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
2022	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	March
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	April
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	April
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	May
2022	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	May
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
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,	May
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	May
2022	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	May
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	May

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2022	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	May
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,	May
2022	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	May
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	May
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	June
2022	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls etc	June
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	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,	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,	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,	June
2022	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	June

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	June
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	July
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	July
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,	July
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,	July
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	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,	August
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	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,	September
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
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,	October
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	October

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	October
2022	LC - Initial Site Clearance	Works associated with the clearance/removal of site debris / rubbish	October
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	October
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2022	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	The supply of trees/seeds for woodland creation sites	November
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	November
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2022	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	December
2023	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	January
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	January
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	January
2023	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	February
2023	PC - Other Pest / Animal Control	Works associated with wildlife control outside of deer / rabbits / squirrel	March
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	AW - Management Access Capital	Works associated with installing new or replacement management access infrastructure. Such as management access gates, vehicle bridges, fencing and surfacing works.	March
2023	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	March
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,	April
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	April
2023	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	April
2023	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	April
2023	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2023	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	May
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,	May
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,	May
2023	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	May
2023	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
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,	May

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	May
2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	May
2023	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	May
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,	July
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	July
2023	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	July
2023	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance 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,	August
2023	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	August
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	August
2023	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points,	August

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	
2023	SL - H&S Signage	Provision of on-site signage both temporary and permanent to alert visitor to safety risks or measures	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,	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,	September
2023	PE - Events - Contractor/Provider	The provision of an external event provider or contractor to support events/activities/guided walks	September
2023	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	October
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2024	SL - Emergency Safety Works	Works associated with unplanned emergency safety works, other than tree safety, such as repairs/restoration works after damage caused by storms / floods /landslips	January
2024	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	January
2024	SL - Tree Safety Inspections	The provision of external consultants/contractors to provide specialist tree safety related advice / inspections – such as climbing inspections	January
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	January
2024	SL - Emergency Safety Works	Works associated with unplanned emergency safety works, other than tree safety, such as repairs/restoration works after damage caused by storms / floods /landslips	January
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	January

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2024	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	January
2024	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	January
2024	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	January
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2024	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	February
2024	PE - Events - General	Provision of materials needed to support a WT event / guided walk such as refreshments / shelters / mobile toilets	March
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,	May
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,	July
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
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,	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	AW - Management Access Capital	Works associated with installing new or replacement management access infrastructure. Such as management access gates, vehicle bridges, fencing and surfacing works.	July
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	July
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	July
2024	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	August
2024	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls 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,	August
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	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,	September
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2024	NWH - Initial Creation Work	Works associated with the creation of new non-woodland habitats such as ponds , ground prep and seeding of grassland areas etc	November
2024	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	December
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	28.29	Mixed native broadleaves	2012	Wood establishment	Archaeological features	National Forest
<p>Former arable fields purchased from the National Forest Company in October 2012. The sub-compartment contains a number of hedgerows with mature trees and the car park which is located on the southern boundary off Heather Lane. A Romano British settlement dating from the 2nd Century AD straddles the eastern boundary of the compartment and is partially within the Queen Elizabeth site and partially on neighbouring farm land. The Via Devana (Colchester / Chester) Roman Road follows the public right of way that runs along the northern boundary of the sub-compartment. Three former horse-ponds (some seasonal) are also located within this sub-compartment along the line of existing hedgerows; two on the southern boundary and one to the north of the compartment on a junction between three hedgerows. These ponds were assessed for Great Crested Newt in 2012 as part of planning applications for the construction of the car park but no Great Crested Newts were found. An area planted by John Craven and Julia Bradbury (with help from local fire crews and young farmers girls) as part of a Countryfile episode aired in November 2012 is also located in compartment 1a (south eastern corner of the site). This area is marked by an oak post with a metal plaque unveiled by John and Julia as part of the episode. This compartment also sits within the Daily Mail sponsored area. Sub-compartment 1a was planted predominantly within rabbit fencing although some areas surrounding the car park were planted in tree shelters with stakes.</p>						
1b	16.2	Mixed native broadleaves	2012	Wood establishment	Archaeological features	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment lies to the south west of the site. The sub-compartment is divided into two by the line of a public footpath that follows the line of the Via Devana Roman Road. Previously arable fields, this area was planted with native broad leaved trees in Autumn 2012. The southern section below the public footpath was protected by tree shelters and the northern section above the public footpath by rabbit-proof fencing. A permissive footpath links the car park with the Jubilee Groves representing years 1952 to 1981. A public footpath runs from the Heather Lane-The Hollow crossroads north-eastwards and forms the northern boundary of the sub-compartment.</p>						
1c	27.14	Mixed native broadleaves	2013	Wood establishment	Archaeological features	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment lies between the line of the Roman Road to the south and the former open cast mining area now restored to the north and east. Incorporated into the planting blocks are a number of hedges/field divides of varying antiquity. The native trees planted in this sub-compartment in Spring 2013 were protected by rabbit-proof fencing. Approximately 3 hectares has remained unplanted as it co-insides with a designated archaeological area where a number of important finds from the Romano-British period were unearthed. This sub-compartment is crossed by two surfaced paths which take visitors from the car park to the large pond in the north-eastern sector of the site. It is also part of the larger area of the site which was sponsored by the Daily Mail.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1d	14.47	Mixed native broadleaves	2012	Wood establishment	Landscape factors	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment occupies the south-western sector of the restored open-cast mining area. The land slopes from the highest point along its western boundary down to the pond and is traversed by a number of drainage ditches running across the slope. Because of the very nature of the restoration the soils are thin and are prone to water-logging, consequently the variation in the species selection of native broadleaves was determined by the ground conditions. The sub-compartment was planted in tree shelters in Autumn 2012 and is also part of the larger area of the site which was sponsored by the Daily Mail.</p>						
1e	7.12	Mixed native broadleaves	2013	Wood establishment	Landscape factors	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment has very similar characteristics to sub-compartment 1d. However the land immediately to the north of the footpath between the viewpoint on the highest part of the site and the lake is taken up by the Diamond Jubilee Groves 2007 – 2012. The whole sub-compartment was planted with native broadleaves in tree shelters in 2013. The species selection reflects the variation in ground conditions.</p>						
1f	5.45	Mixed native broadleaves	2012	Wood establishment	Landscape factors	National Forest
<p>During consultation with local people and interested groups prior to acquisition of the site, there was a desire expressed that there should be an area set aside as a wildlife refuge where access to people and dogs would be restricted. As a consequence the two sub-compartments to the south and east of the lake 1f and 5a were selected to fulfill this purpose. In contrast to sub-compartment 5a almost the whole of 1f was planted with trees, the open areas restricted to the lakeside margins. As much of this sub-compartment has a high water-table, wet-ground species such as alders and willows are in a higher proportion than elsewhere on site. There is a bird observation hide in the north of this sub-compartment which overlooks the lake and the open space in sub-compartment 5a.</p>						
2a	5.78	Mixed native broadleaves	2013	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment is on the western edge of the site and has a public footpath as its eastern boundary. The planting design was constrained by the 11kv powerline which divides the sub-compartment into two along the south west - north east axis. It was planted with native broadleaves in 2013 and has Diamond Jubilee groves 1982-1993 within it. It has two former horse-ponds along its western boundary.</p>						
2b	7.17	Mixed native broadleaves	2013	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	National Forest

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>This sub-compartment is on the western edge of the site and has Springfield Lane along its northern boundary. It has two significant ponds, one in its centre and the other larger one in its south eastern corner. Like sub-compartment 2a the design was constrained by an 11kv powerline which has been left as open ground. It was planted with native broadleaves in 2013 and has Diamond Jubilee groves 1994-2006 within it.</p>						
2c	1.44	Mixed native broadleaves	1995	High forest		National Forest
<p>This small sub-compartment was already a planted woodland of mixed native broadleaves when the site was acquired by the Woodland Trust. Judging by the size and form of the trees it was probably planted 20 years ago. It lies between the newly planted woodland of 2b and School/Springfield Lane. There is no provision for public access within this sub-compartment.</p>						
3a	14.07	Mixed native broadleaves	2013	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	National Forest
<p>This large sub-compartment has Springfield Lane as its north-western boundary and the major surfaced track which extends north east from the lake to the northern extremity of the site as its south-eastern boundary. Although within the former British Coal restored landscape it does not have the degree of ground disturbance that occurred to the land south of it. However the design and planting of the woodland was severely constrained by a double set of 11kv powerlines which divide the sub-compartment into two along its north west - south east axis. The land beneath and adjacent to the powerlines will be left as open ground. Informal public access is also constrained by a number of drainage ditches which traverse the sub-compartment. The southern half of the sub-compartment below the powerlines is a part of the "Dedicate a Tree" zone, the northern half being sponsored by Sainsbury's and forming part of "Sainsbury' Wood".</p>						
3b	9.9	Mixed native broadleaves	2013	Wood establishment	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	National Forest
<p>This complicated, roughly Y-shaped sub-compartment occupies much of the north-eastern part of the site. The southern and north- eastern limbs were severely affected by the infrastructure of the former open-cast mine in that they contained buildings, fuelling, storage and extraction routes. As with sub-compartment 3a the planting design was constrained by a double set of 11kv powerlines. The north-western limb is sandwiched between the current planting and the secondary woodland of the southern extension of Normanton Wood. This sub-compartment is sponsored by Sainsbury's and form part of "Sainsbury's Wood".</p>						
3c	6.47	Mixed native broadleaves	1850	High forest		National Forest

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>This was the larger of two blocks of woodland which existed prior to the acquisition of the site by the Trust. The area known as Normanton Wood can be divided into two. The southern half is mixed secondary woodland of no more than 50 years on abandoned agricultural land. The northern half, although designated as ancient in the Ancient Woodland Register, has medieval ridge and furrow and therefore probably became woodland in the 18th Century after the Enclosure Act for this locality. Both areas of woodland have a broad spectrum of both tree species and ground flora. There is a public footpath which runs from the north eastern corner of the ancient woodland to Springfield Lane in the south western corner of the more recent secondary woodland. The woodland contains a variety of ancient woodland indicator species such as blue bells, wood anemones, dogs mercury and wood sorrel; the blue bells putting on a particularly impressive display in the spring.</p>						
4a	7.82	Mixed native broadleaves	2011	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	National Forest
<p>This is the most northerly of the sub-compartments purchased and planted by the National Forest Company in 2011. It was subsequently transferred to Woodland Trust ownership in 2012. The native broadleaves were both planted in rabbit fenced enclosures and in the relative open protected by tree shelters. The land slopes down from the higher ground in the east and consequently the ground condition varies from dry in the east to wetter in the west which is reflected in the species choice for the different locations. The northern boundary runs along the edge of an old sunken green lane, designated as a BOAT (By-way open to all traffic), which links the adjacent villages of Ravenstone to the east and Packington to the west.</p>						
4b	15.64	Mixed native broadleaves	2014	Wood establishment		National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment was originally two rectilinear fields which now form the bulk of the site north of School Lane. The planting was planned by the National Forest Company but was transferred to Woodland Trust ownership in 2012. The wetter lower section of the sub-compartment is due to be planted in 2014 and the drier upper section east of the public footpath in 2015. Areas close to the western boundary will be left unplanted to encourage the development of wetland plant habitats. There is a public right of way which traverses the sub-compartment together with permissive grassed footpaths.</p>						
4c	9.68	Mixed native broadleaves	2013	Wood establishment		National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment occupies the higher south eastern section of the site north of School Lane planned by the National Forest Company when in their ownership in 2011 but subsequently passed to the Woodland Trust in 2012. Small areas were planted in 2011 and 2012 but the bulk of the planting took place in 2013. The rounded summit of the ridge in the SE corner is due to be left unplanted apart from a few "parkland" trees so as to preserve the excellent views north-westwards towards Ashby and beyond. Permissive footpaths fan out from the entrance off School Lane to provide access to the rest of the compartment 4.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
5a	8.78	Open ground	2012	Non-wood habitat		National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment lies between the lake and the eastern boundary of the site which follows the line of Blowers Brook; a rough stoned bridle path constructed by UK Coal in 2013 runs along the edge of this boundary in a southerly direction. This is the lowest and wettest part of the site and contains a number of water filled scrapes. Only small areas along the northern boundary were planted with trees and the plan is to leave the bulk of the sub-compartment as open ground for the development of undisturbed wetland wildlife habitat. As with sub-compartment 1f which lies to the south 5a is fenced to discourage public access so as to maintain the sub-compartment as a refuge for wildlife.</p>						
6a	12.5	Mixed native broadleaves	2020	Wood establishment		
<p>This compartment has been created with financial assistance from a large corporate sponsor. It also is being used to demonstrate the effectiveness of 4 different seed mixes in the pre-planting grass and wildflower mixes. Planted with a mix of native broad leaves but at a higher density than the rest of the site and with considerably more oak, the plan is that this compartment will be a commercial woodland once established.</p>						
6b	32.21	Mixed native broadleaves	2020	Wood establishment		
<p>A large sub-compartment making up the bulk of this compartment. It comprises the high ground of area and a gentle slope down into a shallow valley. Mixed native broad leaves are planted with a variable density, from 5m spacings at the edges to 2.5m spacings in the center of the blocks. There is a large area of open ground in the south of the compartment, under which lies the remains of what is believed to be a roman building.</p>						
6c	6.37	Mixed native broadleaves	2020	Wood establishment		
<p>This sub compartment lies in the bottom of a shallow valley and borders the Gilwiskaw Brook, a tributary of the river Mease. It is a riparian zone, experiencing seasonal flooding and has been planted as such. Work with the Trent Rivers Trust has gone on here to create a series of bunds to slow the flow of soil and nutrients into the brook.</p>						
7a	15.77	Mixed native broadleaves	2021	Wood establishment		
<p>This sub-compartment forms the bulk of compartment 7 and is planted at a higher density with more oaks present and will be managed with commercial objectives in mind. The bulk of the compartment lies within a rabbit fenced enclosure, although there are two areas, in the north-west and north-east, where the newly planted trees will be protected using deer guards.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
7b	14.76	Mixed native broadleaves	2021	Wood establishment		
<p>This sub-compartment was named Francis' Reserve after a legacy donor who left a substantial legacy in their will. It will be a quiet area with minimum intervention. Planted within the fence shared with 7a, this northern part is surrounded by existing woodland and there was much evidence of badgers at the time of planting. It is hoped that it will be a quiet space for nature.</p>						
7c	0.8	Mixed broadleaves	1995	High forest		
<p>A small stand existing prior to the trusts ownership of the site. Broad leaved trees in secondary woodland, there is no provision for public access within this compartment.</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.

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.