Summary – Lower Denholm Dean Management Plan (2025–2035)

What is this document?

We have developed an updated Management Plan (MPL) for Lower Denholm Dean, outlining how the woodland will be managed and enhanced over the next 10 years. This plan has been shaped by committee input and is now ready for wider circulation and feedback.

Lower Denholm Dean is a valued community woodland. The plan seeks to balance ecological restoration, sustainable woodland management, public access, and local engagement. It offers a structured approach to woodland care and stewardship and will support funding applications such as through the Forestry Grant Scheme.

Who manages the woodland?

Lower Denholm Dean was gifted to the local community and is legally owned by the Denholm Feuars & Householders Council (DFHC). It is managed on their behalf by the Denholm Dean Committee – a group of local residents with backgrounds in conservation, forestry, and land management. The committee leads on the day-to-day stewardship of the woodland, reflecting both the practical and community interests in its care.

What does the Management Plan include?

- A clear vision and five core management objectives covering biodiversity, resilience, education, access, and community involvement.
- A detailed woodland description, including tree species, ground flora, and habitat types.
- Strategic priorities for enhancing resilience to climate change, supporting wildlife, managing access, and maintaining infrastructure.
- A 10-year plan with specific actions by area.
- Appendices including a 10-Year Work Programme and Annual Risk Assessment, plus proposals to explore governance improvements and potential woodland-based enterprise.

Resources

Delivery of the plan is led by the Dean Committee, supported by local volunteers with relevant woodland and ecological experience. The group holds £7,000 from timber sales and tree sponsorship, with £2,000 reserved for emergencies. Remaining funds are directed toward access, biodiversity, and community projects. Further external funding may be sought where needed.

Why is this plan important?

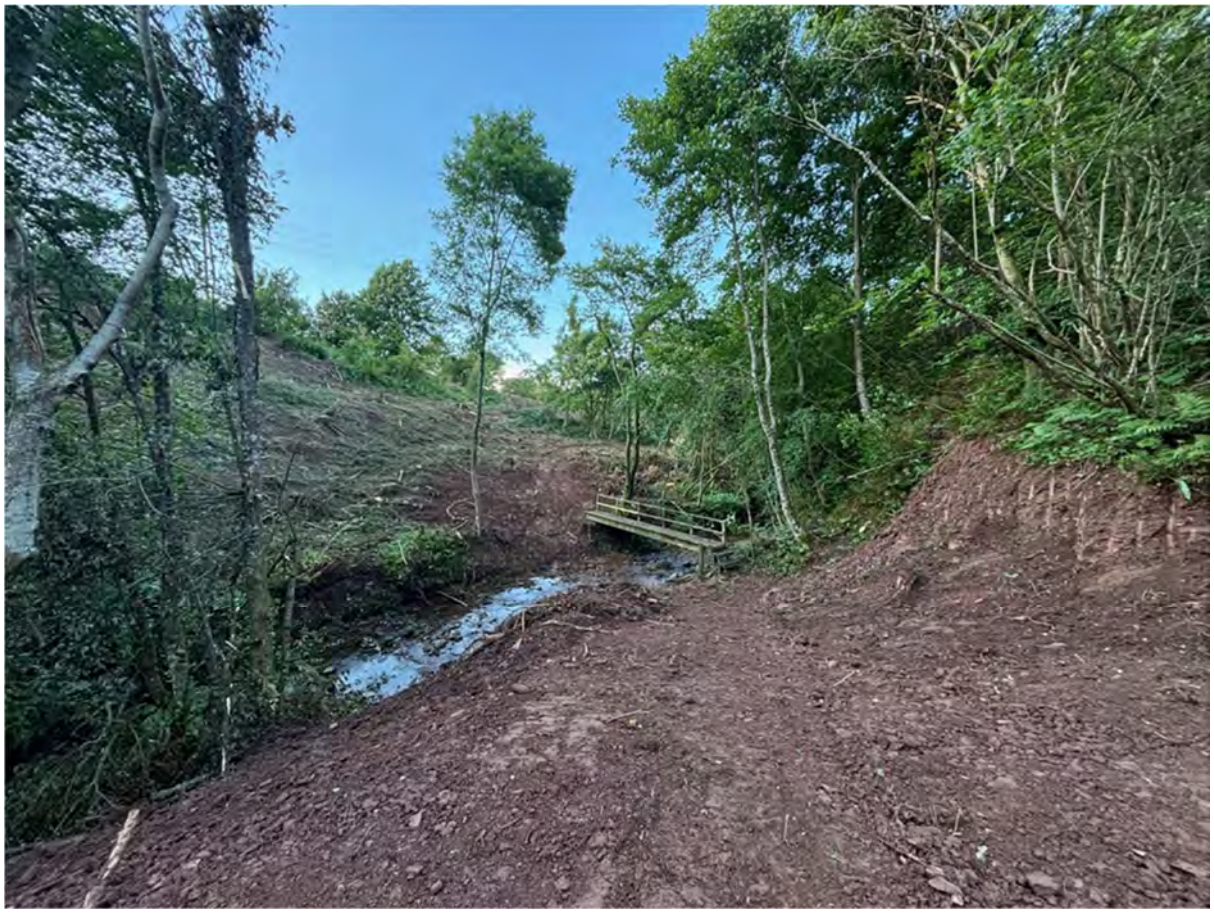
The MPL provides a practical framework for managing the woodland in line with national standards. It supports grant applications, informs decision-making, and ensures continuity of care over time. It also helps foster greater local participation and pride in the woodland.

31/10/2025

Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba

Draft

Lower Denholm Dean Management Plan 2025 to 2035



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Management Plan

Please refer to the Management Plan Guidance note for advice on how to complete your management plan. This template does not include a section for thinning permission.

You must have an approved Management Plan before you can apply for Forestry Grant Scheme funding.

1. Details

Management Plan Details			
Management Plan Name:	Lower Denholm Dean MPL		
Business Reference Number:	379662	Main Location Code:	92/770/0055
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NT 5673 1798	Nearest town or locality:	Denholm, Hawick
Local Authority:		Scottish Borders Council	
Management Plan area (hectares):		3.2ha	

Owner's Details					
Title:	Mrs	Forename:	Lynn		
Surname:	Ferguson				
Organisation:	DFHC		Position:	Chair	
Primary Contact Number:	04150 870 233		Alternative Contact Number:	07950000513	
Email:	figokily@aol.com				
Address:	1 Teviot Bank Gardens				
Denholm, Hawick, Scottish Borders					
Postcode:	TD9 8PB		Country:	Scotland	

Access Consent		
You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. This consent is for access to assess this application.		
Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your property?	☒ YES	☐ NO

Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:			
Management Plan Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

2. Woodland Description

Give information about the following:

- past management of the woodland
- current species and ages
- statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interests)
- existing or potential public access
- woodland protection

Use the Land Information Search to help you complete this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: forestry.gov.scot

2.1 Maps required

Provide maps to support your plan, as outlined in the guidance note. Please list all of the maps that you are including with your management plan.

List of Maps and Appendices:
Map 1 – Location
Map 2 – Species Distribution
Map 3a – Constraints & Utilities
Map 3b – Community Use & Access
Map 4 – Concepts
Map 5 - Compartments
App 1 – Species List
App 2 – NVC Woodland Types
App 3 – Annual Maintenance Calendar
App 4 – Annual Risk Assessment
App 5 – 10 Year Work Programme

2.2 History of management

Lower Denholm Dean forms part of a larger wooded valley Denholm Dean, and has been managed for ecological restoration under previous ownerships, who sought to enhance the ancient woodland character by removing non-native species such as Sitka Spruce (SS) and replacing them with native species.

In 2019 the Lower Dean was gifted to the Denholm Feuars & Householders Council (DFHC) and is now managed by the Denholm Dean Committee on behalf of the DFHC. The Committee has organized the felling of the spruce as per the approved Felling Permission Application (FPA-11405) and restocking is now underway in accordance with the approved permission.

Past management includes:

- Removal of non-native Sitka Spruce and restocking with native species.
- Planting and encouraging natural regeneration of native tree and shrub species.
- Path maintenance & re-routing for public access, visual enhancement and conservation.
- Control & monitoring of invasive species, including few-flowered leek and beech regeneration.
- Engagement with the community in conservation efforts and volunteering opportunities.

2.3 Species and age

The whole of Denholm Dean supports a diverse range of tree species, reflecting its status as a semi-natural woodland. The woodland lies within a variably sloping valley with moderate elevation, providing mostly good drainage and conditions for broadleaf regeneration. The soils are predominantly brown earths with some alluvial deposits along the Dean Burn, supporting diverse flora and tree species.

The woodland at Lower Denholm Dean consists primarily of mixed broadleaved woodland, with areas classified under the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) system. Recorded types include W7 (alder–ash), W9 (upland mixed ash–birch), W10 (oak–hazel–bluebell), and W11 (oak–downy birch–willow). These communities reflect the varied topography and soils across the Dean, from wetter riparian ground near the burn to drier slopes. Following the removal of Sitka spruce as part of the woodland restoration, management will focus on consolidating these native woodland types, creating a structurally diverse and resilient woodland.

To adapt to the changing climate and the impact of ash dieback, other species may be encouraged to ensure a structurally and ecologically diverse woodland. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), in particular, shares similar ecological functions and wood properties with ash and supports a comparable range of invertebrate and fungal species. While not a primary species within the targeted NVC types, its presence may provide continuity in canopy cover and habitat, contributing to long-term woodland resilience. The management approach will prioritize natural regeneration and site-appropriate species selection, ensuring the woodland remains dynamic and ecologically rich. Further details on the NVC woodland types relevant to the site can be found in **Appendix 2.**

Age Class & Development Stage

- Mature Trees (>100 years old): Found throughout the site, particularly large oaks, birch, and beech.
- Mid-aged Trees (50–100 years old): Previously established broadleaves that survived past felling activities.
- Young Trees (Newly Planted): Following SS removal, areas have been restocked with oak, birch, hazel, aspen, and hawthorn. Much of the site is considered new woodland having been planted by the previous owners some 20+ years ago and thus much is even aged.
- Restocking within 2024 following the removal of SS has aimed to accelerate natural selection and aid woodland regeneration, a structured planting approach was implemented:

    a) 5m Radius Species Groups: Oak, Birch, and Aspen were planted in distinct 5m radius clusters to facilitate species dominance through natural selection. Over time (100+ years), it is expected that each radius will develop into a single-species crown, reflecting a natural succession process.

    b) Hazel Coppice Expansion: Hazel was specifically planted in areas where it was already a dominant species, ensuring continuity and allowing for future rotational coppicing. These areas will provide long-term sustainable timber resources while enhancing habitat diversity.

    c) Shrub Layer Development: Alongside the main tree planting, a mixture of native shrubs (including Hawthorn and Hazel) was introduced along woodland paths and in clusters between the primary species radii. This planting approach was designed to create a mosaic of habitats, improving understorey structure, food sources for wildlife, and overall canopy diversity.

    d) Additional Species Along Paths: To enhance the woodland's visual appeal and structural variety, a small selection of other native species (such as Rowan, Gean Cherry, and Willow) was planted along access routes and key woodland edges.

The following tables provide an overview of the current and likely future woodland composition within Lower Denholm Dean.

Table 2.3.1 – Species Composition

Abbrev.	Species (Common name)	Latin name	Percentage (%)	Area (ha approx.)
HAZ	Hazel	*Corylus avellana*	**25.9**	0.83
OK	Oak	*Quercus robur, Q. petraea*	**13.2**	0.42
BI	Birch	*Betula pendula, B. pubescens*	**10.8**	0.35
EM	Elm	*Ulmus* spp.	**9.0**	0.29
WCH	Wild Cherry	*Prunus avium*	**7.6**	0.24
HAW	Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	**6.1**	0.20
SY	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	**5.1**	0.16
AH	Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	**4.9**	0.16
ELD	Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	**4.6**	0.15
ASP/WLW	Aspen & Willow spp.	*Populus tremula, Salix* spp.	**5.9**	0.19
Other Native Spp.	Rowan, Blackthorn, Common Alder, Field Maple, Beech, Holly, Yew	*Various*	**1.9**	0.06
OL	Other Land (paths, open ground, riparian areas)	–	**5.0**	0.16
Total			**100**	**3.2 ha**

Natural Regeneration

- Natural regeneration is occurring successfully, with species such as Elm, Holly, Elder, Hazel and Gean showing signs of regeneration. There is also some Sycamore and Beech regeneration, which is being monitored and controlled to prevent dominance.

Ground Flora

- The woodland floor supports a good range of species, including ancient woodland indicator species.
- Mosses, lichens, and various ferns, notably Harts tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium)* thrive in the damp, shaded areas, and former Sitka spruce plantation areas are now experiencing a resurgence of native understorey vegetation, including species such as red campion (*Silene dioica*) and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*).
- Further information, including a comprehensive species list that encompasses both Denholm Dean and the wider surrounding area, can be found in **Appendix 1.**

2.4 Constraints and designations

The Lower Denholm Dean is subject to several constraints and designations that influence management decisions. These include legal protections, ecological sensitivities, neighbouring land uses, and operational limitations that must be considered when implementing woodland management activities.

2.4.1 Ecological and Environmental Constraints

Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI): Denholm Dean as a whole is classified as Long-Established Woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO), meaning it has been continuously wooded since at least the mid-19th century. Management should prioritise the restoration of native woodland characteristics while ensuring the ecological integrity of the site.

Riparian Habitat and Watercourses: The woodland is either side of the Dean Burn, a tributary of the River Teviot. This presents a key constraint in terms of soil stability, water quality protection, and riparian habitat conservation. Any forestry operations must mitigate the risk of sedimentation and protect aquatic ecosystems working to promote best practice of the Forest and Water Guidelines.

Tree Health and Disease: Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is present in the woodland, affecting the survival of ash trees (Fraxinus excelsior). A proactive approach to tree health monitoring and phased removal of hazardous trees may be required to ensure public safety and woodland resilience.

Invasive Species Presence: Non-native species such as Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rivularis*) and Few-flowered Leek (*Allium paradoxum*) are present. Their spread must be controlled to prevent competition with native woodland species.

Deer and Herbivore Pressure: Natural regeneration is vulnerable to browsing, particularly from roe deer. Sustainable management strategies, including monitoring and intervention where necessary, are essential for woodland establishment and regeneration.

2.4.2 Operational Constraints

Public Access and Core Paths: Denholm Dean is a publicly accessible woodland with paths designated as part of the Scottish Borders Core Paths Network (Paths 125 and 129). Management interventions must ensure that public safety is maintained and that any disruption to access routes during forestry operations is communicated effectively with the SBC Access Team.

Topography and Ground Conditions: The woodland features steep slopes and areas prone to erosion, which limits certain forestry operations, particularly mechanised interventions.

Powerlines and Utilities: Overhead and underground powerlines run through sections of the woodland, requiring coordination with utility providers before any management activities near these lines can proceed. Encroaching trees are subject to height management by operator contractors to Scottish Power. There is also an underground water pipe which likely supplies the local farm (Honeyburn) water troughs.

Neighbouring Land Use: Denholm Dean is bordered by a mixture of agricultural land, a few residential properties, and other woodland areas. Consideration must be given to ensuring that woodland management does not negatively impact neighbouring landowners. Agricultural land adjacent to the woodland may be sensitive to tree planting, and ensuring cooperation with landowners can help to manage boundary issues and avoid conflicts over shading, fencing, or water supply impacts.

2.4.3 Legal and Policy Designations

United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS): All woodland management activities in Denholm Dean must comply with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) which sets out best practices for sustainable forestry in the UK, ensuring environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Scottish Forestry Regulations: All felling and restocking activities must comply with the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Scottish Borders Local Development Plan: The site is subject to local planning policies that prioritise woodland conservation and sustainable land use.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 & Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: Denholm Dean provides habitat for protected species, and management activities must consider the legal protection of breeding birds, bats, and other wildlife.

SSSI and SAC Proximity: The Dean Burn is a tributary of the River Teviot, a designated tributary of the River Tweed Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). While the Dean Burn itself is not designated, management must avoid any potential negative impacts on the surrounding protected areas.

2.5 Public access

Denholm Dean is an important local greenspace, providing public access and recreation opportunities for the community and others. The woodland is used for walking, informal recreation, and nature appreciation but public access must be balanced with conservation objectives and safety considerations.

2.5.1 Public Rights of Way and Core Paths

- The woodland includes sections of the Scottish Borders Core Paths Network, specifically **Paths 125 and 129**, which provide pedestrian access through and around Denholm Dean.
- **Path 129** runs along the eastern boundary, linking Denholm village to surrounding countryside, while **Path 125** provides internal access within the Lower and Upper Dean.
- These paths are well-used and require regular monitoring to ensure accessibility and safety in collaboration with the Scottish Borders Council Access Team.

2.5.2 Accessibility and Infrastructure

- Paths are un-surfaced and unsealed, so prone to erosion, flooding, and treefall obstructions.
- Future management should consider path improvements, such as resurfacing high-use sections and installing drainage where needed.
- Waymarking and signage could be improved to help visitors navigate the woodland and provide information on conservation efforts.

2.5.3 Managing Public Access During Operations

- Public access must be managed during forestry works, including tree felling, thinning, or invasive species control.
- Temporary path closures or diversions may be necessary, and appropriate signage must be installed to inform visitors of potential hazards.
- Engagement with the local community should ensure awareness of any planned works that may affect access.

2.5.4 Responsible Access and Community Engagement

- Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the public has a right of responsible access, which must be exercised in a way that does not damage the woodland or disrupt conservation efforts.
- Visitor pressure should be monitored to ensure that increased footfall does not lead to path degradation or habitat disturbance.
- The woodland provides an excellent opportunity for community engagement, environmental education, rural skills development and volunteer activities, fostering local stewardship of the site.
- Lower Denholm Dean is also actively used as part of Denholm Primary School's Forest School education programme, providing local children with hands-on learning experiences in nature. Management should support this educational use by maintaining safe access routes and ensuring key teaching areas remain undisturbed.

2.6 Woodland Protection

Denholm Dean requires ongoing protection to maintain its ecological integrity and ensure sustainable management. Woodland protection measures focus on mitigating risks related to tree health, invasive species, herbivore impact, and external threats, whilst planning for changes in climate to ensure a resilient and ecologically diverse woodland.

Plant Health (including tree health and invasive or noxious plants)

- Ash Dieback: (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is present within the woodland, leading to canopy dieback and structural instability. Management actions will involve monitoring for resistance and infected trees, prioritising the removal of hazardous specimens, and restocking with alternative native species.

- Other Pests & Diseases: The woodland will be monitored for other pests and diseases and useful tools such as Observatree will be utilised to keep up to date with latest information and advice.
  https://www.observatree.org.uk/

- Invasive Species Control: Non-native species, including beech, sycamore, and few-flowered leek, will be monitored and controlled to prevent competition with regenerating native woodland.

- The Tweed Forum has a long-standing invasive species control programme for the Tweed catchment, focusing on species such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. If these or other high-risk invasive plants are found within Lower Denholm Dean, they will be reported, and collaboration with the Tweed Forum will be sought to ensure effective management and control. Regular monitoring will help identify any emerging threats, ensuring early intervention where necessary.
  https://tweedforum.org/our-work/projects/tweed-invasives-project/

Deer, Livestock and other mammals

- Deer Impact: Roe deer are present in the area and can impact natural regeneration by browsing young saplings. Monitoring and management through protective fencing or population control will be considered if necessary. Additionally, we will explore landscape-scale collaboration with neighbouring landowners to develop a coordinated approach to herbivore management, ensuring sustainable woodland regeneration and biodiversity benefits across the wider area working with NatureScot and the regional DMG.

- Livestock: While grazing is not currently an issue, boundary fences will be maintained to prevent encroachment from neighbouring farmland. March Fence maintenance/replacement will be agreed with neighbours.

- Other Mammals: Mammals such as badgers, foxes, bats and otters are or could be present. Management will ensure their habitat is maintained. All woodland operations will be carried out in compliance with wildlife legislation, with pre-work surveys conducted where necessary to identify active setts, holts, or dens. If works are likely to disturb these species, appropriate mitigation will be implemented, and, where required, licences will be sought from NatureScot before proceeding.

- Nesting Birds: Woodland management activities, including felling and pruning, will avoid the breeding season from **March 1st to August 31st** to protect nesting birds. If work is required during this period, a nesting bird survey will be conducted to ensure compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and to minimize disturbance.

Grey Squirrels

- Grey squirrels pose a threat to tree health through bark stripping, particularly impacting oak and other broadleaves.

- While red squirrels are not currently recognised as present in Denholm Dean, regional conservation efforts support red squirrel populations. Any grey squirrel control efforts will align with best practices and conservation priorities and collaboration will be sought with neighbours and local groups such as the Central Borders Red Squirrel Network and Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels.

Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc.)

- Dean Burn & Riparian Areas: The Dean Burn flows through the woodland, making it a key ecological feature that requires careful management to prevent erosion, pollution, and habitat degradation. All forestry activities will adhere to the Forest and Water Guidelines and relevant Best Practice Guides to protect water quality and riparian habitats. If any issues arise concerning water quality, sedimentation, or environmental pollution, SEPA will be notified immediately, and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to prevent further degradation.

- Soil Conservation: Soil disturbance will be minimised during path maintenance and forestry activities.

- Waste Management: Redundant materials, such as tree shelters, will be responsibly collected and recycled through schemes like the Tubex Tree Shelter Collection & Recycling Programme, ensuring plastic waste is diverted from landfill.
  https://tubex.com/sustainability/tree-shelter-collection-recycling-programme/

- Vandalism & Fly-Tipping: The woodland is publicly accessible, and instances of vandalism or fly-tipping could occur. Management will include community engagement, signage, and reporting mechanisms.

- Spawning Salmon and Trout: Works that may disturb riverbanks, sediment, or watercourses will avoid the peak spawning and egg incubation period from **October to May** to protect fish populations. If work is necessary during this time, SEPA will be consulted, and necessary licenses will be obtained. Mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize disturbance and prevent siltation, ensuring the protection of aquatic habitats.

Environment (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc.)

- Fire Risk: Fire is a low risk due to the cool, damp climate but prolonged dry periods and increased visitor numbers can elevate risks. This could be mitigated by promoting responsible use and reducing deadwood build-up near paths. In the event of a fire, the priority will be public safety and rapid emergency response, with immediate contact made to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

- Flooding: The woodland plays a role in natural flood mitigation by stabilising soils and slowing surface water runoff. Future tree planting near the riparian zone will enhance this function. There is canopy cover over much of the burn with some fallen trees creating log jams and helping with natural flood management.

- Wind Damage: While recent felling has removed vulnerable conifer species, the site remains exposed to strong winds and is open to the prevailing wind from the south west. The development of a more structurally diverse woodland, including a mix of broadleaf species at different heights, will improve wind resilience over time. Selective thinning will further strengthen stand stability by encouraging deep rooting and reducing the risk of windthrow in younger trees.

Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)

- Species Diversity: Increasing temperatures and changing rainfall patterns will influence species viability. Future restocking efforts will prioritise climate-resilient species, such as oak, birch, aspen, and field maple, enhancing overall woodland diversity. The introduction of additional native species will continue to improve resilience and ecological richness.

- Structure & Canopy Development: The recent felling of conifers has already contributed to a more varied age and canopy structure, encouraging regeneration and supporting biodiversity. Further improvements will be achieved through selective thinning and a Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) approach, promoting natural regeneration of low to mid-canopy species and ensuring a multi-layered woodland.

- Provenance of Trees: Trees selected for planting originate from local seed zones ensuring they are well adapted to regional conditions. Natural regeneration, once established, provides the most site-appropriate provenance, reinforcing long-term resilience. Any introduced species will also be sourced from local seed zones to maintain ecological integrity.

- Long-Term Adaptation: Management will align with climate adaptation guidance to ensure the woodland remains structurally diverse, ecologically robust, and resilient to environmental changes.

3. Vision and Objectives

3.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

Denholm Dean will be a thriving, ecologically rich woodland that balances biodiversity, community involvement, and sustainable management. It will provide habitat for wildlife, opportunities for education and recreation, and a lasting natural space for future generations.

Through restoration, careful stewardship, and local engagement, the Dean will remain a resilient and accessible woodland. Sustainable management will ensure its long-term health, adapting to environmental challenges while fostering a strong connection between people and nature.

To achieve this, we have identified five core objectives to guide its management and future development.

3.2 Management objectives

Give your objectives of management and also how you will manage the woodland sustainably. Your objectives should be specific and you should also be able to measure their outcomes.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	**To enhance ecological value and biodiversity** The objective is to restore Denholm Dean to a natural woodland by planting encouraging regenaration of native species and enhancing biodiversity by creating differing habitats such as glades and waterside areas, while incorporating deadwood features to support invertebrates, birds, and mammals.
2	**To foster community engagement and involvement** To develop a sense of ownership and stewardship within the local community through regular volunteer days, open events, and initiatives such as the “Sponsor an Oak Tree” programme, which will encourage residents to contribute to the woodland’s restoration. Local tradespeople will be engaged for tasks that cannot be completed by volunteers, supporting the local economy while ensuring high-quality results for projects like signage.
3	**To provide opportunities for education and learning** Denholm Dean will serve as an educational resource for all ages, including partnerships with local schools and colleges to offer outdoor learning opportunities through forest school programmes, “outdoor classom” days, conservation projects, and field trips. Opportunities to collaborate with like-minded woodland groups to build on shared knowledge and experience will be explored. Additionally, we will encourage recording groups to carry out surveys and monitoring to assess ecological change over time
4	**To adopt sustainable woodland management** Sustainable management of the woodland will be ensured through low-impact practices, such as maintaining paths, bridges, and infrastructure with the help of the Scottish Borders Council Rangers Service. Areas for relaxation, such as glades with benches, will also be created to encourage the community to enjoy and derive positive health benefits from, the natural environment. Income from sustainable practices, such as the sale of coppiced materials, will be reinvested into ongoing woodland management, with advice from the Borders Forest Trust and others.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
5	**To create long-term resilience and legacy** This will include regular monitoring of the woodland's ecological health and adapting management practices to address environmental challenges. Additionally, achievable goals will be set for future volunteer groups to ensure continuity without overburdening them. Where feasible, opportunities will be explored to expand the area of community-owned and managed land, strengthening local stewardship and enhancing ecological connectivity with other areas of forest habitat in the local area (in accordance with SBC BAP priorities).

4. Analysis and Management Strategy

Analyse the information from the previous sections and identify how to make best use of your woodland and its resources to achieve your objectives.

4.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Using the table below analyse any issues raised or relevant features within your woodland and record the constraints and opportunities.

Feature/Issue	Constraint	Opportunity
Public Access & Recreation	Path erosion, visitor impact on sensitive habitats. Difficult terrain, which makes access difficult for the less able.	Improve path resilience, engage the community in conservation efforts, collaborating with SBC Access Team.
Tree Health & Disease	Presence of ash dieback and other tree pests.	Diversify tree species for resilience, monitor and manage diseased trees.
Invasive Species	Non-native species (e.g., sycamore, beech, few-flowered leek).	Active removal and control to support native species regeneration.
Deer & Herbivore Impact	Browsing pressure affecting natural regeneration.	Implement prevention and control measures such as fencing and natural protection like sheep wool.
Woodland Management & Coppicing	Requires long-term planning and labour investment.	Sustainable timber production, increased biodiversity through rotational coppicing.
Riparian & Wetland Areas	Risk of soil erosion and water pollution.	Enhance wetland habitats, improve natural flood

		mitigation. Follow Forest and Water Guidelines.
Climate Change	Increased risk of extreme weather events affecting tree stability. Some native species may be adversely affected by changing weather patterns	Select climate-resilient species and improve structural diversity.
Community Engagement & Education	Need for ongoing involvement and awareness.	Strengthen local partnerships, support school and volunteer programmes. Update local web pages with activities and plans.

4.2 Management Strategy

Following your analysis, provide a broad statement describing your management strategy. Consider all aspects (economics, access, biodiversity, landscape) and pay particular attention to your silvicultural strategy for meeting your management objectives.

Lower Denholm Dean will be managed as a sustainable, ecologically resilient, and community-focused woodland, balancing biodiversity, access, and sustainable use.

- **Silviculture**: A continuous cover forestry approach using natural regeneration, selective thinning, and rotational coppicing will create a diverse, climate-resilient woodland.
- **Biodiversity:** Invasive species will be controlled, key habitats protected, and ecological connectivity improved through adaptive management.
- **Access & Wellbeing**: Paths and infrastructure will be maintained to support sustainable public access while preserving sensitive areas.
- **Community & Education**: Engagement with schools, volunteers, and local groups will foster stewardship and awareness.
- **Climate Resilience:** Species diversification and structural enhancements will strengthen the woodland against environmental change.

This strategy will be delivered through phased management, ensuring long-term sustainability and community benefit.

5. Management Proposals

Tell us the management operations you intend to carry out over the next 10 years to help meet your management objectives for the woodland. If you intend to carry out felling (e.g. clear felling) you must apply for permission separately.

The management objectives for Lower Denholm Dean will be carried out using a structured compartment approach as outlined below**.** This approach ensures sustainable practices that support biodiversity, public access, and community involvement. Planned operations over the next 10 years will align with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) to enhance woodland resilience, ecological value, and public enjoyment.

An **annual maintenance calendar** will guide routine tasks and ongoing management, ensuring the long-term success of these objectives.

Cpt	Planned Operations
Cpt 1	Left untouched with no public access, except for maintenance of burn-side trees accessed from the stream bed. Removal of old tree shelter.
Cpt 2	Selective thinning and low-level intervention to improve woodland structure and light. Remove hung-up trees. Create deadwood piles and dead-hedges on banks. Expand hazel coppice. Maintain pollard area beneath power lines. Manual weeding to support young trees.
Cpt 3	Maintain and weed new planting. Establish hazel coppice cycle. Manage boundary hedges by coppicing, laying, and hawthorn infill. Maintain stockade fencing and access to burn-side beach. Gradually clear Sitka brash to enable riparian planting and possible seating. Monitor tree health, beat-up failures, and remove old fence wire. Maintain and improve the Forest School area to support outdoor learning.
Cpt 4	Stabilise banks with shrub planting and brash barriers. Enhance riparian woodland with willow cuttings and alder. Supplement earlier planting with additional trees and natural regeneration. Remove redundant fence wire. Carry out regular manual weeding to support young trees.
Cpt 5	Maintain and extend the riparian tree belt with willow cuttings along the burn. Clear brash near the central bridge to encourage willow, wild cherry, and alder regrowth. Provide natural seating with logs. Undertake manual weeding and maintenance of new planting.
Cpt 6	Clear brash and replant in line with the restocking plan. Manage roadside planting to reduce windblow risk and improve amenity. Improve downhill access path and repair rutting. Maintain and later hedge-lay the roadside mixed hedge. Carry out periodic weeding and gap filling to ensure successful establishment.
Cpt 7 (River corridor)	Maintain the Dean Burn as an open riparian feature. Protect water quality and bank stability by following Forest and Water Guidelines. Encourage natural regeneration of riparian species (e.g. alder, willow) through selective planting and protection. Remove brash and fallen timber only where it obstructs flow or access, otherwise retain for natural habitat value. Control invasive species along the watercourse. Maintain safe public and school access to the burn for recreation and Forest School activities.

5.2 Priority Projects

These priority projects support long-term woodland resilience and community engagement. They align with the Ten-Year Work Programme **(Appendix 5)** and contribute to the management objectives outlined in Section 3.2.

5.2.1 Tree Establishment and Shelter Transition

Newly planted trees must reach a target density of 1600 stems per hectare. Annual monitoring and targeted replanting (beating-up) will maintain density. Tree shelters will be removed in phases to reduce plastic waste and encourage strong natural growth.

- Years 1–5: Annual survival surveys; replanting as required.
- Years 6–10: Gradual shelter removal.

Related Objective: 1 (Biodiversity), 4 (Sustainable Management).

5.2.2 Sustainable Coppicing & Timber Management

Rotational coppicing of hazel and willow will be established to enhance biodiversity and provide materials for habitat piles, fencing, and community projects. A 7–15 year cutting cycle will be maintained.

- Year 1: Identify and map coppice areas.
- Years 2–5: Begin coppicing and monitor regrowth.
- Years 6–10: Expand cycles and introduce additional species.

Related Objective: 1 (Biodiversity), 4 (Sustainable Management).

5.2.3 Community Engagement & Outdoor Learning

Improvements to outdoor learning spaces and Forest School areas will support community involvement. Interpretation boards will educate visitors on woodland management. Volunteer days and guided walks will be held.

- Years 1–3: Improve Forest School areas, install resources.
- Years 4–10: Organize conservation events.

Related Objective: 2 (Community Engagement), 3 (Education & Learning).

5.2.4 Public Access & Infrastructure Maintenance

Pathways, bridges, and signage will be maintained and improved. Regular inspections will ensure infrastructure remains safe and accessible.

- Ongoing: Annual inspections and maintenance.
- Years 1–3: Steps, handrails, and signage updates.
- Years 4–10: Further upgrades as needed.

Related Objective: 2 (Community Engagement), 4 (Sustainable Management).

5.2.5 Wildlife & Habitat Enhancement

Biodiversity will be increased through habitat creation, including bird/bat boxes, deadwood piles, and pollinator-friendly planting. Invasive species such as beech, sycamore, and few-flowered leek will be managed to support native woodland recovery.

- Years 1–5: Install habitat features, control invasives.
- Years 6–10: Monitor and adapt management.

Related Objective: 1 (Biodiversity), 5 (Resilience & Legacy).

5.2.6 Community Woodland Governance & Social Enterprise Development

A governance review will explore transitioning to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and developing a woodland-based social enterprise, such as local timber processing or advisory services.

- Years 1–3: Governance review, feasibility study.
- Years 4–6: Develop a business model.
- Years 7–10: Implement viable initiatives.

Related Objective: 2 (Community Engagement), 4 (Sustainable Management), 5 (Resilience & Legacy).

5.2.7 Risk Management & Volunteer Safety

A structured risk assessment, reviewed annually, will guide safe volunteer involvement in woodland work. It will address hazards related to tree work, path maintenance, and conservation activities.

- Ongoing: Annual risk assessment reviews.
- As required: Implement additional safety measures.

Related Objective: 2 (Community Engagement), 4 (Sustainable Management).

6. Resources

6.1 Committee Resources

The Dean Committee is a Sub Committee of the Denholm Feuars and Householders Council who were gifted the Lower Dean in 2019 by Michael Braithwaite.

The committee currently consists of 6 volunteer members who have qualifications and skills in woodland management, botany, ecology, Forest School as well as business and financial experience. It meets regularly to review progress and agree priorities for action and will be key to delivering the objectives of this plan.

Terms of Reference have been agreed between the Committee and the DF & HC which makes clear the Committee's responsibility for delivering the 10 Year Management Plan and the Council's responsibility to support that.

6.2 Volunteer Resources

The Committee currently has an active group of volunteers who have carried out brash removal and tree planting in relevant Cpts and weeding. Volunteers from Borders Forest Trust have supported this work. A Volunteer Organiser sets the tasks that should be carried out each week. Detailed Risk Assessments have been prepared and reviewed and agreed by the Committee.

The continued involvement of volunteers is essential to the achievement of the plan's objectives.

6.3 Financial Resources

The Denholm Dean Committee currently holds funds of £7,000 at the end of October 2025 - raised from felling income, tree sponsorship and donations from Rotary International.

It has been agreed to set aside £2,000 as a reserve to be used only in emergencies or for essential unplanned work. The remaining funds will be allocated to achieving the plan's objectives - such as improving access, enhancing biodiversity, supporting community engagement, and encouraging sustainable woodland practices. This flexible approach allows the committee to direct funding where it is most needed, with priority given to practical, visible projects such as path improvements, habitat enhancements, and educational activities.

All financial decisions are made by committee agreement, ensuring transparency, accountability, and alignment with the objectives of the plan. Proposed projects must clearly demonstrate how they help deliver the Plan's objectives and must offer good value for money.

The committee may seek to apply for external funding to support its work where it is considered to be appropriate.

7. Stakeholder Engagement

This may be required depending on the work you intend on carrying out in the woodland and the constraints or designations that have been identified.

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
TO BE UPDATED FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS				

22/10/2025

356000
357000
358000
619000
618000
617000

Hassendean Bank
Pipe Line
Highlanders' Knowe
B 6405
Cemy
Garthside
Teviot Bank
River Teviot
Sch
PO
Denholm
Tait's Strip
Denholm Bridge
Deansyde
FB
Borders Abbey Way
A698
Honeyburn
Milestone Path Wood
Honeyburn Cottages
Woodside
Denholmhill Wood
Dene Road
Honey Burn
Dean Burn
Ford
Little Dean
Little Cavers
Little Cavers Plantation
Denholm Dean
Gled'swing Strip
Quarry (disused)
Spr
Earthwork
Quarry Cottages
East Middle Cottages
Ruberslaw Covert
Doctor's
Denholmhill

119
99
102
94
78
111
218
156
134
187

Lower Denholm Dean

Map 1: Location and Boundary
NGR: NT 568 180

Legend

Grid reference point

Site boundary

GROUND TRUTH FORESTRY

Scale at A3: 1:10,000

26/09/2025

ID	Species / Percentage	NVC Type
1a	AH/20, EM/20, HAW/20, HAZ/10, OK/10, WLW/10, YEW/2.5, HOL/2.5, SY/2.5, BE/2.5	W7/W9
1b	HAZ/25, EM/25, BI/15, AH/10, PSP/5, SY/5, WCH/2.5, HAW/2.5, ROW/2.5, YEW/2.5, OK/2.5, WLW/2.5	W9/10
1c	HAZ/30, EM/30, AH/15, SY/15, HOL/5, WCH/5	W9/10
2a	AH/40, HAW/15, HAZ/10, EM/10, WCH/10, SY/5, OK/5, HOL/2.5, ROW/2.5	W7/W9
2b	EM/25, AH/25, HAZ/25, BE/5, BI/5, HAW/5, HOL/5, PSP/5	W9/10
2c	HAZ/50, EM/20, HAW/5, OK/5, SY/5, ELD/5, BE/5, PSP/5	W9/10
2d	AH/25, WCH/25, EM/10, HAZ/10, OK/10, CAR/5, HAW/5, SY/2.5, ROW/2.5, PBI/2.5, WLW/2.5	W7/W9
3a	BI/35, OK/20, ASP/15, EM/10, ELD/10, HAZ/10	W9/W11
3b	OK/50, HAZ/20, HAW/15, ELD/5, EM/5, SY/5	W10
3c	OK/30, HAW/30, ROW/20, FM/10, SY/5, ELD/5	W10
3d	HAZ/65, HAW/15, SY/10, ELD/10	W9/10
3f	OK/45, WCH/20, WLW/10, HAZ/10, BI/2.5, SY/2.5, EM/2.5, PSP/2.5, ELD/2.5, CAR/2.5	W7/W10
4b	EM/15, AH/15, WCH/15, SY/15, HAW/10, HAZ/10, BI/10, ROW/2.5, BE/2.5, OK/2.5, CAR/2.5	W7/W10
5a	AH/15, OK/15, EM/15, BI/15, WCH/15, WLW/15, OK/5, HAZ/5	W7/W9
6a	BI/30, OK/20, ASP/15, EM/10, ELD/10, HAZ/10, SY/5	W9/W11
7z	OL/100	OL

Lower Denholm Dean

N

Map 2: Species Distribution and National Vegetation Classification

NGR: NT 568 180

Legend

- Grid reference point
- Site boundary

Species distribution

- Mixed broadleaves (Ash-dominated)
- Mixed broadleaves (Birch-dominated)
- Mixed broadleaves (Elm-dominated)
- Mixed broadleaves (Hazel-dominated)
- Mixed broadleaves (Hazel/Elm-dominated)
- Mixed broadleaves (Oak-dominated)
- Open ground
- Other land

GROUND TRUTH FORESTRY

Scale at A3: 1:1,750

26/09/2025

Lower Denholm Dean

Map 3a: Constraints and Utilities
NGR: NT 568 180

Legend

- Grid reference point
- Site boundary

Constraints

- Electricity powerline infrastucture
- Scottish Water sample point
- Canmore points
- Agreed Timber Transport Route
- Powerline
- Underground power cable
- Water pipe
- High flood risk (river or surface)
- Conservation areas

GROUND TRUTH FORESTRY

Scale at A3: 1:2,500

26/09/2025

356500 356600 356700 356800 356900 357000

618200 618100 618000 617900 617800

90m

DENE ROAD

Path

Woodside

110m

El Dist Sta

SS

Lower Denholm Dean

N

Map 3b: Community Use and Access

NGR: NT 568 180

Legend

- Grid reference point
- Site boundary

Community Use and Access

- Main entrance
- Bench
- Bridge
- Forest school area
- Gate
- Interpretation board
- Core path
- Footpath
- New hedge

Woodland Designation

- Long-established woodland (of plantation origin)

GROUND TRUTH FORESTRY

Ground Truth Forestry

Scale at A3: 1:1,750

26/09/2025

356400 356500 356600 356700 356800 356900 357000 357100

618300 618200 618100 618000 617900 617800 617700

CONTEXT

Lower Denholm Dean is a 3.11 ha community-owned woodland on the south side of Denholm village, which lies on the A698 between Hawick and Kelso in the Scottish Borders. The woodland has been brought into active management by the local community. Former Sitka spruce areas have been felled and restocked with native broadleaf species. Today, around (57%) is mature mixed broadleaf woodland, (31%) is newly planted, and the remaining (12%) is open ground around paths and the Dean Burn, providing variety for wildlife and people.

COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

Lower Denholm Dean is cared for by the community through the Denholm Dean Committee, under the ownership of the Denholm Feuars & Householders Council. There is a proactive volunteer group who have helped with planting, weeding, and building wildlife habitats. The woodland is also used by Denholm Primary School as part of their Forest School programme, giving local children hands-on learning in nature. Information boards, Forest School and volunteer days help strengthen community involvement and stewardship.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Lower Denholm Dean is a well-used community woodland, located close to the village and the Borders Abbey Way. Core Paths (DENH/125, DENH/129R) connect into the site, and a major footpath runs through the centre of the woodland. Interpretation boards, benches, and Forest School areas support responsible enjoyment of the Dean. Public access is encouraged in line with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (2005).

BIODIVERSITY & WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Lower Denholm Dean is rich in wildlife. Native trees, wildflowers, and a healthy riparian corridor support birds, bats, insects, and mammals. Community projects such as building dead hedges have already created more homes for wildlife, and further projects to enhance biodiversity will continue.

No European Protected Species (EPS) are currently known on site, but the Dean contains suitable habitats for animals such as badgers. Before any major works, surveys will be carried out to ensure wildlife is safeguarded. If a sett is found, a licence will be applied for and woodland management adapted to protect these habitats.

SERVICES

There are no private water supplies within Lower Denholm Dean, but a water pipe runs through the southern end of the woodland. Two overhead powerlines also cross the site. These areas are managed carefully, with trees beneath the lines coppiced or pollarded, and new planting focused on lower-growing shrub species such as hazel and hawthorn. An underground power cable also runs along the Dene Road, and all works will take account of this infrastructure.

WOODLAND MATERIAL & TRANSPORT

Most of the non-native spruce has already been felled and removed. Future work will focus on small-scale management such as coppicing, pollarding, or habitat creation. Any timber or materials taken out will usually be carried by hand or small vehicle, with very little disturbance to the Dean. Wherever possible, woodland materials will be reused locally for paths, habitat features, or community projects.

ARCHAEOLOGY

No known archaeological features exist within Lower Denholm Dean itself. However, the wider area is rich in historic remains. If any previously undiscovered artefacts or features are found during woodland work, they will be reported to the regional archaeologist and to Treasure Trove Scotland for proper recording and protection.

WATER

The Dean Burn flows through Denholm Dean, classified by SEPA (2020) as “good” ecological condition. It drains into the River Teviot, a tributary of the River Tweed SSSI and SAC, both designated for their internationally important aquatic habitats. Protecting water quality, banks, and riparian habitats is a priority. All forestry works will follow the Forest and Water Guidelines (5th edition).

TREE PROTECTION

Deer numbers in Denholm Dean are low, thanks to the proximity of Denholm village and regular dog walking. This means young trees are regenerating well without heavy browsing damage. Regular checks are carried out, and if problems arise, we will take expert advice to make sure the woodland stays healthy. Newly planted trees are protected with tree shelters to give them the best start. These will stay in place only as long as needed, usually 5–7 years, before being carefully removed and recycled.

PLANT HEALTH

Signs of possible Dutch elm disease have been noted in Lower Denholm Dean and reported. If confirmed, action will be taken following guidance from expert bodies such as Forest Research. Ash dieback is also present in the woodland and will continue to be monitored, with any hazardous trees dealt with safely. Climate change is increasing the risks of pests and diseases, so ongoing monitoring and careful management are essential to keep the woodland healthy and resilient for the future.

SPECIES COMPONENTS

Lower Denholm Dean is now a mixed broadleaf woodland, with species such as Oak, Ash, Hazel, Birch, Hawthorn, and Aspen. Other trees like Alder, Wych Elm, Rowan, Cherry, and Willow add to the variety, along with a rich shrub layer. It is noted there is no Sitka spruce regeneration following the recent felling, allowing native species to thrive. This mix of trees creates a resilient woodland that supports a wide range of wildlife. Over time, the balance of species may change naturally, but management will ensure the Dean remains diverse and healthy.

A698
85m
Westgate Hall
90m
ASHLOANING
DENE ROAD
Path
Woodside
110m
El Dist Sta
ESS
Track
Little Rulwood
121m

Lower Denholm Dean

N

Map 4: Concepts
NGR: NT 568 180

Legend

- Grid reference point
- Site boundary
- Bench
- Forest school area
- Interpretation board
- Main entrance
- Canmore points
- Agreed Timber Transport Route
- Core path
- Footpath
- Powerline
- Underground power cable
- Water pipe

Woodland

- Mixed broadleaves
- Other land

GROUND TRUTH FORESTRY

Ground Truth Forestry

Scale at A3: 1:2,500

26/09/2025

356500 356600 356700 356800 356900 357000

618200 618100 618000 617900 617800

90m

DENE ROAD

Path

Iss

Woodside

110m

El Dist Sta

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Lower Denholm Dean

N

Map 5: Compartments

NGR: NT 568 180

Legend

- Grid reference point
- Site boundary
- Compartments
- Other land

GROUND TRUTH FORESTRY

Scale at A3: 1:1,750

26/09/2025

Appendix 1: Denholm Dean Species List

This species list originates from surveys conducted some time ago (2012) and reflects both the Lower Denholm Dean and the wider area. While it provides a valuable baseline for biodiversity monitoring, some species distributions may have changed due to habitat evolution, herbivore impact, or climate influences.

The list provides a comprehensive record of the trees, shrubs, ground flora, and other notable species present in Lower Denholm Dean. Each species is listed with its recorded grid reference (Gridref) and relevant comments regarding its distribution and condition.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Grid References	Notable Interest
Abies alba	Silver Fir	NT564171, NT565177	Several fine trees by cottage, self sown on cliff top
Abies grandis	Grand Fir	NT564174	10m cell 84, poor young specimen with deer damage
Acer campestre	Field Maple	NT563170, NT564171, NT564172, NT564174, NT565178, NT566178	Old trees, planted, several self sown
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	NT564171	By cottage
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	NT5617	Plentiful
Adoxa moschatellina	Moschatel	NT565176, NT567179	10m cells 74, 48, small colony
Aegopodium podagraria	Ground Elder	NT5617	Locally abundant, especially by cottage and near village, not intrusive
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut	NT5617	Few specimens present
Ajuga reptans	Bugle	NT5617	Frequent occurrence
Alchemilla xanthochlora	Ladyâ€™s Mantle	NT5617, NT564171	Occasional, patch present
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard	NT5617	Occasional presence
Allium ursinum	Wild Garlic	NT5617	Locally dominant
Alnus glutinosa	Common Alder	NT5617	Frequent occurrence
Alnus x hybrida	Hybrid Alder	NT567179	10m cell 23 and near, group of hybrids, some close to each parent, planted by SWT as native
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	NT5617	Margins
Anemone nemorosa	Wood Anemone	NT5617	Fine colonies frequent
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	NT5617	Occasional presence
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal Grass	NT5617	Occasional presence
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley	NT5617	Occasional

Arabis caucasica	Wall Rockcress	NT568181	10m cell 15, few on cliff
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat Grass	NT5617	By cottage
Arum maculatum	Lords-and-Ladies	NT564173, NT566177, NT568181	10m cells 34, 35, leaves not spotted
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady Fern	NT5617	Occasional
Bellis perennis	Daisy	NT5617	Margins
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	NT5617	Widely planted and self sown
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False Brome	NT5617	Locally abundant
Bromopsis ramosa	Hairy Brome	NT5617	Frequent
Cardamine amara	Large Bittercress	NT568181	10m cell 24
Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy Bittercress	NT5617	Occasional
Cardamine hirsuta	Hairy Bittercress	NT5617	Near village
Carex sylvatica	Wood Sedge	NT567179, NT568181	Colony, and much more widely
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	NT5617	Margins
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Lawson's Cypress	NT5617	Planted and self sown
Chamerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb	NT5617	Occasional
Chrysospleniu m alternifolium	Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage	NT567179	10m cell 63, likely more widespread
Chrysospleniu m oppositifolium	Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage	NT5617	Frequent
Cicerbita macrophylla	Common Blue-sowthistle	NT566174	10m cell 52, track near road, patch
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanterâ€™s-nightshade	NT567179	Modest colony, also occasional more widely
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	NT5617	Margins
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	NT5617	Occasional
Conopodium majus	Pignut	NT5617	Frequent
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	NT564171	Patch near cottage
Corylus avellana	Hazel	NT5617	Frequent occurrence
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	NT5617	Frequent occurrence
Crepis paludosa	Marsh Hawkâ€™s-beard	NT564173, NT567179	10m cells 26, 63
Cystopteris fragilis	Brittle Bladder-fern	NT564171	10m cell 31, clump on cliff opposite cottage

Cytisus scoparius	Broom	NT5617	Occasional
Dactylis glomerata	Cockâ€™s-foot	NT5617	Occasional
Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hair-grass	NT5617	Occasional
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove	NT5617	Scarce
Doronicum pardalianches	Leopardâ€™s-bane	NT5617	Abundant near village
Dryopteris affinis	Scaly Male Fern	NT566175	Modest colony
Dryopteris dilatata	Broad Buckler-fern	NT5617	Frequent
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male Fern	NT5617	Frequent
Elymus caninus	Bearded Couch	NT565177	10m cell 81, and more widely, small colonies
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	NT564172	10m cell 40, one poor bush on face of cliff opposite cottage
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	NT5617, NT568181	Widespread, including self sown varieties
Festuca gigantea	Giant Fescue	NT565176, NT566178, NT567179, NT568181	Isolated clumps
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	NT5617	Widespread
Fragaria vesca	Wild Strawberry	NT5617	Occasional
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	NT5617	Widespread
Galanthus nivalis	Snowdrop	NT5617	Near village and cottage
Galium aparine	Cleavers	NT5617	Widespread
Galium odoratum	Sweet Woodruff	NT565176, NT565177, NT566176, NT567179, NT567180	Large colonies
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	NT5617	Widespread
Geranium sylvaticum	Wood Cranesbill	NT565174, NT566178, NT567179	Modest colony
Geum rivale	Water Avens	NT5617	Frequent
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	NT5617	Frequent
Geum x intermedium	Hybrid Avens	NT568181	10m cell 14
Glechoma hederacea	Ground Ivy	NT5617	Occasional
Hedera helix	Ivy	NT5617	Local
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	NT5617	Occasional
Hieracium agg.	Hawkweed	NT5617	Local
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell	NT564174, NT565175	Plentiful

Hyacinthoides x massartiana	Hybrid Bluebell	NT568181	Near boundary with Deanburn House
Hypericum hirsutum	Hairy St John's-wort	NT565177	Few
Hypericum pulchrum	Slender St John's-wort	NT5617	Local
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	NT5617	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	NT5617	Occasional
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort	NT5617	Frequent
Larix x marschlinsii	Hybrid Larch	NT5617	Small blocks
Ligustrum vulgare	Wild Privet	NT5617	One near cottage
Lilium martagon	Martagon Lily	NT568181	10m cell 25, colony
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	NT5617	Occasional
Lunaria annua	Honesty	NT567179, NT568181	10m cells 56, 25, few
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	NT5617	Local
Luzula pilosa	Hairy Wood-rush	NT5617	Widespread
Luzula sylvatica	Great Wood-rush	NT5617	Local
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	NT5617	Local
Malus baccata	Siberian Crab Apple	NT567179	10m cell 23, in flower, planted by SWT as native
Malus sylvestris sens. lat.	Wild Crab Apple	NT564170	10m cell 09, by cottage
Mercurialis perennis	Dog's Mercury	NT5617	Locally dominant
Moehringia trinervia	Three-nerved Sandwort	NT5617	Local
Myosotis sylvatica	Wood Forget-me-not	NT5617	Some with white flowers, frequent
Oxalis acetosella	Wood Sorrel	NT5617	Widespread
Persicaria bistorta	Bistort	NT563170, NT568180	10m cells 87, 08, patches near cottage and good patch
Petasites hybridus	Butterbur	NT5617	Several colonies
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed Canary-grass	NT5617	Frequent
Philadelphus x virginalis	Mock Orange	NT564171	By cottage
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hartâ€™s-tongue Fern	NT566177, NT567180, NT568181	Good colonies on cliffs and rather more widely
Picea sitchensis	Sitka Spruce	NT5617	Modest blocks
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine	NT5617	Occasional presence

Plantago major	Greater Plantain	NT5617	Paths
Poa nemoralis	Wood Meadow-grass	NT5617	Widespread
Polypodium vulgare	Common Polypody	NT5617	Occasional
Polystichum aculeatum	Hard Shield-fern	NT565177, NT566177, NT567180, NT567181, NT568180, NT568181	Good colonies on cliffs and rather more widely
Polystichum x bicknellii	Bicknellâ€™s Fern	NT567179	10m cell 79, very robust plant in open glade, grazed by roe deer
Populus x canadensis	Hybrid Black Poplar	NT5617	Small blocks
Potentilla sterilis	Barren Strawberry	NT5617	Widespread
Primula vulgaris	Primrose	NT5617	Widespread
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry	NT5617	Local occurrence
Prunus cerasifera	Cherry Plum	NT567181	10m cell 72, several planted at boundary
Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel	NT564171	By cottage
Prunus padus	Bird Cherry	NT563173, NT564173, NT564174, NT566177, NT567179, NT568181	Colony
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	NT5617	Local
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	NT565175	10m cell 51, fine tree
Quercus robur	English Oak	NT5617	Widespread as small blocks
Ranunculus auricomus	Goldilocks Buttercup	NT564176, NT565174, NT565175, NT565176, NT566179, NT567181, NT568181	10m cells 98, 22, 44, 68, 40, 80, 35, good colony
Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser Celandine	NT5617	Widespread
Ranunculus ficaria subsp. bulbilifer	Bulbiliferous Lesser Celandine	NT5617	Noted
Ranunculus ficaria subsp. ficaria	Common Lesser Celandine	NT5617	Noted
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	NT5617	Occasional
Ribes alpinum	Alpine Currant	NT564172	10m cell 50, several large patches near cottage
Ribes rubrum	Red Currant	NT5617	Scarce
Ribes uva-crispa	Gooseberry	NT5617	Occasional
Rosa canina agg.	Dog Rose	NT5617	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	NT5617	Not plentiful
Rubus idaeus	Raspberry	NT5617	Local

Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	NT5617	Widespread
Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock	NT5617	Widespread
Salix caprea	Goat Willow	NT5617	Local occurrence
Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia	Rusty Willow	NT5617	Local
Sambucus nigra	Elder	NT5617	Occasional presence
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle	NT564171, NT567179	10m cells 22, 63, by cottage, few
Saxifraga granulata	Meadow Saxifrage	NT564172, NT565176, NT567179, NT567180, NT568181	10m cells 39, 74, 53, 93, 18
Scrophularia nodosa	Common Figwort	NT5617	Occasional
Silene dioica	Red Campion	NT5617, NT565178	Plentiful, 10m cell 84 white-flowered form
Sorbus aria	Whitebeam	NT564170	10m cell 19, large old tree, now decrepit
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	NT5617	Occasional presence
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	NT5617	Widespread
Stellaria holostea	Greater Stitchwort	NT5617	Excellent colonies
Stellaria nemorum	Wood Stitchwort	NT564174, NT565176, NT567179, NT568181	Colony, large colonies
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	NT5617	By entrance near village
Taraxacum agg.	Dandelion	NT5617	Occasional
Taxus baccata	Yew	NT5617	Several planted, also self sown
Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	NT5617	Few specimens present
Trifolium repens	White Clover	NT5617	Margins
Tussilago farfara	Coltsfoot	NT5617	Occasional
Ulmus glabra	Wych Elm	NT5617	Widespread occurrence
Urtica dioica	Stinging Nettle	NT5617	Widespread
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	NT564171	10m cell 28, small colony at top of cliff
Valeriana officinalis	Common Valerian	NT564171	10m cell 59
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell	NT5617	Occasional
Veronica hederifolia	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	NT5617	Occasional
Veronica montana	Wood Speedwell	NT565174, NT567179, NT568181	Plentiful, 10m cells 63, 35 and near
Veronica serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	NT5617	Occasional

Viburnum opulus	Guelder Rose	NT563172, NT565174, NT566178, NT567179	10m cells 53, 12, 76, 33, suckering patch
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch	NT5617	Widespread
Viola riviniana	Common Dog-violet	NT5617	Widespread

Appendix 2: NVC Woodland Types

The following table outlines the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) types present in Lower Denholm Dean, aligning with both on-site surveys and official NVC guidance. These classifications reflect the existing woodland composition as well as the target communities for woodland restoration following the removal of Sitka spruce. Some areas may exhibit transitional characteristics between types, contributing to the overall biodiversity and ecological resilience of the site.

Additionally, small populations of other species are present within the woodland, though they are not primary components of the NVC types listed below. These species play a minor role but may contribute to structural diversity and climate resilience in select areas.

NVC Type	Major Tree and Shrub Species	Characteristic ground flora
W7 **Alder – Ash Woodland with Yellow Pimpernel**	Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)	Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Wood stitchwort (*Stellaria nemorum*), Butterbur (*Petasites hybridus*), Greater wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*)
W9 **Upland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland with Dog's Mercury**	Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)	False-brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
W10 **Oak – Hazel – Bluebell Woodland**	Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Birch (*Betula pendula*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)	Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*)
W11 **Oak – Downy Birch – Willow Woodland**	Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)	Wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Red campion (*Silene dioica*), Hard fern (*Blechnum spicant*)

Appendix 3: Annual Maintenance Calendar

The following table outlines the key maintenance activities by zone (**See Map 2 for Sub Cpts**), required to support the long-term management and ecological restoration of Denholm Dean Community Woodland. These tasks align with the broader objectives set out in the management plan and ensure the continued health, accessibility, and biodiversity of the woodland.

Maintenance activities are scheduled throughout the year to balance ecological sensitivity, such as the bird nesting season, and practical management needs. The bird nesting season runs from March 1st to August 31st, during which any activities that could disturb nesting birds, such as felling or pruning, will be avoided unless a pre-work survey confirms no active nests. Similarly, all management activities will take into account the presence of protected species, including badgers, otters, and roosting bats, ensuring that their habitats are preserved and that any required works are undertaken in compliance with wildlife legislation.

Certain interventions, such as path maintenance and invasive species control, are ongoing and require periodic assessment to prevent deterioration or encroachment.

Annual Maintenance Calendar				**Bird Nesting Season**									
Cpt	**ACTIVITY**	**JAN**	**FEB**	**MAR**	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUN**	**JULY**	**AUG**	**SEPT**	**OCT**	**NOV**	**DEC**
WHOLE SITE	- Check condition of paths and bridges. Report structural concerns to SBC Ranger.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cpt 1a	- Remove/cut back snowberry. - Continue cutting back ivy on selected trees. Remove re-growth.	X	X										
Cpt 1b and 1c	NB Area to be left untouched, except - check for fallen trees in burn and remove of tree shelter where possible.	X	X									X	X
Cpt 2a and 2b	- Thinning, removal of hung-up trees. - Dead wood piles. - Dead wood hedges by steep banks. - Replant gaps where appropriate.	X X X X	X X X X									 X	 X
Cpt 2c	- Fill in any gaps with hazel. - Hazel coppice work. - Maintain pollard under power lines (or coppice where necessary)	X	X									 X X	 X X
Cpt 2d	- Thinning, removal of hung-up trees. - Dead wood piles. - Dead wood hedges by steep banks. - Replant gaps where appropriate. - Start creation of open area near burn	X X X X X	X X X X X										

Cpt	ACTIVITY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Cpt 3a	- Maintenance of new planting. - Weeding as per felling licence requirements. - Beating up as per felling permission - Maintenance of field boundary hedge (rejuvenation measures, fill in gaps)	X	X X	X	X	X	X X	X X	X X	X	X X	X X X	X X
Cpt 3b and 3c	- Maintenance of new planting. - Weeding as per felling licence requirements. - Beating up as per felling permission - Stockade maintenance. - Maintain access to burn-side beach.	X	X	X	X	X	X X	X X	X X	X	X X	X X	X X
Cpt 3d	- Fill in any gaps with hazel. - Hazel coppice work. - Maintain trees under power lines (or coppice where necessary)	X X X	X X X								X X X	X X X	X X X
Cpt 5a	- Maintenance of new hazel planting. - Weeding as per felling licence requirements. - Gradual coppicing of existing hazel. - Goat willow cuttings by burn?	X	X	X	X	X	X X	X X	X X	X	X	X X	X X

Cpt	ACTIVITY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Cpt 3f	- Maintenance of new planting. - Weeding as per felling licence requirements. - Beating up as per felling permission - Remove old fence wire by burn and up boundary line.	X	X	X	X	X	X X	X X	X X	X	X X	X X	X X
Cpt 4b	- On-going measures to stabilise bank - Remove old fence wire by burn. - Continue restoration of original planting.												
Cpt 6a	- Clear brash pre-planting. - Path maintenance and tidying. - Dead-wood hedge along steep side of path up to road. - Maintain new hedge by road. - Tree planting as per planting plan. - Maintain meadow				X	X	X	X	X X	X X	X	 X	 X
Additional space for ongoing changes.													
Cpt	**ACTIVITY**	**JAN**	**FEB**	**MAR**	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUN**	**JULY**	**AUG**	**SEPT**	**OCT**	**NOV**	**DEC**

DENHOLM DEAN VOLUNTEERS

WRITTEN BY: V. Oswald
DATE: Jan 2025
REVIEW DATE: Jan 2026

RISK ASSESSMENT – DENHOLM DEAN

OS MAP REF: NT 5617 and NT 5618 Access gate by road: NT 56851815
what3words: dupe.encourage.punchy

NEAREST A & E HOSPITAL: Borders General, Huntlyburn Terrace, Melrose, TD6 9BS (35 minutes)

RISK	Risk level before	MITIGATION	Risk level after
Remoteness of site: Non-urban area Uncertain telecommunications	Med	• No lone working • First Aid kit to be carried by organiser • Mobile phone coverage ok for o2 and talkmobile • Organiser to hold contact details of all volunteers	Low
Terrain Steep slopes and rocky edges	High	• No work to be done near cliff edges	Low
Trip Hazards Uneven paths and steps, Tree roots, Ground vegetation Hidden branches in undergrowth Slippery foot bridges	Med	• Organiser to alert volunteers to risks associated with uneven terrain and wet conditions • Volunteers to check area is clear of trip hazards • Volunteers to take care crossing bridges, particularly when carrying tools	Low
Water: Working near water	High	• No work to be carried out when water levels are very high • Volunteers to avoid working near burn where possible.	Low
Trees and branches: Leaning and hanging trees and branches	High	• Care to be taken when working within 20m of hanging trees or branches • No work to be carried out if gusts forecast to be > 35 mph.	Low

RISK	Risk level before	MITIGATION	Risk level after
Hand Tools Cuts caused by sharp tools and blades Unsuitable or damaged tools Unsafe storage of tools when not in use	Med	• First Aid kit to be carried by organiser. • Volunteers to wear protective clothing and gloves • Volunteers to provide own tools and be responsible for their maintenance • No knives to be used • Tools to be sheathed when not in use.	Low
Chain Saws (minimal use where necessary) Cuts and other injuries Injury caused by machine failure Risk to other volunteers and passers by	High	• Machine saws to be used only by experienced, suitably trained, persons. Appropriate safety equipment and clothing to be employed by user. • User to provide and maintain own equipment. • Safe working area to be maintained around chainsaw operator. No-one to be within 2 tree lengths of any trees that are being felled. One volunteer to be responsible for maintaining this area and warning of approaching visitors to site.	Low
Hazardous or Toxic Plants and Fungi Skin injuries	Low	• Organiser to check presence ahead of event and advise volunteers to wear long sleeved clothing and trousers	Low
Insect Stings and Bites Wasps Horse fly	Low	• Avoid working near wasp nests • Volunteers to bring insect repellent	Low
Ticks: Contracting Lymes disease	High	• Volunteers to keep arms and legs covered • Volunteers to check for ticks at end of event • If found remove with proper tool and apply antiseptic.	Med
Public access: Site contains SBC core paths	Low	• Due care to be taken for path users • Organiser to put laminated sign at entrance gate advising of work on site.	Low

RISK	Risk level before	MITIGATION	Risk level after
Fire: **(controlled brash burning)** Weather conditions cause fire to spread. Burning site endangers volunteers. Danger to path users. Fire becomes uncontrolled.	High	• Burning to be carried out only when conditions suitable (not during dry spells, only on windless days.) • One clearly identified person in charge of controlling access to site. • Fire to be sited away from public paths and 30 m away from tarred road. • Size of brash heap controlled. Fire never left unattended.	Low
Manual Handling: Injury caused by lifting heavy objects or heavy loads. Slipping while handling loads on steep gradients.	High	• Volunteers to be aware of safe practice when lifting loads – bend from knees not back, avoid twisting torso when lifting or putting down. • Avoid repetitive movements when carrying loads. • Be aware of strength limitations – no-one to try to lift a load greater than their capability. Be aware that some tasks will be beyond the strength of one person. • Be aware of need for rest time. NB Further advice available at https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143 • Reduce load sizes carried on slopes. • Wearing of appropriate non-slip footwear essential.	Low
Scything: Risk of injury from sharp blade	Med	• Scything to be carried out only by sufficiently trained volunteers with training in safe practice. • Care to be taken in carrying scythe in appropriate manner and with blade pointing downwards. • Care to be taken in positioning scythe on ground when not in use. • Safe working distance to be maintained between scythers, and between scythers and other volunteers. • Appropriate footwear to be worn.	Low

Appendix 5: 10 Year Work Programme

The 10-Year Work Programme outlines planned management activities for Denholm Dean using a Cpt approach **(refer to Map 5).**

Key activities include tree planting, invasive species control, habitat enhancement, and path maintenance. The table below details planned tasks, responsible groups, and expected costs. An annual maintenance calendar **(Appendix 3)** provides further annual guidance.

TEN YEAR WORK PROGRAMME 2025 – 2035							
LOCATION	**MANAGEMENT INPUT**	**YEAR 1**	**YEAR 2**	**YEAR 3**	**YEAR 4**	**YEAR 5**	**COSTS**
Cpt 6	Brash removal and tree planting	x					(Volunteer activity)
Cpt 3 + 6	Monitor tree survival. Beating up of failures (to maintain 1600 stems/ha)	x	x x	x	x x	x x	(Volunteer activity) Cost of tree stems
Cpt 3 + 6	Selected trial tree shelter removal					x	(Volunteer activity)
Path network	Replacement of steps removed by felling operations	x					(Justice team) Type 1 infill purchase
Path network	Handrail replacement and extension	x					(Justice team) Timber purchase
Path network	Selected path section improvement	x	x	x			(Volunteer activity) Type 1 purchase/SBC?
Path network	Monitoring and maintenance	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity) SBC Ranger
Path network	Visual bridge inspection	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity) SBC Ranger
Whole site	Monitor invasive species	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity)
Whole site	Monitor tree health		x		x		(Volunteer activity)
Whole site	Beech and spruce regeneration removal		x		x		(Volunteer activity)
Whole site	Monitor grey squirrel and roe deer damage	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity)
Cpt 5 + 2	Map and measure potential coppice areas (C1 and C2)		x				(Volunteer activity)?
Coppice C1	Selective coppicing		x				(Volunteer activity)
Coppice C2	Selective coppicing					x	(Volunteer activity)
Whole site	Review risk assessments	x	x	x	x	x	(Committee)
Whole site	Review management plan					x	
LOCATION	**MANAGEMENT INPUT**	**YEAR 6**	**YEAR 7**	**YEAR 8**	**YEAR 9**	**YEAR 10**	**COSTS**
Zones 1, 3 + 6	Gradual tree shelter removal	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity)
Zones 1, 3 + 6	Selected infill planting to broaden species range	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity) Some stem purchase
Path network	Monitoring and maintenance	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity) SBC Ranger
Path network	Path improvement by section	x		x		x	(Volunteer activity) Type 1 purchase?
Path network	Visual bridge inspection	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity) SBC Ranger
Whole site	Monitor invasive species	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity)
Whole site	Monitor ash die-back		x		x		(Volunteer activity)
Whole site	Beech and spruce regeneration removal		x		x		(Volunteer activity)
Whole site	Monitor grey squirrel and roe deer damage	x	x	x	x	x	(Volunteer activity)
Coppice C1	First coppice rotation cut				x		(Volunteer activity)
Whole site	Review risk assessments	x	x	x	x	x	(Committee)
Whole site	Review management plan					x	