

Moss and Height Spring Wood

Date (from/to)	Oct 2012 – Oct 2022
Date of last review [UKWAS 2.1.3]	2005
Owner/tenant	Bill Hogarth MBE Memorial Apprenticeship Trust
Agent/contact	Rebecca Oaks
Signed declaration of tenure rights and agreements to public availability of the plan [UKWAS 1.1.3/1.1.5/2.1.2]	

1 Background information

1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	Haverthwaite
Grid reference	SD324862
Total area (ha)	19.48ha

1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Moss & Height Spring Wood lies between the villages of Bouth and Colton; near Ulverston in South Cumbria. This area of the Lake District National Park has a high concentration of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) of which Moss & Height Spring Wood is defined as an Ancient Woodland Site planted with conifers (PAWs) in the 1950's and recently restored by the Woodland Trust. There are wonderful views north to the South Cumbria fells and Morecambe Bay SSSI estuary to the south. Adjacent to the woodland to the west and south is more ancient woodland surrounded by rolling permanent grassland.

The woodland is Upland Oak-birch woodland, a Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat for Cumbria, resembling semi natural NVC W11 and grades to alder woodland (NVC W7) in the wet flushes. This woodland makes an important contribution to the landscape character of the Cumbria Fells & Dales Natural Area. Having been managed by the Woodland Trust since the early 1990's the woodland has a number of permissive paths which are well used by local dog walkers. There is a short section of public footpath and a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) which attracts motorcycles and off road vehicles to pass through the wood.

Woodland Management Plan

1.3 History of Management

South Cumbria is well known for its history of coppicing and Moss & Height Spring Wood is no exception. It is likely the wood was coppiced into the 60's and this traditional method of woodland management was reinstated in Heights Spring in the 1990's under the Trust's ownership. The woodland was coppiced by a local coppice merchant, the late Bill Hogarth; of Sparkbridge. Bill coppiced Moss & Height and many local woods as had his father had before him providing the raw material for the Lancashire bobbin mills, birch besom for the steel industry and ships fenders for the ship yards of Barrow. Moss & Height Spring Wood holds relics of its industrial past with a number of charcoal hearths. In the last 20 to 25 years there has been a revival of coppicing and South Cumbria has been quite a stronghold of this work. There has been coppicing on site most years since 1993. In the 50's part of the wood was cleared and larch planted which was harvested by the WT in the mid 90's. This area was planted with mixed native hardwoods which have been somewhat overtaken by birch regeneration.

2 Woodland Information

2.1 Areas and features

Designated Areas	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Special areas for conservation (SACs)			
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Ramsar Sites (see note on Guidance)			
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)			
Other designations (e.g. National Park (NP) / World Heritage Site)		✓	✓
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)			
Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)			
TPO / Conservation Area (CA)			
Details: Lake District National Park			
Rare and important species	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Red Data Book or BAP species			
Rare, threatened, EPS or SAP species			
Details Lake District National Park			
Habitats	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)		✓	✓
Other semi-natural woodland		✓	✓
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)		✓	✓
Semi-natural features in PAWS		✓	✓

Woodland Management Plan

Woodland margins and hedges		✓	✓
Veteran and other notable trees			✓
Breeding sites			
Habitats of notable species			
Unimproved grasslands		✓	✓
Rides and open ground		✓	✓
Valuable wildlife communities		✓	✓
Feeding area			
Lowland heath			
Peatlands			
Others			
The woodland contains a rich variety of ASNW species and also includes open ground and unimproved grassland communities. The PAWS site has been restored.			

Water	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Watercourses		✓	✓
Lakes			
Ponds			✓
Wetland habitats		✓	✓
There are a number of seasonal and permanent water courses within the wood and areas of wet meadow and alder carr.			
Landscape	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Landscape designated areas			
Landscape features		✓	✓
Rock exposures		✓	✓
Historic landscapes		✓	✓
Areas of the woodland prominent from roads		✓	
Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements		✓	
Adjacent to the village of Bouth, the wood is an important feature in the locality.			
Cultural features	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Public rights of way		✓	✓
Prominent viewing points		✓	✓
Existing permissive footpaths		✓	✓
Proposed permissive footpaths			
Areas managed with traditional management systems		✓	
A small section of PROW crosses the northern end of the woodland. A BOAT dissects the woodland. The other paths are permissive.			
Part of the wood has been managed with a traditional coppice regime continuously since 1993 and prior to that from the 1960's back into history for charcoal, bobbin wood, ships fenders etc.			

Woodland Management Plan

Archaeological Features	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Scheduled monument			
Historical feature (Inc. designed landscapes, registered parks and gardens)			
Other		✓	
Pitsteads associated with a long history of charcoal burning.			

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

1. 6.6ha Oak, birch, hazel coppice with holly, yew and alder. Predominantly 40 – 60 year old oak coppice with birch.
2. 4.4 ha Restored PAWS 15 year old birch, hazel, oak, alder with mainly coppice regrowth and self sown birch but some oak planted amongst. More extensive areas of 30 to 40 year old birch to the north of the compartment.
3. 5.2ha Oak high forest with birch. Alder in the wetter areas, sycamore, some elm and occasional ash. Sparse hazel understorey due to shading and some holly.
4. 1.9ha Wet meadow with hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, oak, birch scrub.

2.3 Site description

Compartment 1. 6.6ha Height Spring

This is the key coppice area extending to 6.6hectares and an unclassified road meets the southern boundary from the village of Bouth. The north of the compartment has been brought back into a coppiced regime (started in 1994) and the south has yet to be restored.

Approximately 0.4ha is worked each year retaining some 12 standard trees per coupe. To date most of the stools have been protected from deer browsing with dead hedging and recently with temporary fencing. The tracks within the woodland are in a poor condition for machinery access with peaty wet holes frequent.

There are dry stone walls on all boundaries with stock fencing to the west. The ground is undulating and rocky in places with streams and wet areas. The canopy includes sessile oak, silver birch, ash, alder, occasional Scots pine, beech and some magnificent yew. The understorey includes hazel, birch, holly, crab apple and hawthorn. In open area bracken can dominate with

Woodland Management Plan

grasses and bilberry whereas in more shaded areas there are abundant ferns.

Compartment2 (4.4ha) is predominantly an area that was clear felled of conifers, deer fenced and replanted in 1996 with broadleaves. There is a gentle slope to the north and a watercourse to the west. The area planted with sessile oak, ash, alder and hazel is well established with a closed canopy. Birch has naturally regenerated across the compartment with small leaved lime. Coppiced ash, oak, hazel and alder has regenerated well. The stocking is very dense – 1m spacing. The vegetation includes dominant grasses, bramble, heather and gorse.

Compartment3 (5.2ha) forms the larger half of Moss Wood predominantly to the north of the BOAT is high forest woodland extending to the road along the western boundary. Underground water pipes follow the PROW in the north west corner and the track to the middle of the compartment where once a caravan stood. Dry stone walls form the north and eastern boundary. The canopy includes mature oak, birch, sycamore with occasional Scots pine, yew and larch. There is abundant alder along the base-poor spring line within the middle of the compartment. The understorey is frequent with hazel, and holly with regeneration of ash, birch, rowan and holly present. Bilberry is abundant towards the north west with dominant patches of bracken particularly towards the north. There is a significantly wet area to the west of the compartment and there is a boardwalk crossing this area for public access. At the north west corner of this compartment is a bench overlooking the field and with views of the hills. This bench is one of several dedications within the woodland.

Compartment4 (1.9ha) is a small field to the northwest of the woodland with some scrub woodland of blackthorn with some hawthorn, gorse and dog rose. The field is water logged to the south east with field rush and soft rush, sedges, meadow sweet, marsh marigold, ragged robin, hard fern and male fern. On the higher drier rocky knolls there is tormentil, harebells and heath bedstraw. A number of butterflies were identified during a survey in 2006 including peacock, tortoiseshell, orange tip, small pearl-bordered fritillary and meadow brown. There are some single boundary trees along the dry stone walls. The walls have gaps in places.

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

Deer browsing has been the main hazard throughout the wood. The coppiced area although individual stools were protected with brash has become very sparsely stocked and rank grasses, bramble, and bracken dominate. The areas of high forest are also constantly browsed and lack any regeneration.

Public access though welcome does pose a constraint as safety has to be a consideration at all times both from the health of the tree cover and whilst forestry operations are posing a risk.

Woodland Management Plan

One constraint to woodland management is the lack of extraction routes and vehicular access.

3 Long term vision, management objectives and strategy

3.1 Long term vision

The Bill Hogarth Trust is keen to maintain the coppice management and in fact to increase the commercial viability of the coppice through careful protection of regrowth from browsing, attention to stocking density in order to create a model site for training coppice apprentices. The aim is to create a continuous supply of coppiced hazel as well as firewood, charcoal, peeled oak/bark and coppice products.

3.2 Management Objectives

- ⑤ Restore the coppice rotations, protect regrowth,
- ⑤ Improve tracks and rides for access and extraction.
- ⑤ To maintain and improve the ecological diversity of the site.
- ⑤ To protect coups with fencing but also to address the overall health of the site with a programme of deer management in conjunction with neighbours.

3.3 Strategy

- ⑤ Management will be undertaken with the support of our sister organisation; The Coppice Association NW (CANW) and with the resource that we have in the form of coppice apprentices.
- ⑤ Management will be in conjunction with providing training and educational opportunities for apprentices, CANW members and local residents as well as the wider community on occasions.

3.4 Woodfuel Initiative

Would you be interested in receiving information on funding opportunities for the purchase of harvesting machinery or wood fuel boilers, or for grants that support timber production from your woodlands?

Yes (delete as appropriate)

4 Management prescriptions/operations

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting

Coppicing will be in two different distinct regimes

1. Hazel coppice cut on a seven year rotation
2. Oak, birch and alder coppice cut on a 20 year rotation for charcoal, firewood and peeled poles / oak bark

The area of high forest is lacking in regeneration, this is partly due to browsing but also due to lack of light. A regime of glade creation with canopy gaps created at least as wide as the trees are tall. Some temporary protection will be needed to get some regeneration going.

The wood could be improved with wide rides opened up to allow more light in.

4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

Restocking will be through natural regeneration mainly with some planting of local provenance stock mainly of oak and hazel where required.

4.2 New planting

Proposed additions to guidance to clarify consideration of design impacts etc. [UKWAS 3.2.1/3.2.2], to add reference to local native seed zones and FRM regulations [UKWAS 6.3.3].

4.3 Other operations

Proposed additions to guidance to clarify consideration of design impacts etc. [UKWAS 3.2.1/3.2.2], to add reference to local native seed zones and FRM regulations [UKWAS 6.3.3].

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

Monitoring for *Phytophthora ramorum* in larch and rhododendron.
Monitoring for other tree diseases which may affect the site. Ash dieback, Dutch elm disease, Scots pine is susceptible to *Dothistroma* needle blight.
Deer cull to be coordinated by the FC in conjunction with their deer management in the adjacent woodland.
Grey squirrel numbers should be monitored and a control programme considered.
There is a potential for rabbit damage in the coppice areas. Control may need to be considered.

4.4.2 Fire plan

The fire brigade will be notified if an outbreak of fire occurs. Neighbouring woodland owners should also be alerted.

4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

All materials to be removed from site.
Use of plant oils for machines.

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

Regularly used by local people who monitor unauthorised activities and report back.

4.4.5 Protection of other identified services and values

4.5 Game management

No intention to raise game on the site.

4.6 Protecting and enhancing landscape, biodiversity and special features

4.6.1 Management of designated areas

4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity and other special features [UKWAS 2.1.1/6.1.1]

Special attention will be paid to retaining deadwood. This can be lacking in actively managed coppice woods so trees should be targeted to be left as standing dead wood and a small proportion of timber stacks allowed to rot down in the wood.

Mature and over mature trees will be retained especially in compartment 3 but also in the actively coppiced areas as standards.

There are areas of biodiversity rich grassland which will be managed with low intensity grazing and scrub encroachment controlled.

4.6.3 Special measures for ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and semi-natural woodland (SNW)

Discouragement of non-native regeneration such as beech will be undertaken where it is seen to be in danger of dominating.

Re-stocking of hazel will be by layering or locally sourced seed.

4.6.4 Special measures for plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS)

The PAWS restoration is well advanced but could be enhanced by halo thinning of oak saplings especially in areas where birch regeneration is dominant.

4.6.5 Measures to mitigate impacts on landscape and neighbouring land [UKWAS 3.1.2]

The wood adjoining to the west is a Forestry Commission wood. Enhanced landscape and biodiversity benefits could be achieved by close partnership working on aspects such as coppice coup design and execution.

4.7 Management of social and cultural values

4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

Woodland Management Plan

4.7.2 Public access and impacts on local people

It is stated in our lease from the Woodland Trust that we will maintain the permissive footpaths and encourage local and low key use of the woodland.

5 Consultation

Organisation/individual	Date received	Comment	Response/action
Jackie Dunne via Cumbria Woodlands	16/12/11	Thorough outline report	Apply for WPG
CANW	22/2/12	Draw up detailed coppice regime	Include in Management plan
Heather Swift Woodland Trust	13/4/12	To ensure that plan meets owners objectives	
Deer Initiative	4/7/12	To formulate a deer management plan	Meet with DI and FC to agree action

6 Monitoring plan summary

Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used
Tree safety		Inspection	Every two years	BHMAT Committee	To maintain safety of all users of the wood
Path obstructions	Fallen trees and branches	Inspection	After storms	BHMAT Committee	To maintain access to the woods
Regeneration	Browsing	Monitoring	Every year at minimum	BHMAT Committee	To check deer management levels are sufficient.

Woodland Management Plan

7 Work programmes

7.1 Outline long-term work programme (2012__ - 2022__)

(Use this table to outline medium to long term areas of work)

Cpt. Ref or Name	Activity	Year (<i>tick</i>)	
		6-10	11-20
1	Coppicing with standards	✓	✓
2	Coppicing with standards	✓	✓
3	Group felling to create canopy gaps for regeneration	✓	✓
4	Management of scrub	✓	✓

Woodland Management Plan

Short-term work programme (2013 - 2018)

(Use this table to collect basic inventory data for the woodland areas you propose to work during the next 5 years)

Cpt. Ref / Name	Area (ha)	Main Species	P. Year	Yield Class	Activity	Year				
						1	2	3	4	5
1	6.6	MB	1950	4	Coppice coups 70mx70m Temporary fence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	4.4	MB	1996	6	Coppice coups 70mx70m Temporary fence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	5.2	MB			Group felling to create canopy gaps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

8 Costing Operations

Capital work within the plan will be funded through the **EWGS**

Woodland Improvement Grant Biodiversity Action Plan Woodland Bird Target

For uneconomic thinning, fencing, bird boxes,

There is a proposed application for a total project of £13,360 which at a grant rate of 80% will contribute £10,688 over the first five years

Woodfuel WIG

For road access creation, turning areas and stacking bays.

This will pay for capital works at a rate of 60% payable on receipts so three quotes will be sort for this. It is anticipated that the increased access will free up 520m³ of timber at an estimated value of £26,000

Woodland Management Grant

Will contribute towards on-going costs of maintaining the woodland specifically:

Boundary repair

Veteran tree mapping

Control of invasive species

Managing biodiversity interest by controlling holly where it is dominant.

Which will provide support of £4174 over the first five years

9 Maps

It is recommended that you show as much information on subject based maps as possible. For example, a map showing site constraints or a concept map showing the main proposals.

List all maps here and append to plan:

Map no./Title	Description
1	Compartments
2	Constraints
3	Operations
4	Access

10 Thinning, felling and restocking proposals

The template and guidance should be carefully followed to aid production of a good management plan, and ensure that we can pay the grant.

Most of the template will need to be completed by everyone, but the following sections are not compulsory, unless you wish to apply for woodfuel grants or Category B approval.

- ⑤ You must complete **Section 10, Table A** if you want to use the plan to gain Wood Fuel WIG support or seek funding through other wood fuel initiatives.
- ⑤ You must complete **Section 10, Table B** if you want to gain 10 year thinning and felling approval and / or meet the requirements of Category B.

This section **should not be completed** for any other applications.

10.1 Table A

Applicants seeking funding through a woodfuel initiative for harvesting machinery or wood fuel boilers, or wishing to apply for **EWGS Woodfuel WIG** must provide basic inventory data (WPG template 7.2) and estimate the total volume that is to be thinned and felled during the period of this plan, **by completing Table A.**

(Using inventory data from table 7.2, complete a timber volume estimate)

Cpt(s) (from table 7.2)	Main Species (BL/Con)	Total work Area (ha)	Estimated volume to be harvested during work periods (m3)		
			Yr 1 - 5	Yr 6 - 10	Yr 11 - 20
					-
1	MB	3	150	150	90
2	MB	4.4	60	60	160
3	MB	5.2	50	50	100

Woodland Management Plan

10.2 Table B

This section must be fully completed by the applicant if they wish to gain felling licence approval from the Forestry Commission. The work detailed below must match the proposals set out in the plan. For details on how to complete this table, please refer to **EWGS4 – Woodland Regeneration** for guidance and Tree Felling guidance.

4. Cpt. / Sub Cpt.	5. Area (ha)	6. % area to be worked	7. Type of felling	8.		9. Felling licence type	10.		11. Preferred claim year	13.		14. % Estab. by natural regen	15. proposed standard	12. Notes / Details
				% of felled area comprising:			Change in woodland type			Species	%			
				BL	CON		From	To						
<i>1a</i>	2.7	30%	<i>SF</i>	-	100	<i>C</i>	<i>PAWS</i>	<i>Nat</i>	<i>11/12</i>	<i>POK</i>	40%	10%	<i>1(i)</i>	<i>example</i>
1	6.6	90%	FC	100		C	PAWS	Nat	13/14	MB	100	100		
2	4.4	85%	FC	100		C	PAWS	Nat	13/14	MB	100	100		
3	5.2	0.5%	SF	100		C	PAWS	Nat	13/14	MB	100	100		

Woodland Management Plan
