

Sutton Poyntz Top Wood Management Plan 2020 – 2026

Prepared by the Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group.
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1 INTRODUCTION

The Sutton Poyntz Top Wood (hereafter referred to as 'the woodland') forms part of unit no.13 of the White Horse Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is also part of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The majority of the SSSI comprises of chalk downland but geological activity has created a major fault-line in the sedimentary layers which gives rise to a series of springs combining to form the river Jordan.

The woodland encompasses the river as it flows from near the bottom of the escarpment with about thirty percent of the woodland being permanently wet with the remainder on slightly higher ground.

The woodland is owned by Wessex Water and has been managed for the last 10 years on their behalf by the Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group. The purpose of formalising this management plan is to agree with Wessex Water and Natural England a set of objectives for this woodland. The period for this management plan has been set at 6 years, as opposed to the normal 5 years to allow time for the second 5 yearly condition assessment of the woodland to be conducted; and so allow the results of this assessment to inform the next management plan.

2 SITE OVERVIEW

2.1 Location, Ownership & Access

The woodland is approx. 0.65 hectare in area and is situated to the north of the Wessex Water's Water Treatment Works at SY 706 840 (Figure 1).

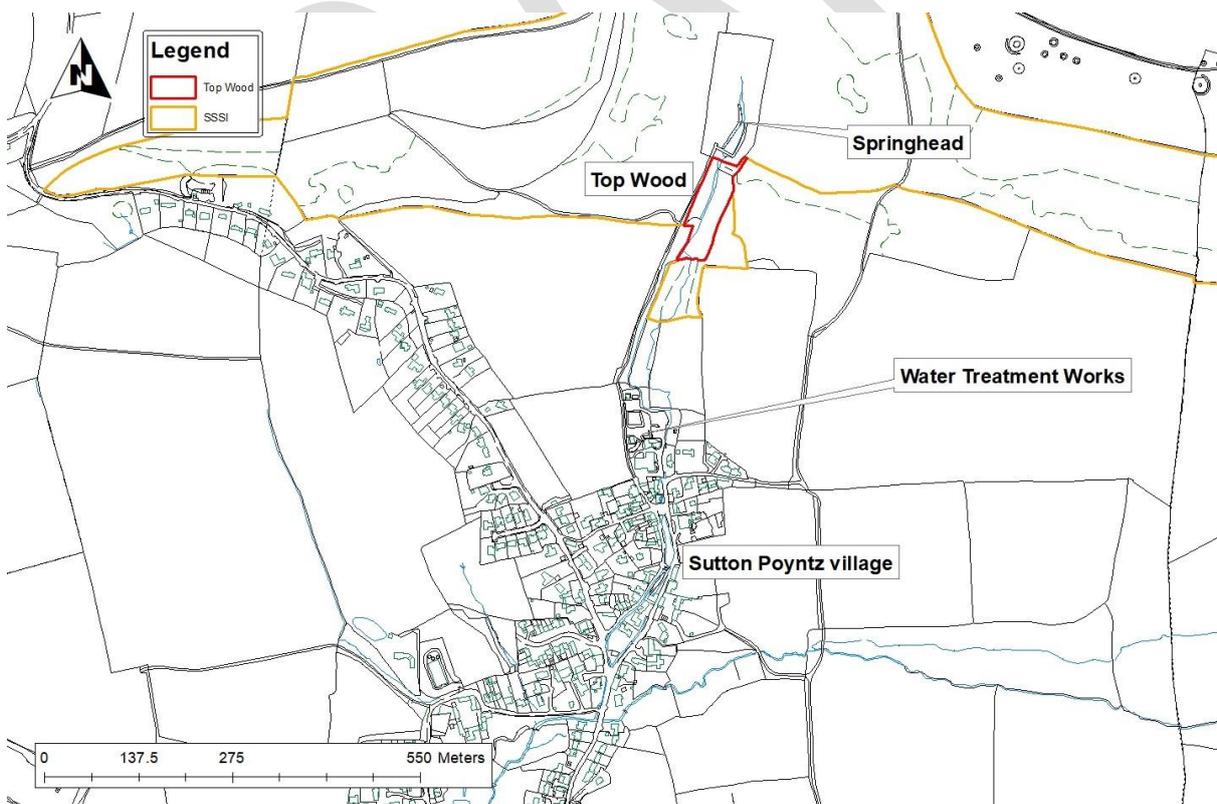


Figure 1: Location of Sutton Poyntz Top Wood

Wessex Water extract water from the spring that arises on the escarpment to provide a large proportion of the water supply to Weymouth. The woodland was procured by Wessex Water when the local farm was broken up for sale some 20 years ago in order to provide some protection and control over this locally important water supply.

There is no public access within the woodland. A conscious decision has been taken by Natural England and Wessex Water to not allow public access as it has suffered in the past from trespass and anti-social behaviour. It is hoped that limited guided walks for the local community can be contemplated in the future if a suitable path is established.

A Public Right of Way runs near to the woodland on its western side, and the land immediately west of the woodland has open public access by virtue of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

2.2 Historical Management

The earliest written records for the woodland come from the Weld Estate Survey dated 1795. In this it is referred to Higher Coppice. The Tythe map in 1838 refers to the same area as "Withy Bed" which could cover willow, hazel or ash. The earliest verbal record comes from the local Saunders family who took over the farm including this woodland in 1907 which at that time was reported to be a hazel coppice in poor condition. The woodland was then managed by the family by coppicing to mainly provide for the upkeep of thatched properties in the village and fuel. It is clear from these that the woodland has been managed for in excess of 200 years.

As the woodland has been managed for in excess of 200 years it has been categorised as "ancient" [1] particularly when the age of some of the trees and the presence of other indicator species such as butcher's broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) is taken into consideration. However regular coppicing ceased some 40 years ago and the hazel stools have outgrown their strength and are now falling and not regenerating.

The chalk stream that runs north to south through the woodland is constrained along most of its length by a man-made bank constructed about 250 years ago to lift the water feed as the water mill in the village was converted from an under-shoot to over-shoot design. This is consistent with the age of several coppiced trees on the bank. Some 10 years ago the stream breached the bank and has spread into the lower ground towards the southerly end of the wood. Even with the diverted flow at the northerly end the lower lying section through the centre of the woodland is permanently flooded.

2.3 Current Management

For the last 10 years the woodland has been managed by a local group with the agreement of Wessex Water and Natural England. The fencing around the woodland was renewed 10 years ago to create a conservation area with adjoining land to the south. This didn't prove to be particularly effective at preventing extensive trespassing and vandalization. The local group are systematically reinforcing the boundary by dead hedging and layering where possible. This has substantially reduced the trespass although there are still vulnerable areas.

Since the Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group has taken over management, restricted coppicing has been slowly extending the life of the existing coppice stools whilst maintaining the extensive tree canopy. This has helped retain a wet shaded environment in the lower section of the woodland to retain extensive range of fungi. Deer browsing has been a particular problem with newly coppiced stools. As standard practice, protective baskets, made from coppiced timber and brush, are now constructed around all newly coppiced stools.

2.4 Future Proposals

Following recommendations in the National Environment Programme River Jordan Investigation Report (May 2018) Wessex Water is proposing that the river be realigned within the woodland. The investigation determined that the section of the river which is contained within a historical mill leat within the woodland is a modified geomorphology. It is proposed that this section will be realigned to the natural floodplain channel to improve connectivity between the river and the wet woodland SSSI, and improve the ecological quality within the river as whole.

The project, due to begin implementation in summer 2023, will involve the restoration of approximately 100m section of channel in the upper part of the woodland immediately below the springhead. The existing mill leat bank will be breached at the most northerly point within the woodland and the channel realigned to a more natural channel in the wet woodland below. It is expected that a natural meandering channel, roughly following the line of the dry river bed (Figure 2 below), would develop and would be fed by the main flow but would also be joined by the lower spring sets that currently ensure this historical channel is rarely dry. An example of the expected results of this realignment can be seen at the southern end of the woodland, where the river, of its own accord, breached the mill leat bank approximately 10 years ago. In addition to the natural wet woodland stream habitat created, the realignment has the potential to attenuate higher flows from the springs reducing the peak flow during possible flooding periods and remove a retreating nick point from a small waterfall in the channel.

Please note that this management plan is not asking Natural England for its approval for this realignment project, that will be requested through the normal channels. It is simply that should this proposed project go ahead it will impact the woodland during the period of this management plan and therefore needs to be considered in the proposed management plan.

2.4 Designations

2.4.1 Statutory Designations

The woodland forms part of unit 13 of the White Horse Hill SSSI. This 3 ha SSSI unit contains a wide variety of habitat types. Overall the compartment is designated as lowland calcareous grassland and has been classified as unfavourable – recovering when it was recently inspected on 4th November 2019.

The SSSI designation provides legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Written consent under Section 28(E) of the Act must be obtained from Natural England prior to implementing any management listed on the list of ‘operations likely to damage the special interest’. This includes, but is not limited to, activities such as burning, the introduction of or changes in stock feeding practice, cutting of trees and shrubs, changes in intensity of grazing regime and the release of any wild plant or seed. Where works require consent, they must be undertaken in accordance with the specifications provided in the application and must comply with all conditions of the Section 28 consent.

The woodland is also included within Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within the Sutton Poyntz Conservation Area.

2.4.2 Non-statutory Designations

The woodland is part of a Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (Surface Water). These are catchment areas that influence the water quality for their respective Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface Water), which are at risk of failing the drinking water protection objectives.

These non-statutory Safeguard Zones are where action to address water contamination will be targeted, so that extra treatment by water companies can be avoided. Safeguard Zones are one of the main tools for delivering the drinking water protection objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

2.5 Main habitats

Overall the woodland is a mixed deciduous wood with a number of veteran trees forming a complex mosaic of W6: alder-nettle wet woodland and W8: ash-field maple-dog's mercury woodland [2].

There is broadly an even mix of coppiced hazel stools on the drier ground and goat willow (*Salix caprea*) in the wetter areas interspersed with ash of varying age. There are 6 trees which have been assessed as having features of veteran status: 1 pedunculate oak, 2 field maple and 3 ash (Figure 2). There are clearings to the north and south of the wood. The northern one has a small naturally occurring water filled scrape. The one to the south is kept clear as a small power cable crosses the site and is semi-flooded from the stream backing up from a small weir formed by an old wall.

The drier areas of the woodland on the sloping sides on either side of the stream most closely resemble W8: ash-field maple-dog's mercury woodland from the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) scheme. There are two butchers broom shrubs and a few clumps of hart's-tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) present. The more recently planted mixed deciduous woodland on the upper terrace to the north west of the woodland does not have any close affinity with any of the NVC classifications.

The wet lower areas are closer to the W6: alder-nettle wet woodland, however there is no alder present, other than that recently planted on the western boundary. The predominant tree species present in the wetter areas is goat willow. The woodland is heavily shaded, with a dense canopy, providing good conditions for fungi, the most interesting being several colonies of scarlet elf cup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*). The extra light in the southern clearing has enabled a good covering of yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) with other species such as marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), dog's-mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and opposite-leaved golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*).



Figure 2: Overall woodland structure and proposed access path.

2.6 Notable current and historic records

Regular wildlife surveys have been carried out by the Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group over the last 10 years as part of wider surveys of the area, as well as bat surveys by a specialist contractor on behalf of Wessex Water in 2011.

The bat surveys have recorded frequent use of the water course and adjacent tree canopy for feeding by a number of species of bat. Of particular interest are the records of *Myotis sp.* which are believed to be roosting locally given the time that these bats have been recorded on site relative to sunset. So far records we have records for common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*), Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*), whiskered (*M. mystacinus*), daubenton (*M. daubentonii*), brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*), serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*) and most recently barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*).

Monthly bird surveys have been carried out at 6 reference points on the surrounding Wessex Water land with one outside but close to the woodland. Over the last 5 years an additional reference point has been included within the woodland. These surveys support anecdotal evidence that bird activity, both nesting and feeding, is associated predominantly with the outer margins of the woodland and clearings. The main use of the interior is restricted to nesting by raptors, such as sparrowhawk, high in the ash in the central area. It is also probable that tawny owl roost in the larger trees given their early emergence regularly recorded during bat surveys.

The woodland is used by some larger mammals e.g. fox, badger and deer mainly for the water supply and shelter, with an additional and rare record of polecat being recorded by a remote camera.

Recent surveys for fungi have identified 10 species present in the woodland, including scarlet elf cup.

The group has recently signed up to the Extended River Fly Initiative to monitor freshwater invertebrates in the stream on a monthly basis which will have the additional benefit of monitoring water quality.

2.7 Soil and Geology

The presence of a major fault line in the chalk downland means there is a complex mix of geology in the woodland. The rich loam from years of rotting vegetation is underpinned by a thin layer of alluvial sediments on top of Kimmeridge clay. The river is currently under-cutting the hard alluvial plane into the soft Kimmeridge clay causing the stream bed to drop by about one metre. The drop in level is moving by several metres a year up towards spring basin.

2.8 Aspect and Topography

The woodland is on the lower southern flank of the downland, sheltered from the north, east and west by the topography of the valley.

The terrain of the woodland is complex; the bulk of the stream still flows along a manmade channel which is higher than the central area which is permanently wet, fed by run off from surrounding hills and some smaller springs. Either side of the wet area the ground rises steeply by some 10-15m and generally becomes much drier.

2.9 Connectivity and Surrounding Land Use

The woodland is connected directly with the calcareous grassland of the escarpment to the north and to the fen field and other meadows immediately to the south by the River Jordan that runs north to south through all of them.

There are also strong connections further afield, through the hedgerows that emanate from the woodland and crisscross the farmland that is extensive throughout the area. The ridge to the north of the woodland and its designation as a SSSI also ensures it is managed for the benefit of biodiversity and so will provide wider connections along the length of the ridge.

The arable and downland to the west is currently tenant farmed by a local farmer principally for grazing sheep with silage taken as a crop from the lower fields. The downland and associated gorse scrub is grazed by sheep. The downland supports a sizeable range of species of butterflies with a good population of Lulworth skippers. The gorse supports a small population of linnets although this is much smaller than 10 years ago when the gorse was much more extensive.

3 MANAGEMENT AIM

The overall long-term aim is to apply sensitive management practices with a view to enhance the biodiversity and improve the SSSI status.

Specific objectives are:

1. To improve the biodiversity of the woodland.
2. To achieve a better woodland structure by:
 - a. re-establishing a coppicing cycle of the hazel stools,
 - b. managing the boundaries by hedge laying where appropriate, and
 - c. managing the woodland, in order to return to the historic use of the woodland as a wood source for the local community, but ensuring sufficient deadwood remains (consistent with objective 1)
3. Managing the recently planted mixed deciduous woodland with the long term aim of it developing into hazel coppice with standards, similar to the drier areas of the existing mature woodland.

The Favourable Condition Tables for the SSSI unit do not include criteria that relate to the woodland. It was therefore agreed with Natural England that these objectives will be informed by habitat condition assessments, see Section 7 below, which are based largely on the Wessex Water standard habitat condition assessment criteria and will be carried out every five years. However, since the woodland is relatively small and due to the underlying geology resulting in a range conditions from permanently wet areas to drier areas on the higher ground, the condition assessment criteria has been simplified and adapted to ensure the assessment is useful and appropriate.

The specific attributes and targets are detailed in section 8.

4 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Please refer to the Tabulated Annual Management Work Plan at Section 5 when reading the primary and secondary management activities, below.

4.1 Primary

1. Create and maintain a circular access path (Figure 2) using construction techniques appropriate to the terrain and the level of access required. This could be carried out in phases with priority in the wetter areas. The need for an access path is essential to minimise damage to the terrain as well providing safer access for management work, particularly in the wetter areas.
2. Conduct habitat condition assessments of the woodland every 5 years following the assessment methodology below. The habitat condition assessments will be used to review management progress and inform the next 5 year management plan. Two assessments should be conducted every 5 years: one of the mature ash and wet woodland areas, and a second of the recently planted mixed deciduous woodland. The assessments have been separated in this way as the prescriptions for the different areas of woodland may be substantially different given the different stages in establishment and age. It is also not expected that the mixed deciduous woodland will meet many of the targets within the habitat condition assessment for quite a long time as it is establishing, but we would not want the results of the mature woodland to be negatively affected by this.
3. Carry out a limited cycle of coppicing 5-6 hazel stools each winter. This will enable the wet lower sections to remain largely shaded, with only the hazel growth on the higher banks to be managed to increase the life of these stools. Protect newly coppiced stools from deer grazing.
4. Lay sections of the hedge along the boundaries and maintain dead hedging to restrict access into the woodland. Where possible, hedge laying can use the hazel stools that have been cut back to ground level to provide access for the recent re-fencing. The entire site boundary will be managed over the period of this management plan.
5. Establish a more intensive green audit to monitor the improvement in the biodiversity of the woodland. This will include the continuation of the monthly bird and regular aquatic invert surveys; and where possible could also include an evaluation of potential bat roosting sites to be carried out by a suitable licence holder, terrestrial invertebrates, fungi and lichen surveys. It is noted that fungi and lichens are particularly slow to respond to change and therefore their use as a measure of the short term success of the management would not be effective.
6. Utilise fixed point photography to build up a visual record of the changes to vegetation and structure of the woodland over time. Positions for the fixed point photography are shown on Figure 2. The fixed point photography will form part of the management plan review.

4.2 Secondary

1. Create wildlife refuges (one per annum) distributed throughout the woodland using some of the cut timber. Refuges should be constructed using a variety of designs including large, dense piles as well as vertical logs sunk into the ground. Ensure that some fallen timber remains to encourage biodiversity whilst not restricting access.
2. Erect and maintain bird and bat boxes to encourage re-establishing wildlife in the more central parts of the woodland. Suggested bird species to target with bird boxes are:
 - a. Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*),
 - b. Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*),

- c. Spotted flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*),
- d. Tawny owl (*Strix aluco*).

3. Create a management process to use the cut timber within the village community for fuel, bean sticks etc. This would bring the management of the woodland back to its historic usage. Maintain records of the quantity of useful timber provided.
4. Allow the recently planted woodland to establish and develop. Consider thinning of some of the trees if there are signs of the growth of trees being limited as result of overcrowding.

Adaptive management principles will be followed so, for example, if the fixed-point photographs identify a management requirement or that current management is resulting in unintended consequences, management will be amended. Amendments will be agreed in writing to Wessex Water. Wessex Water will agree these amendments with Natural England.

The management outcomes will be reviewed summer/autumn 2025 and used to inform the 2026-2031 five-year plan.

5 TABULATED ANNUAL MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN

Prescription	2020				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025			
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter																				
Primary																								
1. Maintenance of access path				*				*				*				*				*				*
2. Condition assessments	*																				*			
3. Coppicing cycle			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*
4. Lay hedge on boundary			*	*											*	*								
5a. Invert survey of stream	*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*		
5b. Monthly bird surveys	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6. Fixed point photography	*				*				*				*				*				*			
Secondary																								
1. Create wildlife refuges			*				*				*				*				*				*	
2. Install and maintain bat and bird boxes			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*
3. Management of wood resources			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*			*	*
4. Review growth in recently planted area												*												*

6 ONE-OFF CAPITAL WORKS

An informal circular path through the woodland has been formed by the Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group (Figure 2). Due to the nature of the woodland there are several sections of this path that cross wet or boggy areas that are liable to flooding. In these wetter areas short sections of timber (from the coppicing works) have been placed across the path to form an informal boardwalk. A sleeper has been placed across the river at the southern end of the woodland to form a bridge. It has been washed away in the past, though then found and returned.

It is hoped that if funding can be secured early during the period covered by this management plan, that a more formal boardwalk can be constructed in the wetter areas of the woodland to replace the now rotting timber. Initially these works would be focused at the southern end of the woodland where the impact of the proposed river realignment project is expected to have less impact. Once the realignment of the river has been achieved and the path of the new channel has been established the need for a second boardwalk will be assessed, and, if needed, it's hoped that this could be constructed towards the end of this management period.

7 CONDITION ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The aim of the habitat condition assessments is to gain a good overview of the condition of the whole woodland using a simple assessment process. The initial condition assessment surveys will allow a base line against which future surveys can be compared, will assist in identifying any further management requirements for this management period and will allow a judgement to be made of whether the management aims (Section 3) are being met.

The woodland will be split into two sections for the condition assessment, the mature ash and wet woodland (this covers 'wet woodland', 'ash woodland' and 'hazel stools' in Figure 2) and the more recently planted mixed deciduous woodland ('mixed broadleaf woodland' in Figure 2). Each section will have its own separate condition assessment.

Each habitat condition assessment consists of two parts, an overall visual assessment of the woodland and a more detailed survey of five randomly selected quadrats; both parts should be conducted during the same visit where possible. Fixed point photography, taken at least annually in the first week of April, will be used to support the habitat condition assessments and provide a visual overview of the changes in the woodland over time. The positions for the fixed point photography, together with the directions the photographer should face when taking the photos, are shown in Figure 2.

7.1 Timing

The condition assessment should be conducted any time between mid-March and July; with the optimal time being mid-April to the end of May. The habitat condition assessment data is to be provided to Wessex Water within two months of completion of the survey.

7.2 Visual Assessment

The visual assessment consists of a structured walk. The structured walk for the mature ash and wet woodland follows the proposed access route through the woodland. The structured walk for the more recently planted mixed deciduous woodland as shown on Figure 2. Along the entire length of each structured walk the surveyor will make an assessment of the attributes detailed in the table below. It may also be necessary to inspect other features of the woodland, e.g. the boundary hedgerows, that may not be readily visible from the access path.

7.3 Quadrats

Survey five randomly selected quadrats, measuring 4 m x 4 m, for each of the two condition assessments (10 quadrats in total). Record the location of each quadrat using at least an eight-figure grid reference.

Although random, the quadrats within the 'mature ash and wet woodland' should cover the main woodland habitat types. The ground flora and understorey in each quadrat is to be searched for the presence of the positive and negative indicator species as shown in the table below (Section 8). Record all species present in each quadrat. The canopy layer should not be included in the quadrat surveys.

The indicator species given in the table below (Section 8) represent indicator species for both ash woodland and wet woodland. As the Sutton Poyntz Top Wood is such a small and complex woodland, rather than trying to delineate between the two habitats and running two separate condition assessments we have combined the indicator species and targets for both habitats so that the list accommodates whichever habitat (or habitat mosaic) the quadrat lands in.

8 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Attribute	Target	Notes
Extent of habitat	100% retained	Mapped (visual assessment) during each assessment and compared to previous time.
Structure: understorey	Between 5 & 20% total area understorey / scrub	Visual assessment completed during structured walk and comparison using fixed point photography
Structure: canopy cover	10-20% open canopy	Visual assessment completed during structured walk and comparison using fixed point photography
Structure: coppice stools	100% of coppice stools in 15 year rotational management	Visual assessment completed during structured walk. Note that as most of the coppice stools have not been managed for approx. 40 years this target is not currently being met. As the management of the woodland progresses the intention is that all the coppice stools will come within the rotational management, but this may not be possible within the first 15 years, due to the additional work required to bring the trees back into coppicing, and the need to not overly change the nature of the woodland in a relatively short period of time.
Structure: boundary hedges	Western and eastern boundary hedges to be thick and continuous to deter informal recreation	Visual assessment
Natural processes: age structure	Mature / over-mature trees at least occasional	Visual assessment Do not include coppice stools in this target.
Natural processes: regeneration	Saplings or young trees at least occasional	At least 2 in 5 quadrat stops. Do not include coppice regeneration in this target.
Deadwood	Fallen deadwood >5cm diameter at least occasional; standing/hanging	Fallen deadwood: At least 2 in 5 quadrat stops. Standing/hanging deadwood: present in at least 1 of the 5 quadrat stops

	deadwood present (if safe)	
Composition: favourable indicators.	6 present overall, of which a minimum of 3 '*' species are present (from either of the assemblages) in the quadrats surveyed	<p>Quadrat Assessment</p> <p>Positive indicator species for ash woodland areas (i.e. the dry bits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • field maple* (<i>Acer campestre</i>) • spindle* (<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>), • yew* (<i>Taxus baccata</i>), • bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), • currents* [native ones!] (<i>Ribes</i> spp.), • dog's mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>), • honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>), • wild privet* (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>), • traveller's-joy/old man's beard/wild clematis* (<i>Clematis vitalba</i>), • yellow archangel* (<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>), • wood melick* (<i>Melica uniflora</i>), • woodruff* (<i>Galium odoratum</i>), • wood-rushes (<i>Luzula</i> spp.), • wood sedge* (<i>Carex sylvatica</i>), • butchers broom (<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>). <p>Positive indicators species for the wet woodland areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alder* <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>), • fen or marsh bedstraw* (<i>Galium uliginosum</i>) or <i>G. palustre</i>), • honeysuckle, • marsh violet* (<i>Viola palustris</i>), • lesser spearwort* (<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>), • opposite-leaved golden saxifrage* (<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>), • pendulous sedge (<i>Carex pendula</i>), • yellow flag* (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>), • wild angelica (<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>), • water mint* (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>), • marsh marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>), <p>The species marked with an asterisk are those which particularly define the assemblage of woodland being assessed: see the requirements for the presence of these in the target column.</p>
Composition: Unfavourable herbs & bramble	<10% cover throughout entire wood	<p>Visual assessment completed during structured walk and comparison using fixed point photography.</p> <p>Unfavourable herbs (which are only unfavourable if they exceed the threshold opposite) are those which indicate 'unsettled' conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creeping thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), • common thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), • walted thistle (<i>Carduus crispus</i>),

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hemp agrimony (<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>) • bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>), • bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>) and • stinging nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>). <p>Note: Also include any other undesirable species that have come in as a 'thug' after a disturbance event such as coppicing or windfall.</p>
Composition: Non-native trees	<10% cover throughout entire wood	Visual assessment during structured walk
Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS)	None present OR under management	Visual assessment completed during structured walks and comparison using fixed point photography. Include 'undesirable' non-natives (e.g. include buddleia) as well as those with legal invasive status (W&CA Sch 9 listed species).
Threats	Identify any threats & set targets for reduction/elimination	Threats might include unauthorised public access <u>which is causing damage</u> (e.g. bonfires, litter), or disease e.g. ash dieback, deer browsing or squirrel damage etc.

9 REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

[1] Woodlands. Oliver Rackham. 2006.

[2] National Vegetation Classification: Field guide to woodland. J.E. Hall, K.J. Kirby and A.M. Whitbread. 2001.

10 GLOSSARY

The following acronyms, abbreviations and codes are used in this report:

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest