

**SOUTHWOOD WOOD – MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009 - 2014**

Cpt No	Ha	Description	Notable Points	Photo Ref	Prescription	Plan Period
1a	1.23	Recent woodland colonisation / establishment of mixed broadleaves (circa 20 years old). Uniform height and density suggests area may have been planted around 1980. Woodland cover made up of willow, ash alder and hazel. Poor ground flora of ivy and sting nettle with presence of straight drains suggests the area was formally worked industrially before planting. Contains a small modern pond. Access to the north frustrated by steep land raise sides of the tip.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorrectly identified as ancient woodland site.</li> <li>• Pond</li> <li>• Native tree cover.</li> </ul>		Thin to add structural diversity. Open water creation in pond.	Years 2, 15
1b	0.91	Mature (> 60 years old) mixed broadleaved woodland on river and stream alluvial flood plain. Rich ground flora of Dogs mercury, bluebell and campion with regeneration of ash and sycamore. Good fallen deadwood across the forest floor. Upper canopy dominated with alder and ash accompanied by sycamore hazel and oak with occasional beech. The shallow stream runs strongly and has been forded at points from previous management access but many years ago. The area is difficult to work in the north given the number of water courses and sensitive riparian habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses.</li> <li>• Mature alder coppice.</li> <li>• Old boundary bank to the east.</li> </ul>		Remove sycamore regeneration. Promote standing deadwood by ring barking occasional mature sycamore. Manage as long term retention	Years 1,2, 5,10,15,20

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1c	4.29	As the land rises up off the flood plain, the soils are more base rich and the woodland cover becomes dominated by ash. Some scattered mature trees can be found (> 80 years) with much fallen deadwood. Recent management intervention can be seen with an historic timber extraction route evident. Small scattered groups of conifers were planted some 20 years ago probably to give cover for pheasants. An isolated area of woodland given the lack of access to the east and difficulty of access to the west with wet soils and distance to hard rides/tracks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good deadwood presence.</li> <li>• Occasional alder groups</li> </ul>	003 015	Cut and remove the conifers to remove any potential regeneration. Introduce an access ride. Establish a light thinning cycle to reduce the ash.	Years 2, 12
1d	2.44	The furthest eastern part of Strashleigh Hams. A higher predominance of older oak (> 80 years) ash, alder, hazel and sycamore. Soils more base rich than the western area and flora more diverse with honeysuckle, fern, hawthorn bramble and ribus. Guelder rose, holly haulton and hazel make up the Understorey. Some of the oak have heavy old ivy populations; excellent bat habitat. Aspen and wild cherry found to diversify the woodland further.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mature oak presence.</li> <li>• Small glade.</li> <li>• Diverse species range.</li> </ul>	008 009 010	Monitor and manage as none intervention. Secure boundary from cattle intrusion. Manage the small glade as open ground by removing the goat willow and control the bracken growth.	

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1e 1f 1g	0.21 0.34 0.57	Predominated by mature hazel coppice with occasional over storey canopy of ash, oak or mature holly. Ground flora very sparse due to poor light penetration. Little signs of dormouse feeding on the hazel nuts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuts and flowers.</li> <li>• Coppice.</li> <li>• Badger sett.</li> <li>• Old stone working evidence. (1f)</li> </ul>		Introduce very occasional re-coppicing to rejuvenate older stools. No more than 10% in the plan period.	Years 5,
1h	0.23	An area of wet woodland with encroachment of willow and ash onto waterlogged soils. Ground flora of sedge and iris with coarse grasses where sunlight allows. Tree cover is younger with ash no older than 20 years; suggesting recent regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverse ground flora.</li> <li>• Riparian habitat.</li> <li>• Potential open ground.</li> </ul>	016	Remove encroaching ash and willow to revert to 70% open ground 30% peripheral woody cover.	Year 1
1i	2.12	Similar to 1b with mature alder and ash. Slightly drier stream sides with greater number of beech of various ages present. An access track from the south is clearly visible, but not passable without some clearance works. Good fallen deadwood habitats throughout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old boundary bank to the east with mature trees along this.</li> <li>• Rich ground flora.</li> <li>• Riparian habitats.</li> </ul>		Reinstate access route. Remove all sycamore regeneration. Monitor.	Years 1,2,5,10,15,20

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1j	2.69	<p>This area occupies steep to very steep hill side with a NW aspect. The Ordnance Survey Map calls this Strashleigh Hams (as for compartment 1c and d) suggesting that this is the western most fragment of the originally larger wood.</p> <p>The stand is notable for the diversity of mature broadleaved trees. This probably being the result of the poor access both intently due to slope and wet access rides and its isolation through clearance to agricultural use over the last 80 years.</p> <p>The eastern "spike" is a thin belt of isolated mature oak, ash and hazel heavily used for cattle shade and cover. An internal ride is shown on maps and can be seen but needs some maintenance to restore limited access.</p> <p>A line of beech suggests some replanting has occurred, but probably as under planting rather than re-stocking. The N.C.C. provisional Ancient Woodland register suggests the northern third of the compartment has been cleared at some time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mature oak (one tree measuring 80cm diameter and 20m in height)</li> <li>• Excellent standing deadwood habitat.</li> <li>• Rock face aid out crops in damp environment (shade)</li> </ul>	012 014 018	<p>Gradually remove beech and replant with oak.</p> <p>Manage as long term retention.</p> <p>Carry out new planting to the east and south to extend AWS and restore Strashleigh Hams. (Defragmentation)</p>	Years 1,2,5,10,15,20

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2a	2.35	<p>This area is referred to as Challonsleigh Plantation of the O.S. maps. It occupies the flood plain on the left bank of the river Yealm. Drainage channels and runnels can be seen at intervals. Woodland cover is mainly young (&lt;40 years) coppice original growth of ash, hazel, willow, conifers, sweet chestnut and sycamore with beech and holly. Some of the ash show bacterial stem canker.</p> <p>Ground flora of ivy, dog mercury and bluebell with regeneration of ash seedlings present. To the east an earth bank runs parallel to the river suggesting that this very fertile, river side land has been grazed in the recent past. The sparseness of mature trees and presence of Norway spruce and sweet chestnut further suggests that this area has been cleared and replanted in the last 60 years. The area is named as a "plantation" which also demonstrates the past management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riverside habitat.</li> <li>• One notable mature beech.</li> <li>• Old boundary bank.</li> </ul>	002	<p>Re-establish coppice use of area (especially cankered ash and hazel). Removing 30% every five years and retaining 10% as long term retention.</p> <p>Establish periodic open ground along river side as scallops.</p> <p>Remove conifers.</p> <p>Survey river bank for otter holts.</p>	Year 1, 10
2b	0.03	<p>A small, yet clearly very different pocket of woodland with compartment 2a. This is a stand of 9 mature Douglas fir of approximately 60 years old. Douglas fir is not found planted anywhere else in the whole property. Their height of Circa 24m makes them more noticeable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mature trees.</li> <li>• Timber potential.</li> </ul>	019	<p>Fell to create open ground by the river</p>	Year 1

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Cpt No	Ha	Description	Notable Points	Photo Ref	Prescription	Plan Period
3a	1.38	This is an extension of compartment 2a southwards adjacent to the river bank of the river Yealm. This area is quite different to 2a in the presence of mature and semi mature beech and occasional ash, willow and oak. The ground flora is less diverse due to lower light levels reaching the forest floor. The main, most recently used access ride runs down towards the public highway at the south end of the property; visible but not useable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mature beech.</li> <li>• River side habitat.</li> </ul>		Sunny river bank for otter holts. Light thin to diversify species and restore access.	Year 5, 15
3b	0.76	Wetter water logged soils along a small stream starting from a spring at the northern woodland edge. Woodland and ground flora by ash with occasional willow and alder. Very similar to compartment 1c.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riparian habitat.</li> <li>• Manage as non intervention area.</li> </ul>		Monitor stand. Remove any sycamore regeneration.	Years 1,2, 5,10,15,20
3c	0.28	Woodland edge strip dominated by mature and pole sized sycamore. Poor ground flora due to lack of light.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Badger sett.</li> <li>• Mature sycamore.</li> </ul>		Fell sycamore and replant with ash, oak and hazel. Consider thinning woodland edge by planting up field edge with shrubbier species and diversify structure.	Year 15

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4	15.96	Improved agricultural grass land fields. Heavy clover and dock content with no wild flower communities found. See comments in compartment 1j with speculation towards these fields having previously been part of Strashleigh Hams woodland cover. Potential to create 6.2 ha of restored native woodland without any compromise to the area of archaeological interest. This new woodland could add a structural woodland edge with berried and lower grown shrubs, planted groups of native trees from locally collected seed of oak, ash and alder as well as areas left prepared for natural regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land links two areas of ancient woodland</li> <li>• Bat feeding area</li> </ul>	011	Deer fence perimeter and plant a new native woodland. (see 1J above).	Year 2
5a	0.63	An area of native broadleaved species managed as coppice below the National Grid power lines. Hazel and ash regrowth suggests the area was last cut some 6 to 10 years ago. This will be cut again by National Grid in order to maintain their clearance obligations. An isolated area with no internal access to reach it except by foot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland site.</li> <li>• Water course.</li> </ul>		Monitor. Arrange recoppicing	Year 6, 20
5b	1.53	This is a thin strip of boundary woodland around the northern and north western edge of the old quarry waste tipping fence. The steep slopes and lower flatter edge have regenerated with ash, alder, hazel, buddleia and gorse. Tree growth suggests regeneration over the last twenty years. The "outer" 50% of the compartment is made up boundary trees of mature ash, oak and holly on the old boundary bank and associated ditches. As with 5a, very poor access thus an undisturbed habitat area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland site.</li> <li>• Water course.</li> </ul>		Monitor.	

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5c	0.51	<p>A boundary screen planting of conifers dating from around 1970. Planted with Monterey cypress at 3m spacing, approximately 70% remain, un-thinned. Occasional lodge pole pine has remained to the east. The southern edge of the compartment becomes the 20 year old regeneration of the quarry tipping slopes. The predominance of the cypress, uniform growth and evergreen cover make this stand clearly visible from a number of points around the immediate area. It stands oddly in the landscape given the amount of native woodland cover around the area.</p> <p>There appears no current benefits from the screening effect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good straight form.</li> <li>• Timber potential (average tree 0.8m<sup>3</sup>)</li> </ul>	023	<p>Create vehicular access. Fell conifers and re plant with native species.</p>	Year 2
5d	0.85	<p>The land from the west (Monterey cypress) runs down onto the flood plain of the river Yealm and the soil structure becomes water logged. The original need of a visual boundary screen was extended into 5d from 5c, but hybrid North American poplar (TTx32) was employed due to the wetness of the site.</p> <p>The trees are now &gt;30 years old and have become mature, standing at 28 to 30m high and around 65cm diameter at breast height. They were planted at 8m centres and have established well. The understorey is made up of alder and ash regeneration with ground flora of sedge, iris and creeping buttercup. Access is like all of compartment 5 - very poor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good straight form.</li> <li>• Timber potential (average tree 3m<sup>3</sup>).</li> </ul>	022	<p>Create vehicular access. Partially fell and regenerate to native wet woodland (40%) Ring bark some trees (30%) to provide standing dead wood. Retain remaining trees (30%) to act as visual maturity.</p>	Year 2, 12

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5e	1.01	<p>Very similar ground conditions and ground flora as in compartment 5d. This area appears even aged for circa 30 to 50 years old and predominated by alder and ash. Occasional runnels create drier banks with damper areas either side. The drier banks allowing better tree growth and occasional beech trees to have established.</p> <p>The area receives periodic water logging from the flooding of the river Yealm. The western edge shows iron rich minerals flows from the old quarry tipping activities. These do not appear to cause any limiting effect on the tree growth. No notable mature trees found in this area suggesting that the site may have been cleared as part of the historic industrial use and has regenerated since.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainly native woodland.</li> <li>• Wetland habitat.</li> </ul>	021	<p>Create access.</p> <p>Control Himalayan balsam.</p> <p>Monitor stand development.</p>	Year 1, 2, 5, 15
5f	0.41	<p>The ground rises upwards off the alluvial ground of Compartment 5e to be much drier and base rich. This appears to be a remnant area of woodland cover, prior to the historic quarrying and loose tipping of New England Quarry. Ground flora is rich in blue bell, ivy and dog mercury. Woodland cover is predominantly beech, but not of maturity, with ash, hazel and holly. The area continues westward but outside the remit of this report.</p> <p>The area is shown as an ancient Woodland site of the provisional register.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient woodland site remnant</li> <li>• Bluebell reserve.</li> </ul>		Monitor and protect.	

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5g	0.57	This is the eastern flank of the old quarry workings on the right bank of the river Yealm. With mature beech and well drained soils, this is an extension of compartment 3a, albeit on the other side of the river. Access is severely limited due to the quarry and river.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undisturbed area</li> <li>• Alongside River Yealm</li> </ul>		Maintain and monitor	
6a	2.21	An unimproved wetland meadow with wonderful wild flowers, soft grasses and iris populations. This species rich habitat is very rare and needs a specialist survey to monitor flora and butterfly species present. The fields have been fenced and lightly grazed over previous years as little scrub or woody intrusion is present except in the wettest northern point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland meadow.</li> <li>• Diverse habitat.</li> <li>• Country wildlife designation.</li> </ul>	025	Specialist survey. Maintain a light grazing regime. Monitor.	Year 2, 5, 10, 15, 20
6b 6c	1.77 4.15	Two fields to the south of the meadow of compartment 6a. The land rises to the south and the wild flower wetland becomes unimproved grassland. The grass sward shows native clover in low density and regular docks and thistles. Whilst not as diverse as compartment 6a this unimproved grassland is important open habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open habitat.</li> <li>• Bat feeding area</li> </ul>		Continue grazing. Manage thistle and docks. Monitor sward composition.	Year 2, 5, 10, 15, 20

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7	19.26	<p>The area of industrially used land of New England Quarry. The only access to compartments 5 and 6 is through the old quarry entrance in the southern edge of compartment 7. The land rises steeply from the old weigh bridge and offices in the SE corner to the central plateau above the quarried rock reserve and now flooded quarry. Waste rock was previously tipped around the northern and eastern flanks of this plateau to reduce access further to the areas of compartment 5.</p> <p>The quarry area was not surveyed as part of this management plan yet access would have to be available through this area if management is to be implemented across the recommendations.</p>				