



Sizergh Estate Management Plan 2019

Woodland Management Plan January 2019 - March 2029

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 Forest and Land Ltd. On Behalf of the



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The aim of this plan is to provide a ten year programme of woodland management that will meet the aims and objectives of the National Trust atSizergh Estate, Cumbria. The detail of the plan focusses on tree thinning and felling works at the site. Detail relating to the land management, access and built structures at the site form the content of other plans.

Overview of Sizergh Estate

The National Trust's Sizergh Estate covers 648 hectares and is located in south east Cumbria, between the Lyth and Kent valleys and within the Helsington and Levens Parishes. The Estate is centred around the 13th Century Castle; home to the Strickland family. The grounds around the Castle are designated as Registered Parks & Gardens. The Estate was donated to the National Trust in 1950. Half of the Estate sits within the extended boundary of the Lake District National Park (LDNP), and as such is of national significance. The Estate has sweeping views, wildlife-rich farmland, craggy fells, the dramatic gorge of the River Kent and 138 hectares of predominantly native woodland. The woodlands on the Estate are managed by the National Trust's own ranger team.

The location close to Kendal, means that the Sizergh Estate provides a really important outdoors access area for the local community. Much of the Estate is accessible via a network of public and permissive footpaths, although the woodlands, Helsington Barrows and Church Fell are all open access.

The farmland on Sizergh Estate is diverse from intensive milk herds to low intensity limestone grassland pastures. There are also orchards growing apples, damsons and pears and species rich hedgerows with bird cherry, hawthorn and guelder rose. Helsington Barrows is at the northern end of Sizergh Estate and is also our highest point. It consists of a single huge 'open access' field – the largest one at Sizergh – and has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its wildflower and invertebrate communities.

The River Kent forms the eastern boundary of the Sizergh Estate and includes a spectacular limestone gorge section in Low Park Wood. It has been recently recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), largely because it has a good population of white-clawed crayfish, with freshwater pearl mussels in the tributaries. The Kent begins in the Kentmere Fells north of Kendal and reaches its estuary just south of the Sizergh Estate near Levens. The river drops 700 metres in elevation over a relatively short length (about 18 miles) and is particularly powerful and historically industry set up on its banks. There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument on the Site of the Gunpowder Works to the east of Low Park Wood.

A quarter of the estate is made up of ancient semi-natural woodlands (ASNW) with oak, ash and birch with yew and rowan, hazel and spindle. Many of the woods have a long history of coppice management. In the mid 1900's some of these woods were planted up with larch and beech for their commercial value. In the 1980's the National Trust changed the management of its woodlands to become more conservation oriented. The plantations have been heavily thinned to allow light back in the wood for the native species of wildflower and scrub to flourish; and we left more deadwood habitats. The woodlands extend to just under 140 hectares, form the focus of this plan and are split into 38 woodland compartments across the Estate.

The main threats to the woods are; grazing by sheep and deer browsing leading to a loss of structural diversity, ground flora and fragmentation, the spread of invasive non-native plant species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. Ash dieback is already present on the estate, and new tree diseases and climate change are likely to threaten the resilience of the woodland in the future.

Vision for Sizergh Estate

- Our vision for Sizergh aims to produce a landscape that is healthy, beautiful, rich in culture and nature, enjoyable and productive. This means focussing on habitats and species, water resources, soils and carbon, archaeology and visitor experience in the context of a thriving, economically and environmentally sustainable productive landscape.
- We will maintain the variety of key species found on our sites, by protecting and enhancing habitats and enabling them to adapt to change and ensuring that our land continues to provide for us into the future. This will be achieved through sustainable land management within a network of healthy habitats that make up the landscape of the Sizergh Estate.
- We will deliver top quality conservation work in partnership with tenants, local communities and other key organisations to provide rich inspiring experiences for all of our visitors. The diversity and beauty of the Sizergh Estate will be made widely accessible to visitors and local communities through a network of well managed routes.
- The vision for the woodlands is for the management to provide greater habitat connectivity and resource protection as well as restoring the natural transitions to scrub, open fell and wetland. The woods will be 90% broadleaf with the full range of naturally occurring species present, managed for biodiversity but also taking opportunities for extracting timber for local uses. The woods are all open access, but appropriate opportunities will be taken to improve visitor infrastructure to ensure that the woods are a resource for the local community and beyond. The woods will be naturally regenerating and will have abundant old growth features such as veteran trees and dead wood.

Section 2: Our Aims and Objectives



Photo: Coppicing in Brigsteer Wood

What we want to do	Why we want to do it?	How can we achieve it?
<p>To maximise the economic value of our woodlands to contribute towards the financial requirements of the Estate and contribute to the local economy</p>	<p>It is important that the National Trust looks to all opportunities to support the financial requirements of maintaining the Estate. The timber value within the woodlands can play a role in contributing to this over the long term by providing a sustainable supply of high quality timber as well as all timber grades and firewood. We want our land to contribute to the quality of life for local people. One of the ways we seek to achieve this is by contributing to the local economy.</p>	<p>The vision will be achieved through a regular thinning and coppicing programme following good forestry practice (UK Forest Standard & UK Woodland Assurance Scheme) with the aim of bringing products to the timber markets where consistent with all other aims.</p> <p>Where possible generate timber income through the harvesting programme to help fund the ecological restoration process and wider woodland improvement projects.</p> <p>Apply for appropriate woodland/countryside grant schemes and regional funding to achieve stated objectives</p> <p>Work with regional contractors to develop a contractor base adapted to woodlands with access issues.</p> <p>Ensure all mammal browsing (sheep, grey squirrel and deer) is controlled with the aim of minimising damage to timber during tree growth. This can be achieved through: boundary management to prevent stock accessing the woodlands; protection of coppice coupes with deer fencing; protection of under planting particular slower growing more susceptible broadleaves such as oak with tree tubes; management of deer and grey numbers through a control programme.</p> <p>Maintain good tree stocking densities during early tree growth to stimulate good tree form.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to enhance existing income streams and/or create new innovative income opportunities</p>

What we want to do	Why we want to do it?	How can we achieve it?
<p>Protect and improve our most precious woodland sites to create a diverse age structure and sustainable, dynamic forest ecosystems. The work we do will aim to protect and enhance biodiversity in all woodlands and open habitats.</p>	<p>Reports show that woodland species have decreased in recent decades. Species decline is attributed to a lack of structural diversity in our woodlands and increased deer numbers resulting in uniform and aging woodlands. We want to do what we can to reverse this trend and help save Britain’s natural heritage. The key ancient woodland habitats designated areas are shown in map 2. We’ve identified priority species of high conservation importance:</p> <p>Bats: The local status of bat species in Cumbria includes Dauberton’s bat (widespread), Natterer’s (widespread), Brown long eared bat (widespread & common), Common pipistrelle & Soprano (widespread & common), Noctule (uncommon), Whiskered (uncommon) and Brandt’s (uncommon). All bats require rich insect habitat in which to feed and this particularly includes woodlands and trees.</p> <p>Birds species in the winder landscape includes spotted flycatcher, bullfinch, hawfinch, pied flycatcher, tree pipit, linnet, redstart, song thrush, wood warbler, grass hopper warbler, willow warbler, woodcock and green woodpecker.</p> <p>Mammals: Red squirrels are a species of principal importance in the UK and have a number of strongholds in Cumbria. Brown hare, otter and red deer are all of interest across the Estate.</p> <p>Lepidoptera: Some butterflies within the wider landscape include dingy skipper (UKBAP priority species and Butterfly Conservation high priority species), grayling (UKBAP priority species and Butterfly Conservation high priority species), high brown fritillary (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 protected species, UKBAP priority species and Butterfly Conservation high priority species), small pearl bordered (UKBAP priority species and Butterfly Conservation high priority species) and wall (UKBAP priority species and Butterfly Conservation high priority species).</p> <p>Reptiles: Slow-worm and common lizard can be found in the sunny open areas across limestone habitats. Great crested newt.</p>	<p>Restoration of Planted Ancient Woodlands (PAWs sites) to achieve a woodland structure that resembles a native woodland and is predominantly broadleaf in composition.</p> <p>Thinning and coppicing are key management interventions. They promote a number of benefits for the woodlands and the species which inhabit them. Such interventions will open up the canopy allowing regeneration of tree and scrub species. It will create a wider array of habitat niches and promote the vegetation layer which will diversify the habitat creating more opportunities for priority bird species such as the willow tit.</p> <p>By diversifying the woodland’s age structure, with the aim to ensure the long term persistence of the woodlands in to the future and maximise their landscape value.</p> <p>Record, map and undertake veteran tree management as required. Thinning will be used to release of veteran trees from competition increasing their health and longevity.</p> <p>Using a combination of natural regeneration and enrichment planting with native species to regenerate or restock sites will support the ancient habitats.</p> <p>Monitor key priority species and habitats to help assess improvement and gain a better understanding of current position and future requirements</p> <p>Control non-native invasive species including Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed in Low Wood and the River Kent Riverside wood (cpt 18 & 19) and help promote the establishment of native ground flora.</p> <p>Control of grey squirrel to promote red squirrel populations. Monitor red numbers and work with local agencies and volunteers to achieve agreed work programmes.</p> <p>Retain standing and fallen deadwood where safe to do so and in particular in areas of higher ecological value e.g. ancient woodlands.</p> <p>Protect wildlife and ancient woodland features by marking them on the ground during operations and including them in operational constraints maps.</p> <p>Ensure regeneration is protected from adjacent livestock farming through fence maintenance and when restocking, consider provenance and species in relation to climate change.</p>

What we want to do	Why we want to do it?	How can we achieve it?
To improve access for management and enhance and encourage safe and sympathetic public access, extending opportunities for education, recreation and participation where this does not conflict with the other objectives.	The quality of experience for our visitors is of high importance. This plan aims to maintain the woodlands' wild feel and to ensure that our woodlands can be enjoyed by generations to come.	<p>Continue to assess the current access situation and map where access can be improved and created.</p> <p>Develop opportunities for members and the local community to get involved in the site through the volunteer programmes.</p> <p>Work with local schools to enable them to use our woodlands to get outdoors and closer to nature.</p> <p>Improve access and facilities throughout the sites to enable people to enjoy and get more from their visit.</p> <p>Use the programme of woodland management as a tool to engage visitors and educate them about the importance of conservation and what our sites can offer.</p>
Manage our carbon footprint	<p>The Earth’s temperature is warming as a result of human activities. Global Warming is already having a terrible impact upon the lives of people and nature across the globe.</p> <p>If the global rise in temperature can be kept below 2 degrees celsius the negative effects of climate change can be minimised, this however will require a change in all of our carbon outputs.</p> <p>We therefore wish to minimise carbon outputs and sequester as much carbon as possible through natural processes.</p>	<p>To conduct woodland management which promotes the growth of new trees, coppice regrowth and natural regeneration as well as ensuring rapid growth through tending, weeding and protection from browsing.</p> <p>To undertake silvicultural practices which minimise soil erosion and promote soil formation. Work which allows more light to the woodland floor will facilitate this process as well as retention of fallen deadwood.</p> <p>Seek opportunities to extend woodlands and plant new area with trees; woodland creation, field trees and wood pasture.</p>

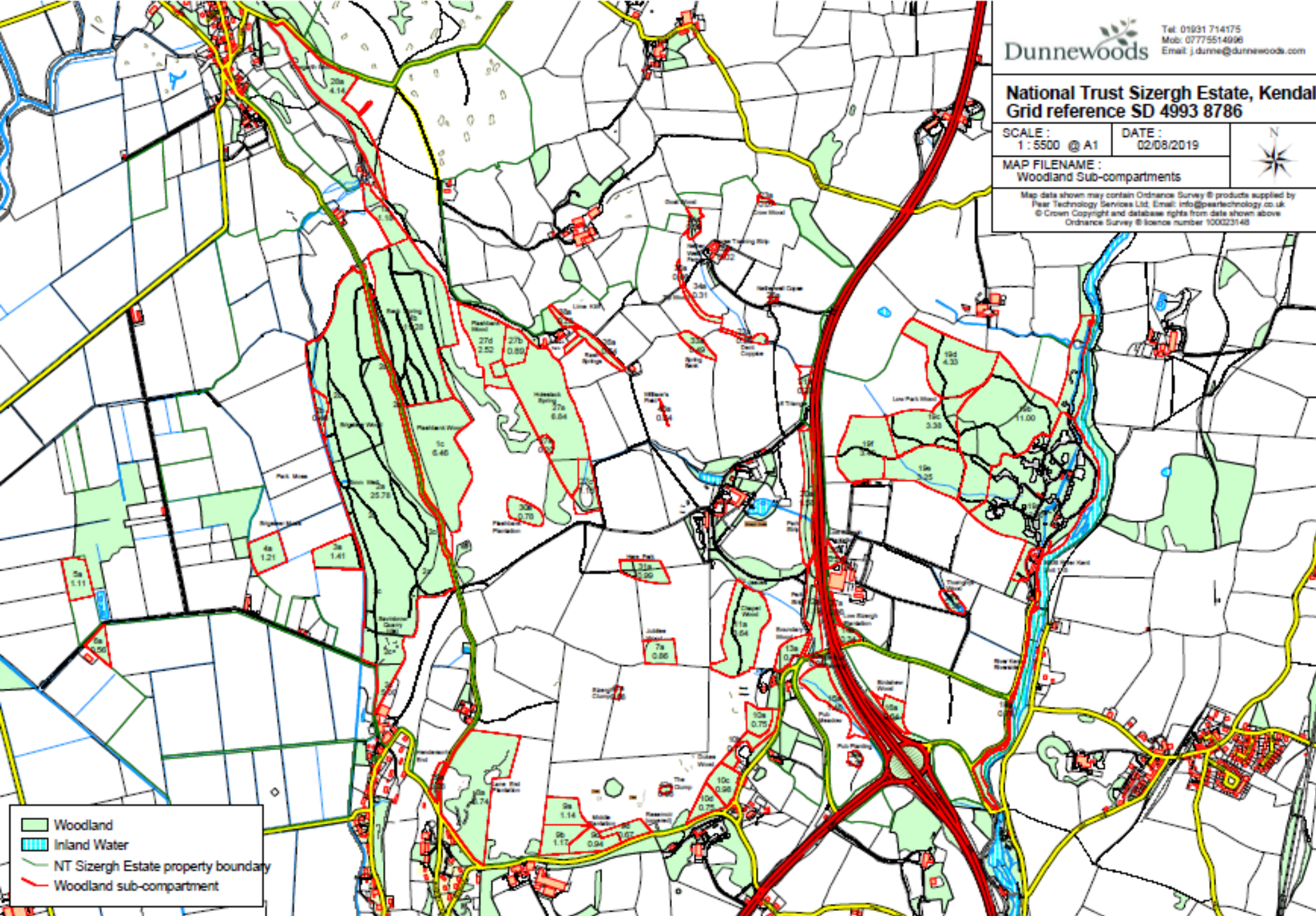
What we want to do	Why we want to do it?	How can we achieve it?
Ensure the woodland habitats are resilient to climate change and plant diseases	Climate change presents an unprecedented threat to our woodland ecosystems. By creating woodlands diverse in structure and species we will increase the overall resilience of these ecosystems. Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) is prevalent in the Cumbrian landscape and has been identified in both young and mature trees at Sizergh Estate. Ash woodland is the dominant woodland type across the Estate (National Vegetation Classification W9 <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> – <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> – <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> woodland). Ash is often dominant or significant in the canopy so progression of the disease could have a significant impact on the woodland composition.	<p>Increase structural and species diversity where ever possible through harvesting & management to enable and develop natural regeneration and coppice regrowth.</p> <p>Monitor and manage the progression of ash dieback. Potential removal of ash with the disease in all age classes within the woodland to be undertaken progressively in line with the disease.</p> <p>Encourage the development of greater structural and species diversity through supplementary tree planting where natural regeneration is not apparent or of the desired species and in particular where other species may need to replace diseased ash.</p> <p>Seek opportunities to increase habitat connectivity and protect soil and water quality.</p>
To manage health and safety at the site in line with the ‘Tree Safety Management in the National Trust’ procedure Sep 2015	There are risks of injury to staff, volunteers and the public from falling trees and branches. There are also risks of damage to buildings, property and vehicles. The Trust has a statutory and common law duty to assess and manage these risks. The duty is established in criminal law under the Health and Safety at Work Act, and in civil law under the Occupier’s Liability Act. The Trust must take all precautions as far as is reasonably practicable to avoid risks to the safety of members of the public, staff and volunteers. Therefore there is a need to inspect trees in and near public places and adjacent to buildings and working areas, to assess whether they represent a risk to life and/or property, and to take remedial action as appropriate.	<p>By following National Trust Health and Safety procedures.</p> <p>Mature ash with ash dieback will become more difficult to fell safely as the disease progresses. This needs to be monitored with tree safety work undertaken as required.</p>

What we want to do	Why we want to do it?	How can we achieve it?
<p>Conserve the historic and cultural landscape in ways that enhance the Spirit of Place</p>	<p>We recognise our responsibility towards the protection of our historic environment and seek to maintain and enhance it for ongoing enjoyment and education.</p>	<p>Using the Site and Monuments register to identify features, record the condition of the archaeological , cultural and historical features across Sizergh Estate including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAM Sedgwick Gunpowder Works reference 1018136 • Registered Parks & Gardens Sizergh Castle reference 1000673 • River Kent Gorge SSSI & SAC • Limestone pavement • Ancient Semi Natural Woodland Back Spring Wood, Brigsteer Wood, Flashbank, Holeslack, Low Wood, Chapel Wood, Dukes Wood and Middle Plantation • Medieval deer park Brigsteer • Helsington Barrows SSSI <p>When carrying out woodland work ensure that the historic environment is protected in line with guidance from Historic England.</p> <p>Working with the NT archaeologist discuss the further research recommendations from historic environment report (where applicable) and the potential to achieve them.</p> <p>Maintain and protect designed woodland landscape elements across the site.</p>

Section 3: Site Maps

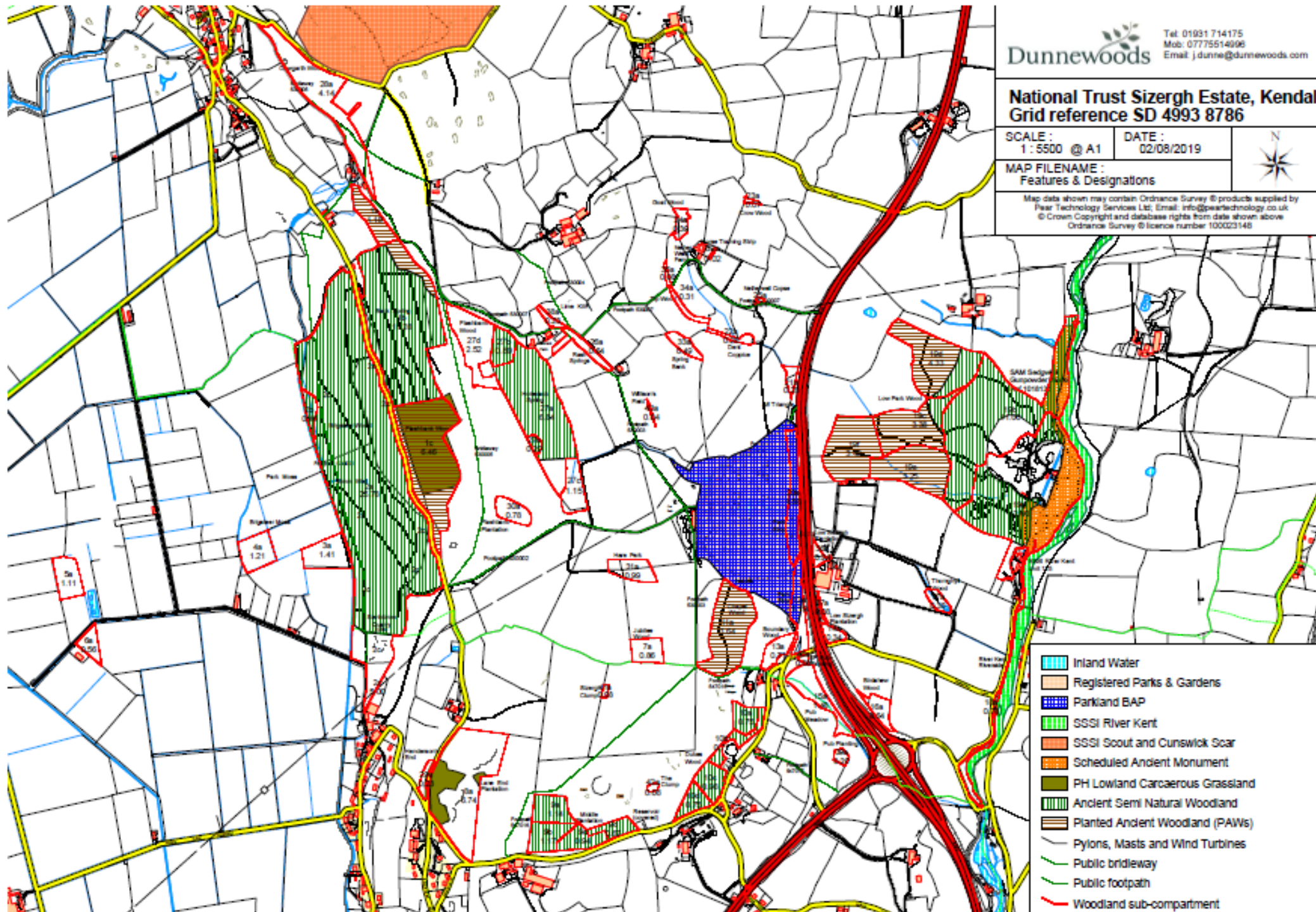


Photo: Silver-washed fritillary in Brigsteer wood



Map 1
Sizergh Estate
Woodland Sub-
compartments
Numbered from 1
to 43
Total hectares 134

*Please note maps are not to
scale in this document.*



Map 2

Sizergh Estate

Site features & designations including:

Ancient woodland (ASNW) & Planted Ancient Woodland (PAWs) cpt1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 19, 27 & 28

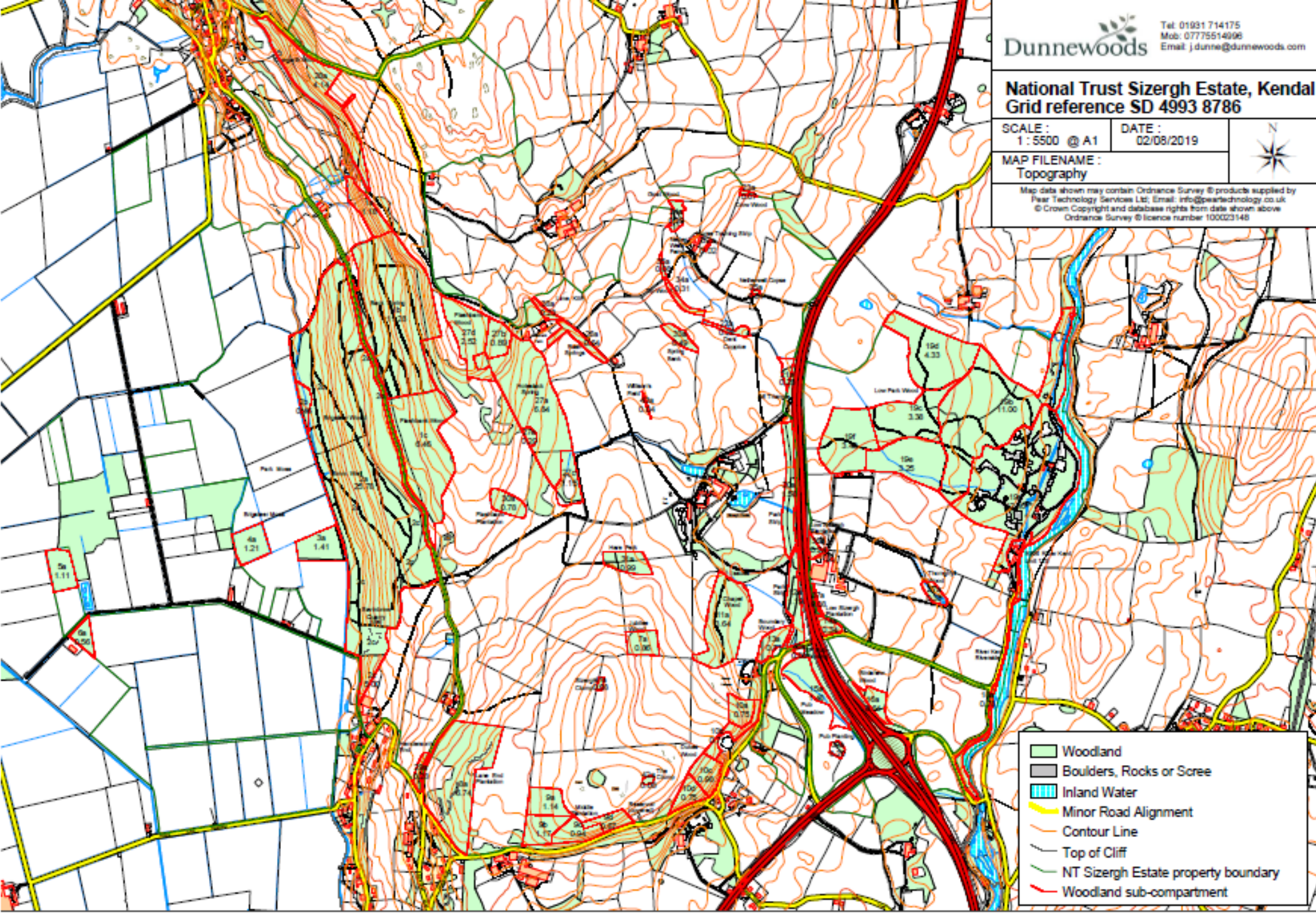
Scheduled Monument
Sedgwick Gunpowder Works cpt19

River Kent Site of Special Scientific Interest SSSI

Sizergh Castle Registered Parks and Gardens

Public footpaths & bridleways

Please note maps are not to scale in this document.



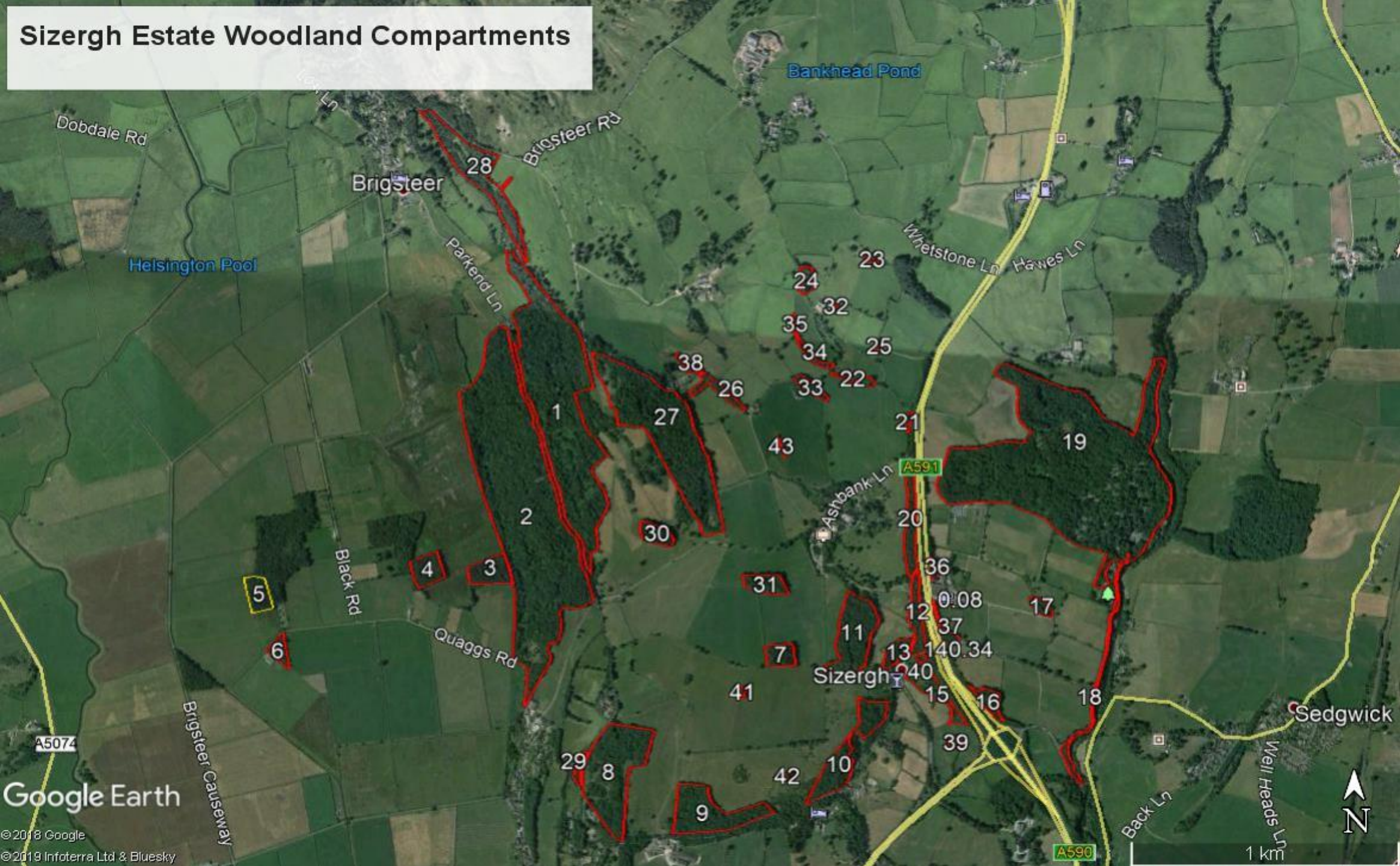
Map 3

Sizergh Estate

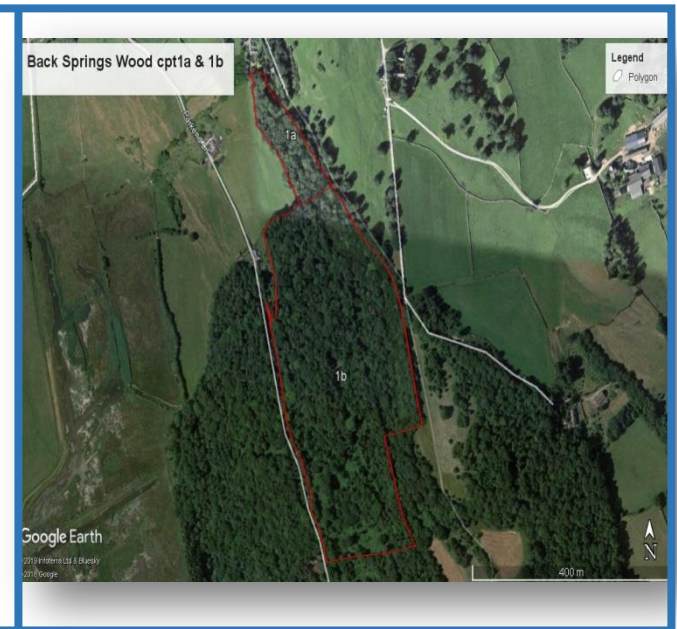
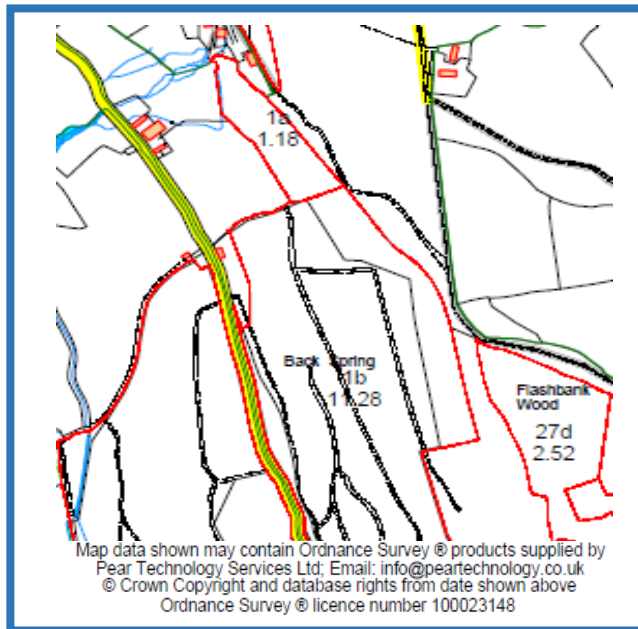
Site topography shown
by orange contour lines.

*Please note maps are not
to scale in this document.*

Sizergh Estate Woodland Compartments



Section 4: Compartment Summaries



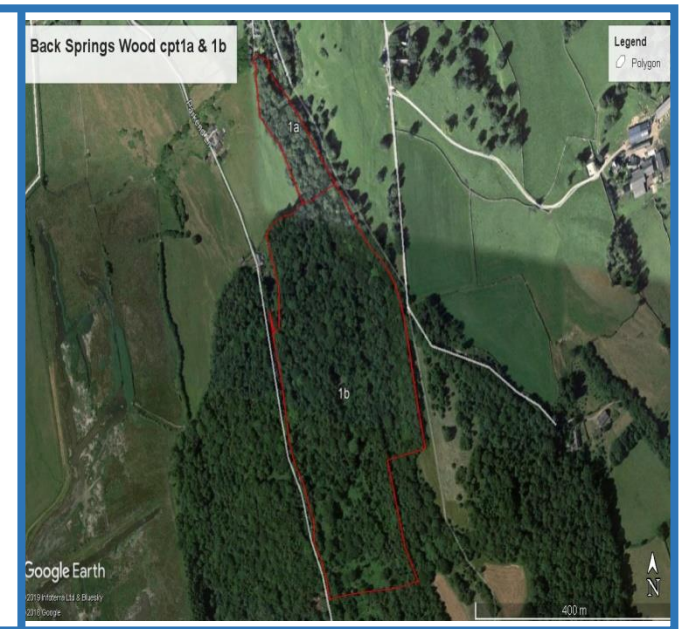
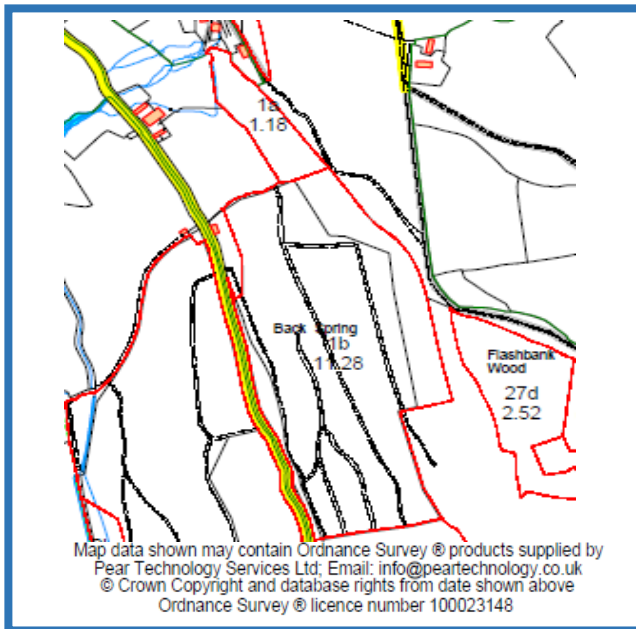
Compartment: 1a **Hectares:** 1.18 **Woodland Name:** Back Springs Wood **Designations:** ASNW, PAWs & LDNP
Species: Ash, sycamore, yew with cherry, birch and hazel

Description: Cpt1a is the north east section of Back Springs Wood originally coppice woodland last cut in 1940's. The wood was once part of Sizergh 18th century deer park with the old deer park wall on the western and northern boundary.

Constraints: Grey squirrel bark stripping & deer browsing. Ash dieback. Difficult access for timber operations. Electric pylons.

Aims: Enhance conservation through limited intervention & increase standing and fallen deadwood.

Intervention: Monitor the impact of ash dieback on species composition and maintain boundaries.



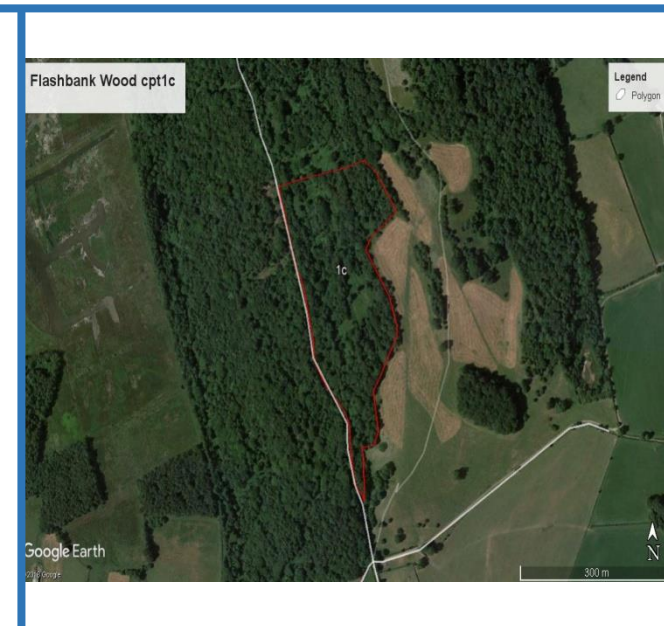
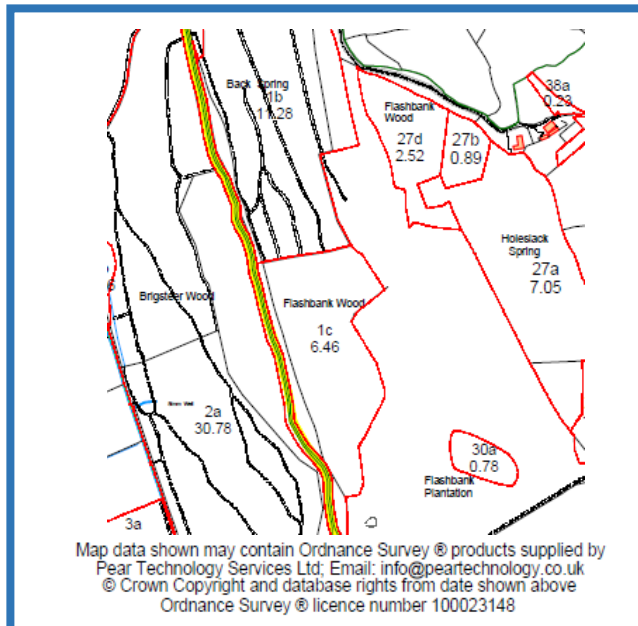
Compartment: 1b **Hectares:** 11.28 **Woodland Name:** Back Springs Wood **Designations:** ASNW, PAWs & LDNP
Key Species: Oak, sycamore, beech, ash with yew, Scots pine, larch and Corsican pine.

Description: A mature broadleaved woodland with a varied native shrub layer on limestone escarpment. Beech is dominant in some areas of the wood shading out other species. The wood was once part of Sizergh 18th century deer park with the old deer park wall on the western boundary. Rides and clearings are cut on rotation to diversify the woodland structure and promote butterfly habitat. Large woody debris present ; see image above.

Constraints : Canopy closure, shade, dominance of beech. Grey squirrel bark stripping & deer browsing. Road boundary.

Aims: To open the canopy to diversify the woodland structure and with the emphasis on retaining native species and improving the habitat for insects and butterflies. Some timber production.

Intervention: Crown and low thin on an 8 year rotation removing beech and larch. Cut rides and glades on rotation. Monitoring of butterflies. Management of dry stone walls and old deer park wall. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 1c **Hectares:** 6.46 **Woodland Name:** Flashbank Wood **Designations:** LDNP

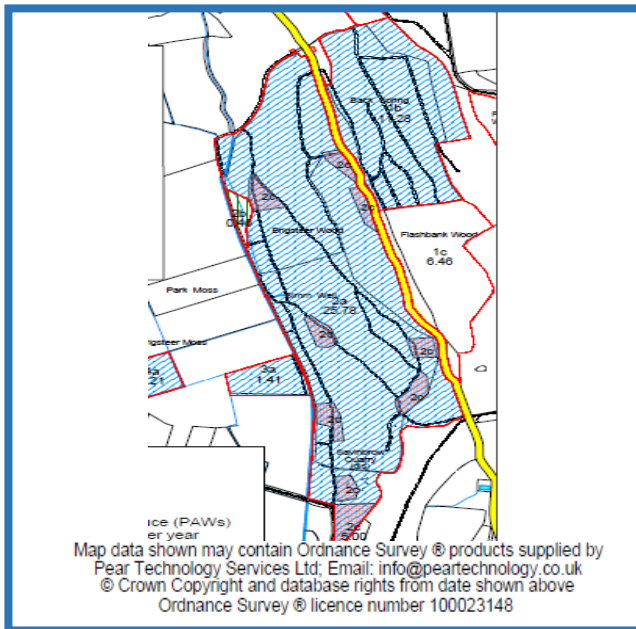
Key Species: Oak, ash with yew, birch, woody scrub and open limestone pasture.

Description: This old coppice woodland grades into areas of native hazel and hawthorn with patches of limestone pasture and bracken. The wood was once part of Sizergh 18th century deer park with the old deer park wall on the western boundary. Rides and clearings are cut on rotation to diversify the woodland structure and promote butterfly habitat. The woodland is grazed creating a wood pasture habitat with rich limestone grassland species.

Constraints : Canopy closure, shade, non-native species (cotoneaster). Over control of bracken. Road boundary.

Aims: To open the canopy to promote the diversify the open nature of the site and rich ground flora. Retain varied woodland structure and scrub management to maintain habitat for insects and butterflies. Maintain rides and connectivity to adjacent woodland.

Intervention: Wood pasture grazing. Scrub & bracken management to improve bracken beds. Cut rides and glades on rotation. Control of cotoneaster. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 2a **Hectares:** 25.78 **Woodland Name:** Brigsteer Wood **Designations:** ASNW & LDNP

Key Species: Oak, ash, sycamore, birch, beech and yew with occasional conifer Scots pine, larch, Norway spruce and Douglas fir.

Description: Brigsteer Wood is on an eastern slope on limestone escarpment. This large ancient woodland was historically managed for coppice and is multi aged with a good ride network. The understory species are frequent with ride side coppiced coupes promoting a diverse range of butterfly species.

Constraints : Deer browsing on coppice re-growth, ash dieback. Road boundary.

Aims: Manage woodland towards semi-natural composition, retaining notable conifers & develop the woodland structure. Maintain and improve access. Timber production where feasible. Maintain and improve habitat for butterflies, native daffodils & wildlife.

Intervention: Crown and low thin on a 10-year thinning cycle (blue on map). Non-intervention where ground is steep. 2-3 zone ride management & review opportunities to improve the footpaths. Veteran tree management. Deadwood creation. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 2b **Hectares:** 0.46 **Woodland Name:** Brigsteer Wood **Designations:** PAWs & LDNP

Key Species: Norway spruce 80% with mixed broadleaves and woody shrubs

Description: Cpt2b is a small block of Norway spruce to the north west of Brigsteer Wood on the western boundary. Planted in 1970.

Constraints : Deer browsing, grey squirrel damage to trees, ash dieback.

Aims: Planted ancient woodland (PAWs) restoration to predominantly native tree species

Intervention: Removal of Norway spruce and restock through natural regeneration. Monitor for successful establishment and ash dieback. If necessary undertake supplementary planting.



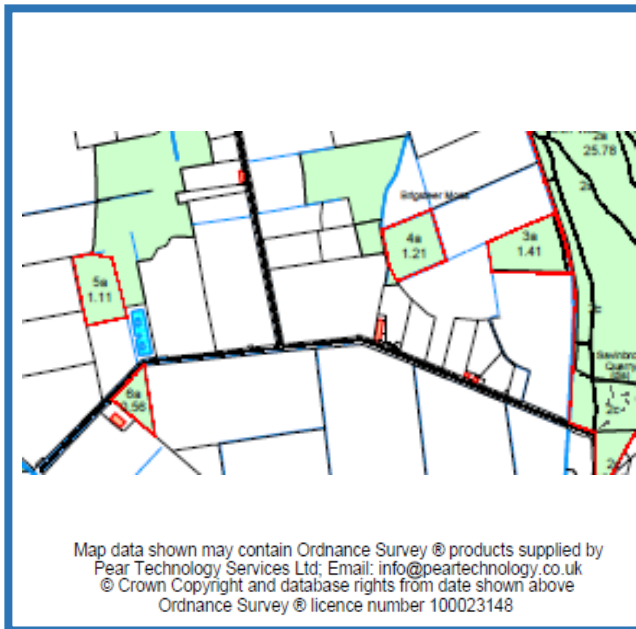
Compartment: 2c **Hectares:** 5.00 **Woodland Name:** Brigsteer Wood **Designations:** ASNW & LDNP
Key Species: Oak, ash, sycamore, birch and woody scrub

Description: A programme of cutting coppice coupes within Brigsteer Wood has been underway over the last 30 years particularly aimed at improving ride side structure and mobility for butterflies across the eastern slope of the Lyth Valley and east west across the woodland. These areas have been protected from deer browsing. A weekly summer transect is conducted and suggests that a number of species have increased.

Constraints : Deer browsing, general butterfly species decline for some species in Cumbria.

Aims: Maintain and improve ground flora diversity, native daffodils and range and numbers of butterflies.

Intervention: Coppicing, retention of deadwood, 2-3 zone ride management. Monitoring & surveys of populations.



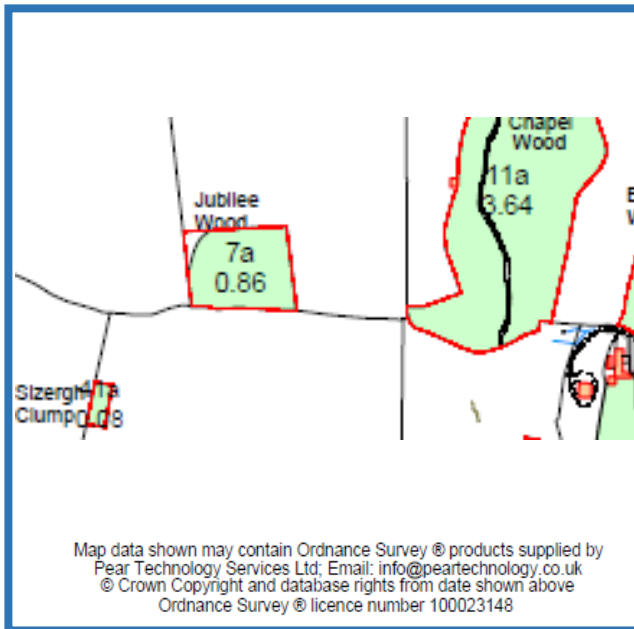
Compartment: 3a, 4a, 5a & 6a **Hectares:** 1.41, 1.21, 1.11, 0.56 **Woodland Name:** Brigsteer Moss Wood **Designations:** LDNP
Key Species: Predominantly birch with oak, alder, willow and holly.

Description: These 1940 stands are 4 woodland blocks on Brigsteer Moss; to the west of Sizergh Estate. The woods are the last remnants of land cleared of peat. Drainage work in the Lyth Valley dried the land enabling birch woodland to colonise. No felling has occurred. The woods were re-fenced in the 80's. Red deer have become a common site on the moss. The photo is of compartment 4a.

Constraints: Removal of timber constrained by wet ground conditions.

Aims: Enhance conservation through limited intervention & increase standing and fallen deadwood.

Intervention: Commission survey to establish key features. Control deer & grey squirrels. Maintain boundaries. Undertake low density felling to create deadwood.



Compartment: 7a **Hectares:** 0.86 **Woodland Name:** Jubilee Wood **Designations:** LDNP

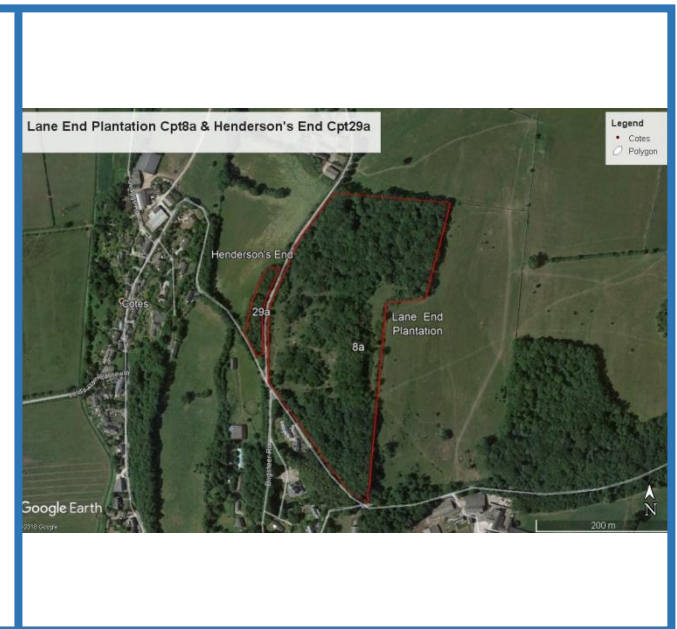
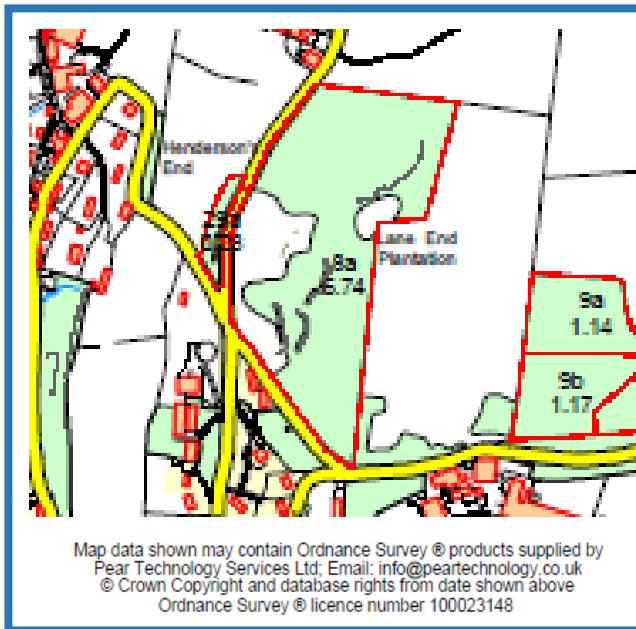
Key Species: Ash, sycamore, birch, oak with hawthorn and field maple.

Description: Jubilee Wood was planted in the open field in 1937 as a commemoration of the silver jubilee of George V. It is an important feature of the landscape and sits quite high on the north east slope of Sizergh Fell. Thinning and planting has occurred with additional planting in 1984. The southern boundary is dry stone wall.

Constraints: Ash dieback. Badger set. Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage.

Aims: Maintain the woodland feature in the landscape, thinning to improve woodland structure and diversity & increase standing and fallen deadwood.

Intervention: Undertake a thin of 1984 planting. Commission survey to establish key features. Maintain boundaries. Create deadwood.



Compartment: 8a **Hectares:** 6.74 **Woodland Name:** Lane End Plantation **Designations:** LDNP

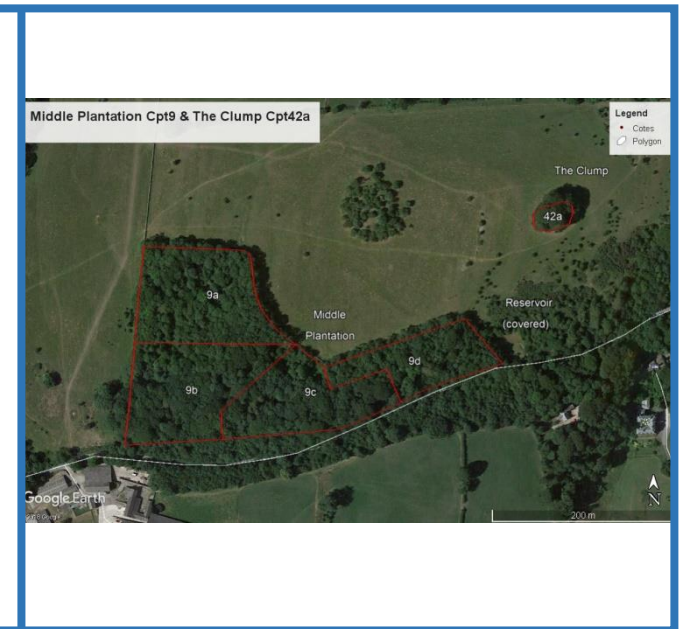
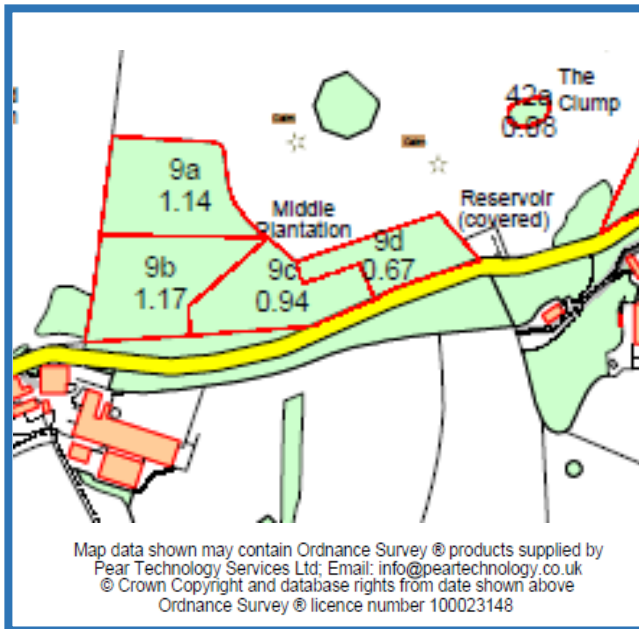
Key Species: Ash, oak, whitebeam, blackthorn, hawthorn and at least 30% open pasture.

Description: Lane End Plantation is a mosaic of limestone pasture, scrub and mature trees. The pasture & wooded areas are botanically rich with key indicator species being small pearl-bordered & silver washed fritillary, violets, cowslips and knapweed. The tree and shrub species are varied and include Lancastrian Whitebeam. Scrub has been cut to promote butterfly habitat. Non-native species present include cotoneaster and *pyracantha*. Permissive paths are well used.

Constraints: Management of correct grazing regime. Scrub & bracken encroachment. Non native species.

Aims: Achieve SSSI status. Maintain the rich biodiversity of ground flora, tree species and butterflies.

Intervention: Grazing management. Management of scrub, bracken and non-natives. Re-introduction of Lady's slipper. Maintain access. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 9a **Hectares:** 1.14 **Woodland Name:** Middle Plantation

Designations: LDNP

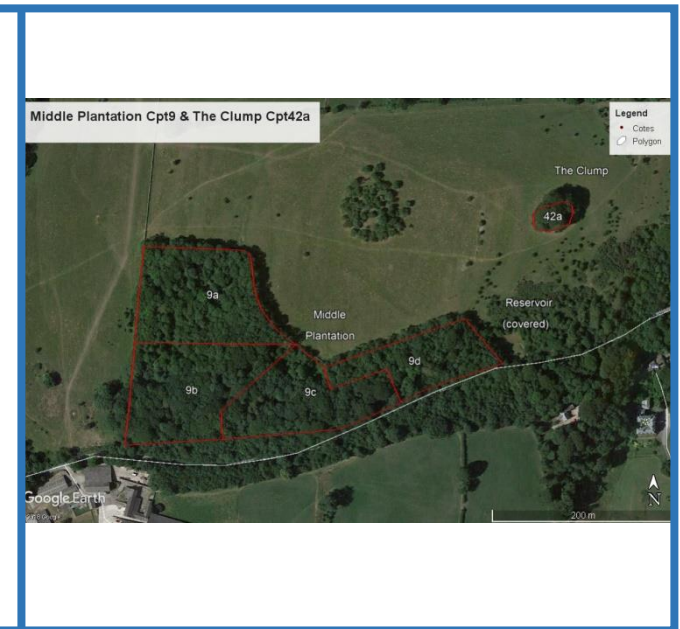
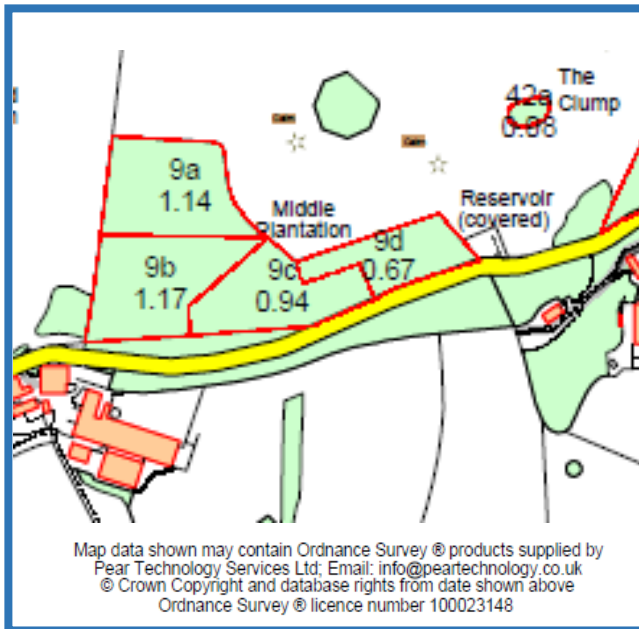
Key Species: Hazel, ash, oak, sycamore and birch

Description: Middle Plantation is very visible on the southern side of Sizergh Fell. Cpt9a is the northern block. Shallow limestone soils and escarpment. Previously managed as coppice with standards there are old hazel, ash and sycamore stools with oak, ash and birch standards. Scattered woodland ground flora includes dog's mercury, enchanter's nightshade, male fern and common dog violet. Hawfinch is present.

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Shallow soils. Ash dieback.

Aims: Manage as semi natural coppice woodland and increase structural diversity.

Intervention: Cut coppice coupe on 12-15 year rotation. Retain standards. Increase deadwood. Protect regrowth from browsing. Monitor hawfinch. Maintain boundary wall.



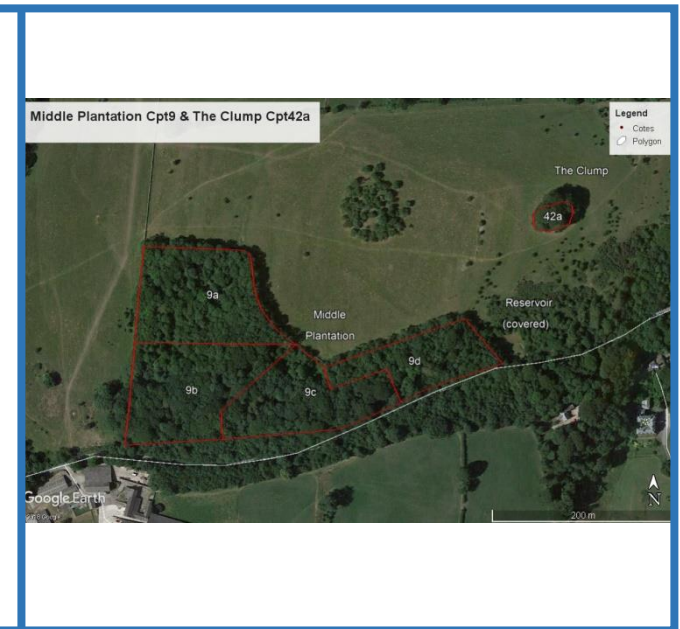
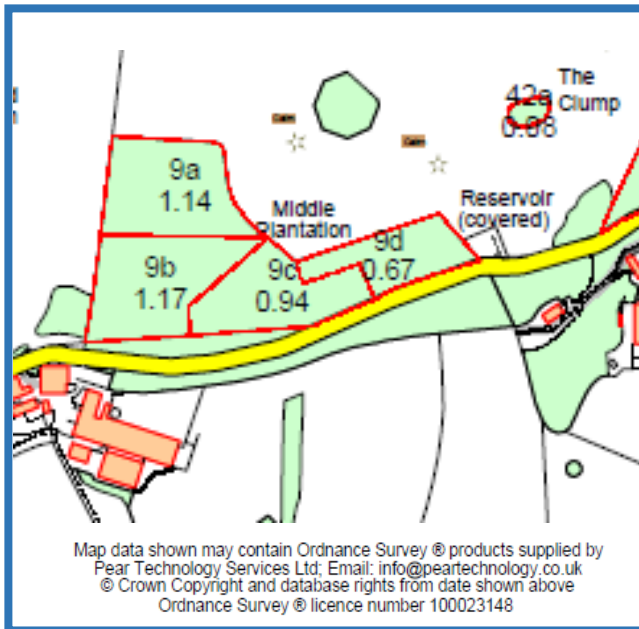
Compartment: 9b **Hectares:** 1.17 **Woodland Name:** Middle Plantation **Designations:** LDNP
Key Species: Hazel, ash, oak, sycamore and birch

Description: Middle Plantation is very visible on the southern side of Sizergh Fell. Cpt9b is the south west block. Shallow limestone soils and escarpment. Previously managed as coppice with standards there are old hazel, ash and sycamore stools with oak, ash and birch standards. Woodland ground flora includes dog's mercury, enchanter's nightshade, male fern and common dog violet. Hawfinch is present. Southern boundary wall in poor condition. Large c1780 beech along the roadside.

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Shallow soils. Ash dieback. Roadside.

Aims: Manage as semi natural coppice woodland and increase structural diversity. Management of tree risk along road. Improve wall.

Intervention: Cut coppice coupe on 12-15 year rotation. Retain standards. Increase deadwood. Protect regrowth from browsing. Monitor hawfinch. Tree Risk Management. Improve southern boundary wall.



Compartment: 9c **Hectares:** 0.94 **Woodland Name:** Middle Plantation

Designations: LDNP

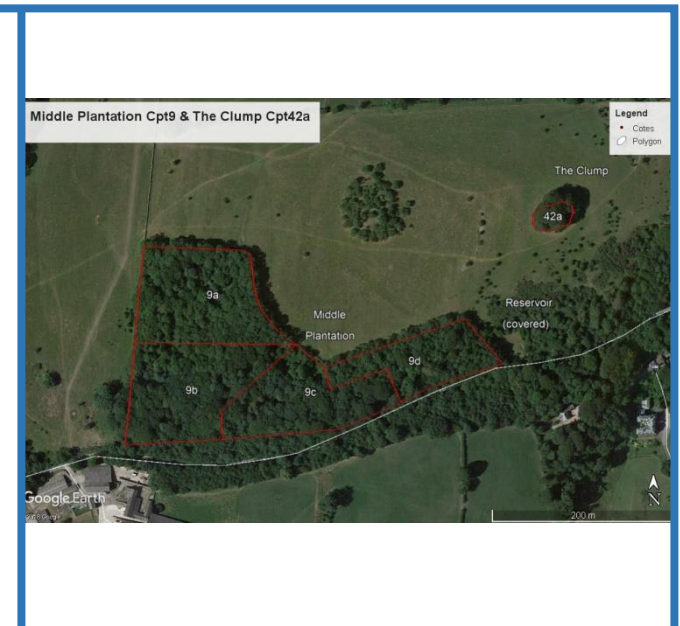
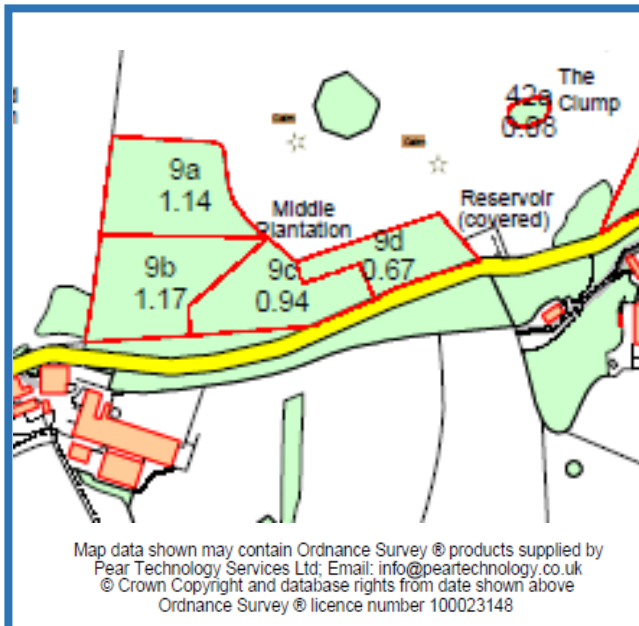
Key Species: Oak, ash, beech, Scots pine and Norway spruce.

Description: Middle Plantation is very visible on the southern side of Sizergh Fell. Cpt9c is the central block is high forest with mainly oak, with ash, beech Scots pine and spruce. Large c1780 beech along the roadside. Woodland ground flora includes dog's mercury, enchanter's nightshade, male fern and common dog violet. Hawfinch is present. Southern boundary wall in poor condition..

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Ash dieback. Roadside.

Aims: Manage as high forest. Increase deadwood. Management of tree risk along road. Improve roadside wall if resources enable. Install new access point n/e boundary.

Intervention: Light thin with target removal of sycamore, beech and spruce. Increase deadwood. Monitor hawfinch. Tree Risk Management. Improve southern boundary wall. Install new access point.



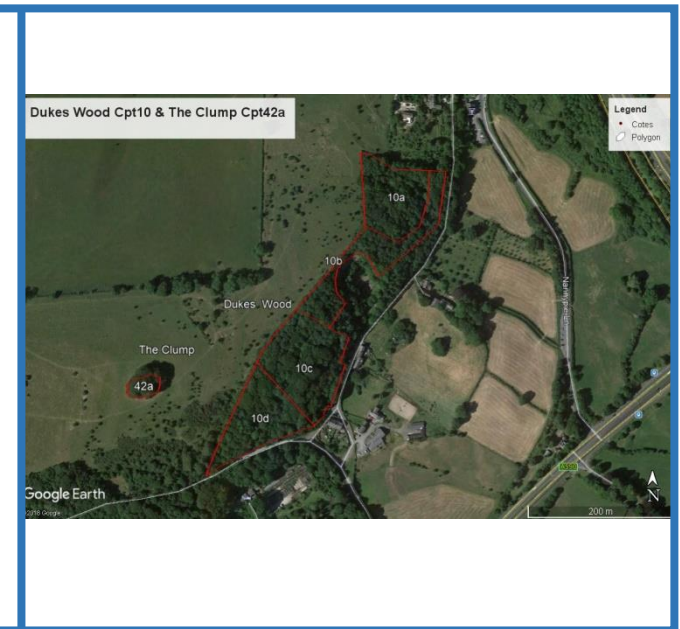
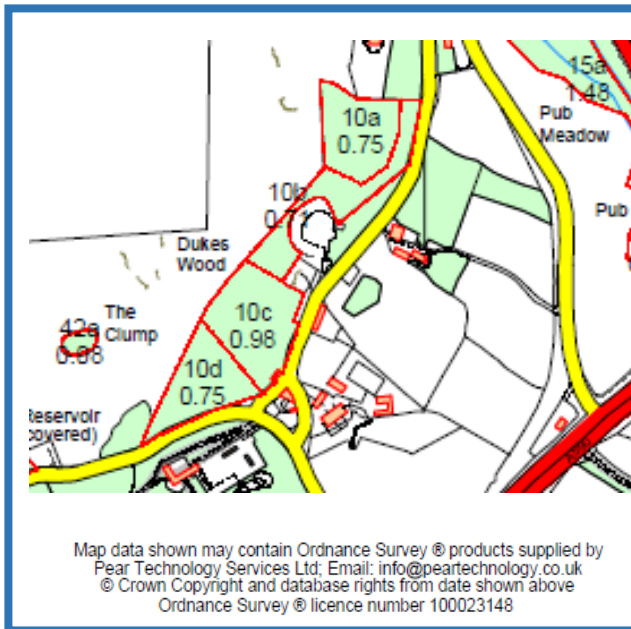
Compartment: 9d **Hectares:** 0.67 **Woodland Name:** Middle Plantation **Designations:** LDNP
Key Species: Hazel, ash, oak, sycamore and yew

Description: Middle Plantation is very visible on the southern side of Sizergh Fell. Cpt9d is the eastern coppice coupe with old hazel, ash and sycamore with holly and a large beech monolith. Along the eastern edge there are yew. Woodland ground flora includes dog's mercury, enchanter's nightshade, male fern and common dog violet. Hawfinch is present. Southern boundary wall in poor condition. Reservoir wall to east.

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Shallow soils. Ash dieback. Roadside.

Aims: Manage as semi natural coppice woodland and increase structural diversity. Management of tree risk along road. Improve roadside wall if resources enable.

Intervention: Cut coppice coupe on 12-15 year rotation. Retain standards. Increase deadwood. Protect regrowth from browsing. Monitor hawfinch. Tree Risk Management. Improve southern boundary wall.



Compartment: 10a **Hectares:** 0.75 **Woodland Name:** Dukes Wood **Designations:** LDNP

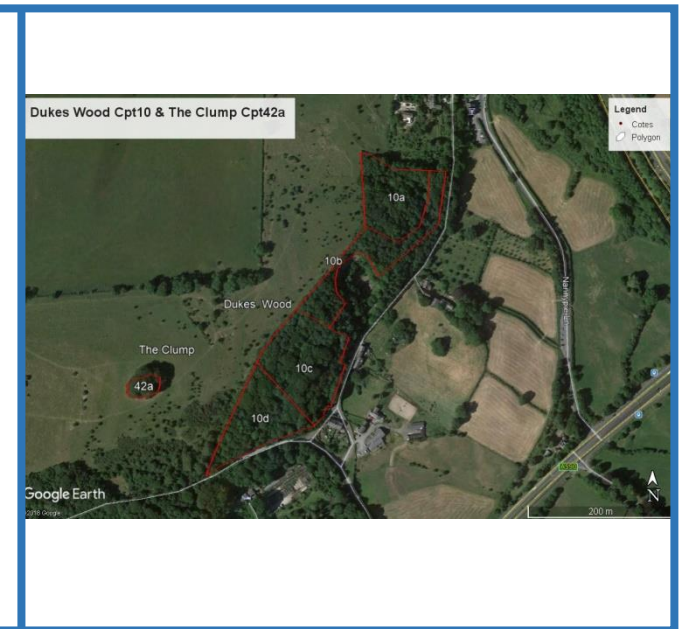
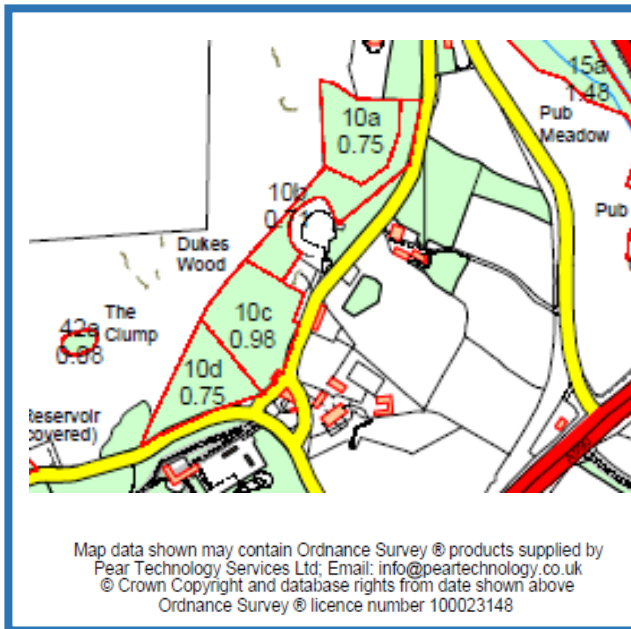
Key Species: Sycamore, ash, oak

Description: Dukes Wood is an important landscape feature on the east of Sizergh Fell with limited areas of deeper forest soils and limestone escarpment. Predominantly sycamore with oak and ash on the bank. Ash natural regeneration abundant. Boundary wall maintained.

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Shallow soils. Ash dieback.

Aims: Manage as semi natural coppice woodland and increase structural diversity.

Intervention: Cut coppice coupe on 12-15 year rotation. Retain standards. Increase deadwood. Protect regrowth from browsing.



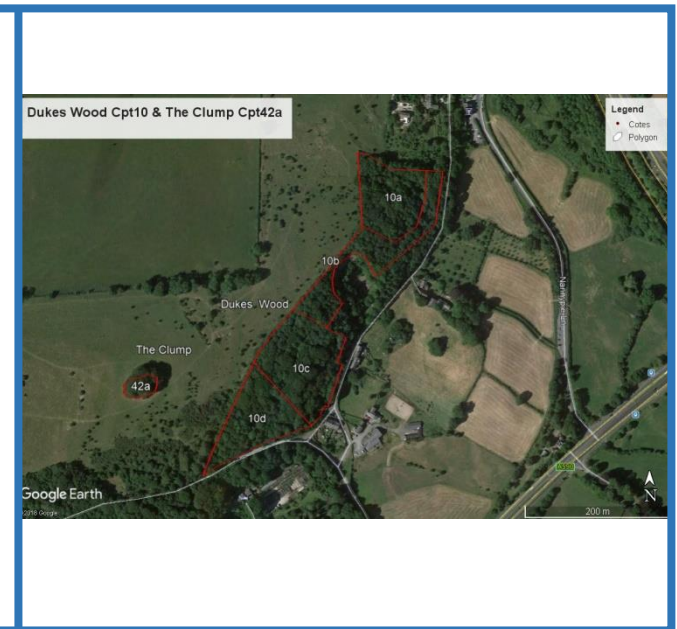
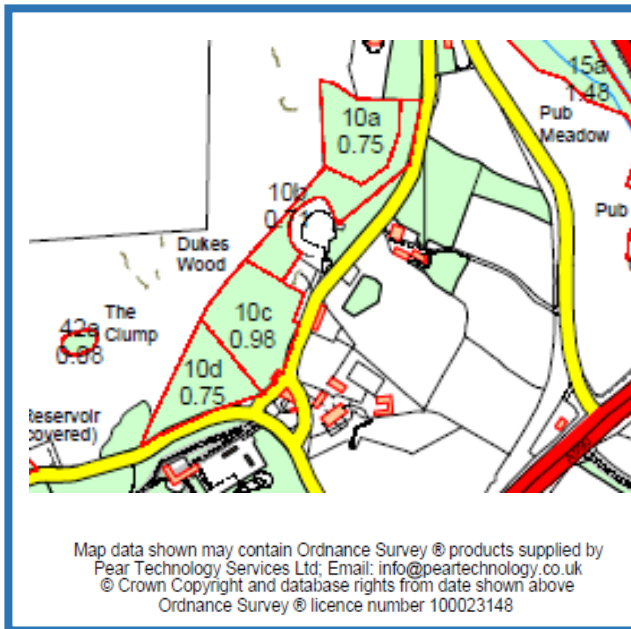
Compartment: 10b **Hectares:** 0.71 **Woodland Name:** Dukes Wood **Designations:** LDNP
Key Species: Sycamore, ash, oak, yew, holly and beech

Description: Dukes Wood is an important landscape feature on the east of Sizergh Fell with limited areas of deeper forest soils and limestone escarpment. Cpt10b wraps around the adjacent quarry. Predominantly sycamore with oak and ash with a number of yews on the thinner soils of steeper slopes. There is a patch of cotoneaster to the middle of the sub-compartment.

Constraints: Cotoneaster. Shallow soils. Ash dieback. Roadside. Difficult access.

Aims: Minimal Intervention. Improve roadside wall if resources enable.

Intervention: Control cotoneaster. Light thin where accessible. Increase deadwood. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 10c **Hectares:** 0.98 **Woodland Name:** Dukes Wood **Designations:** LDNP

Key Species: Sycamore, ash, oak and hazel

Description: Dukes Wood is an important landscape feature on the east of Sizergh Fell with limited areas of deeper forest soils and limestone escarpment. Sycamore with ash and hazel and ancient oak standards. Cpt10c abuts the roadside to the eastern boundary (derelict wall).

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Shallow soils. Ash dieback. Roadside. Difficult access.

Aims: Manage as semi natural coppice woodland and increase structural diversity. Improve roadside wall if resources enable.

Intervention: Cut coppice coupe on 12-15 year rotation. Retain standards. Increase deadwood. Protect regrowth from browsing. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 10d **Hectares:** 0.98 **Woodland Name:** Dukes Wood **Designations:** LDNP

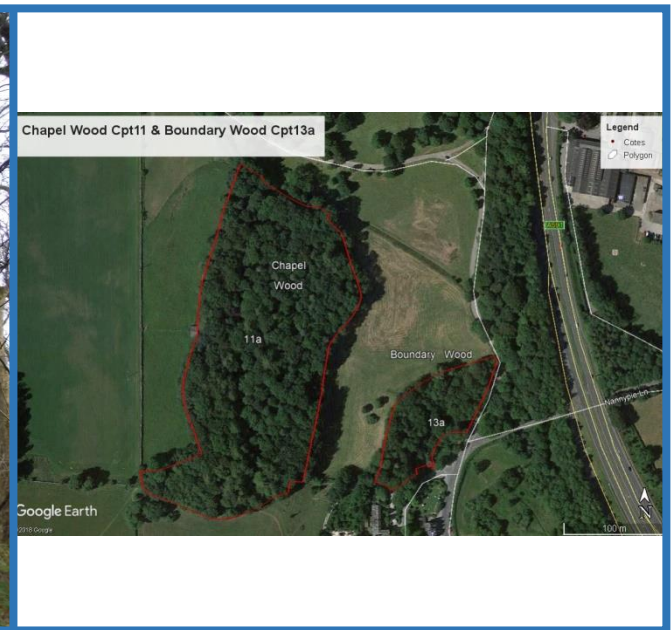
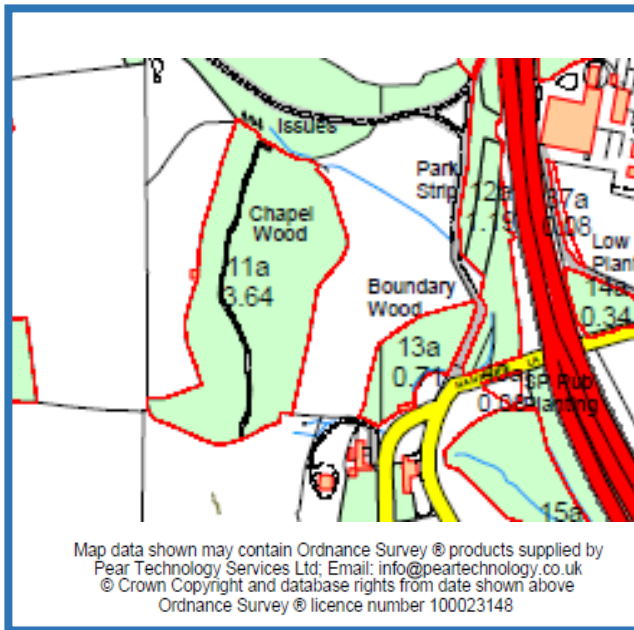
Key Species: Sycamore, ash, oak, hazel and yew

Description: Dukes Wood is an important landscape feature on the east of Sizergh Fell with limited areas of deeper forest soils and limestone escarpment. Sycamore with ash and hazel and ancient oak standards. Cpt10cd abuts the roadside to the south east boundary (derelict wall).

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Shallow soils. Ash dieback. Roadside. Difficult access.

Aims: Manage as semi natural coppice woodland and increase structural diversity. Improve roadside wall if resources enable.

Intervention: Cut coppice coupe on 12-15 year rotation. Retain standards. Increase deadwood. Protect regrowth from browsing. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 11a **Hectares:** 3.64 **Woodland Name:** Dog Kennel or Chapel Wood

Designations: PAWS & LDNP

Key Species: Sycamore, ash, beech, European larch and Douglas fir

Description: Dog Kennel or Chapel Wood is a 1926 plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWs). Remains of dog kennels at northern entrance. Mature high forest dominated by sycamore with ash, beech, European larch and Douglas fir. The ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury with wild daffodil and bluebell. Close to the visitor centre the wood has a wild play trail.

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Ash dieback. Play trail.

Aims: Maintain as high forest landscape feature & reduce non-native species. Increase structural diversity. Improve play trail and way marked routes.

Intervention: 10 year thinning cycle focussing on removal of beech, larch and fir. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 12a **Hectares:** 1.19 **Woodland Name:** Park Strip **Designations:** LDNP
Key Species: Sycamore, Scots pine, hornbeam, sweet chestnut, oak ash, birch, beech, cherry and larch.

Description: Park Strip was planted (1977 & 1982) to screen the A591 from Sizergh Castle. The wood is split into two compartments 12a and 20a. The species range is mixed broadleaves and conifer broadly even age with low levels of understory (elder, holly and field maple). Roadside wall is in poor condition including original Castle gateways.

Constraints: A591 roadside & wall. Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Ash dieback. Timber extraction access.

Aims: Maintain screen to road. Increase structural diversity. Retain large specimen trees.

Intervention: Undertake thinning to encourage understorey. Identify veteran trees for retention. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 13a **Hectares:** 0.71 **Woodland Name:** Boundary Wood **Designations:** LDNP

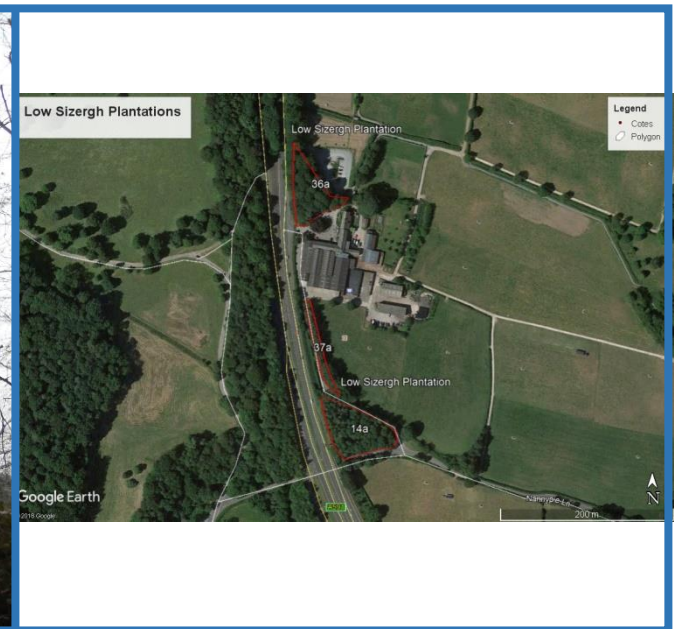
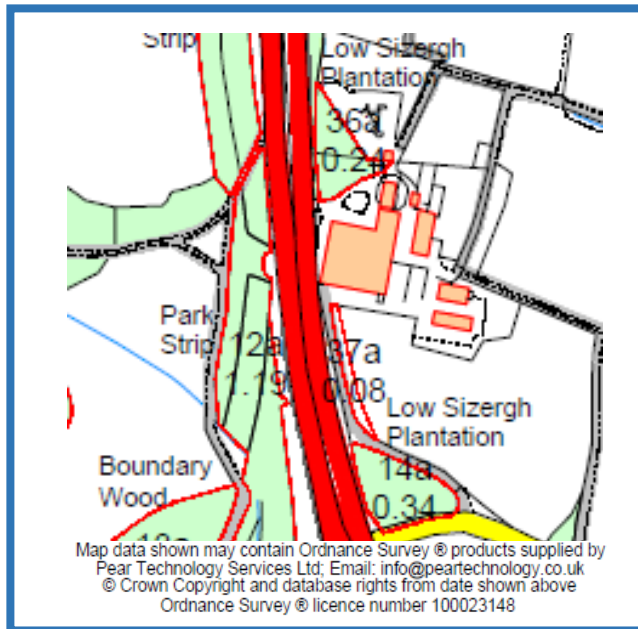
Key Species: Oak, ash, sycamore, Scots pine, and beech, sweet chestnut.

Description: Boundary Wood compartment 13 is at the main vehicle entrance to the Estate. The tree species are predominantly broadleaves and include some old trees one of which is possibly Versailles Sweet Chestnut circa 1780 from Celia Townley's time at Sizergh Castle. The shrub layer includes holly, hawthorn and elder. Spring time flowers include wild daffodils, primroses and violets. Eastern boundary wall in good repair; Parish boundary wall s/w corner in poor condition.

Constraints: Boundary walls. Roadside. Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Ash dieback.

Aims: Retain veteran trees. Improve structural diversity.

Intervention: Survey veteran & notable trees. Thinning to encourage structural diversity. Maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 14a **Hectares:** 0.34 **Woodland Name:** Low Sizergh Plantation **Designations:** LDNP

Key Species: Sycamore, ash, Scots pine, birch, lime, Norway maple and larch.

Description: Low Sizergh Plantings is made up of three small compartments 14a, 36a and 37a along the road to Sizergh Low Farm. Cpt14a is the most southerly and was planted in 1975 on the site of a redundant tip. The trees include both broadleaves and conifer species with an understory of field maple, hawthorn and gorse. The wood is well fenced.

Constraints: Shallow soils – reclaimed site. A591 & roadside. Ash dieback.

Aims: Thinning to improve woodland structure and ground flora populations.

Intervention: Thinning on a 10 year cycle. Tree Risk Management. Maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 15a **Hectares:** 1.48 **Woodland Name:** Pub Meadow **Designations:** LDNP

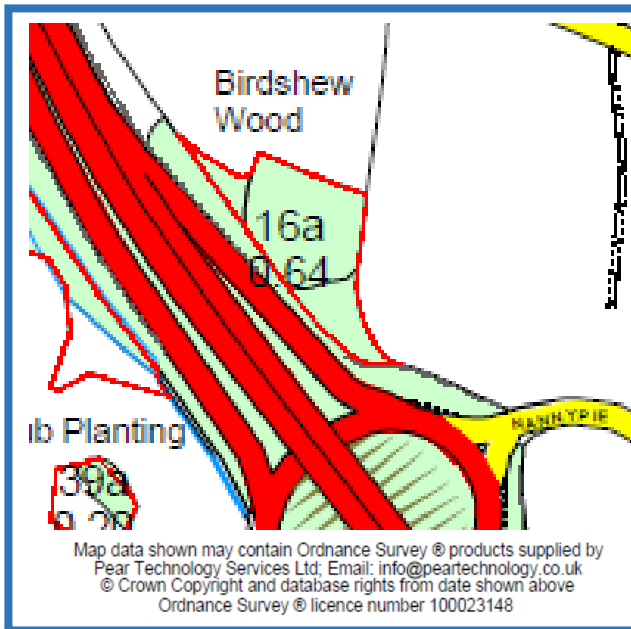
Key Species: Ash, alder, willow, birch and 40% open ground.

Description: Pub Meadow planted in 1990 to screen the A591 includes a mixture of ash, alder, willow, birch, Scots pine, Norway maple, rowan, bird cherry, hawthorn and hazel. The planting is scattered creating grassy glades and open space. There is a watercourse through the wood with scrapes and wet woodland along its course. The septic tank for the Strickland Arms is adjacent to the n/w boundary. Fences are good.

Constraints: A591. Septic tank. Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Ash dieback.

Aims: Review the potential for mowing grassland to improve herbaceous plants. Maintain structural diversity.

Intervention: Coppice willows and alders. Protect regrowth. Mowing grassland.



Compartment: 16a **Hectares:** 0.64 **Woodland Name:** Birdshew Wood **Designations:** LDNP

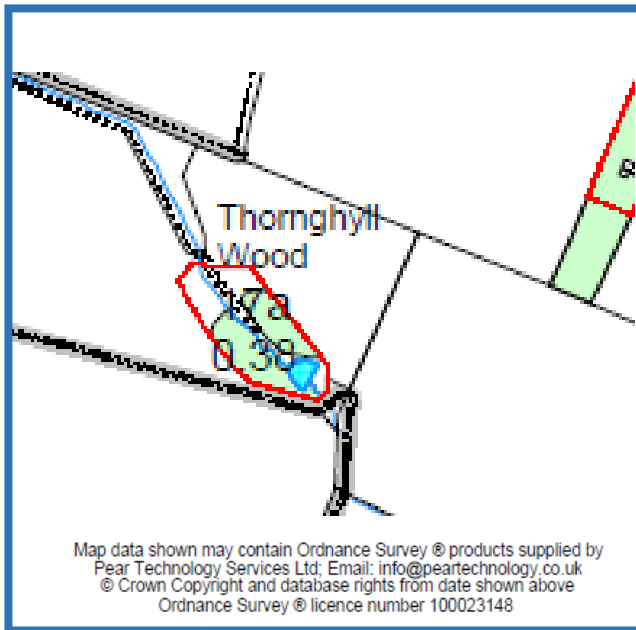
Key Species: Oak, ash, sycamore with Norway maple, birch, alder and Southern beech

Description: Birdshew Wood was extended in 1976 to help it become a more effective screen to the A591. It includes mature oak, ash and sycamore with Norway maple, birch, alder and Southern beech. The understorey includes rowan and field maple with bramble, native spring flowers and wild garlic. The fences are well maintained.

Constraints: A591 and slip road. Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Ash dieback.

Aims: Manage as a landscape feature and screen. Maintain diversity through coppice with standards regime (12-15 year rotation).

Intervention: Undertake coppicing (2019/2020) predominantly of sycamore. Protect regrowth. Maintain fences. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 17a **Hectares:** 0.38 **Woodland Name:** Thornghyll Wood

Designations: LDNP

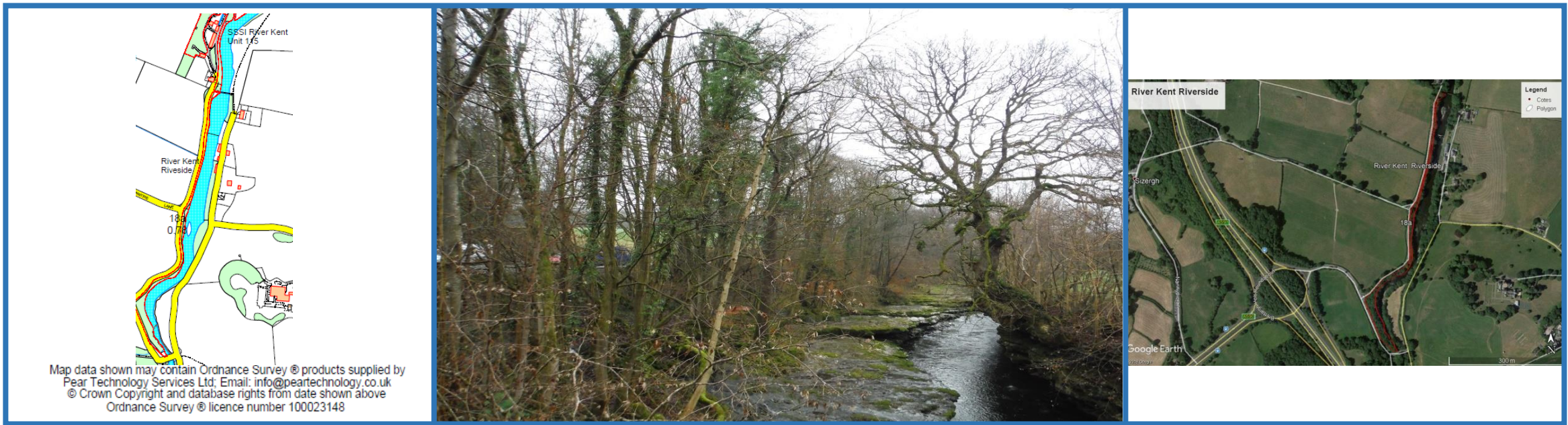
Key Species: Ash, sycamore, birch with oak, horse chestnut, alder and open ground.

Description: Thornghyll Wood is either side of a stream flowing from the north of Low Sizergh Farm to the River Kent. Planted in 1985 with ash, oak, birch, sycamore, alder, rowan and hazel. Hawthorn and ash regeneration was present on the site. There is a pond with a grass area and herbaceous plants. Fences are well maintained.

Constraints: Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Ash dieback. Water course.

Aims: Maintain structural diversity. Increase and maintain pond side vegetation. Public access from Low Sizergh Barn.

Intervention: Thinning to improve structure and maintain deadwood. Cyclical cutting of pond side vegetation. Footpath maintenance.



Compartment: 18a **Hectares:** 0.78 **Woodland Name:** River Kent Riverside

Designations: SSSI/SAC/LDNP

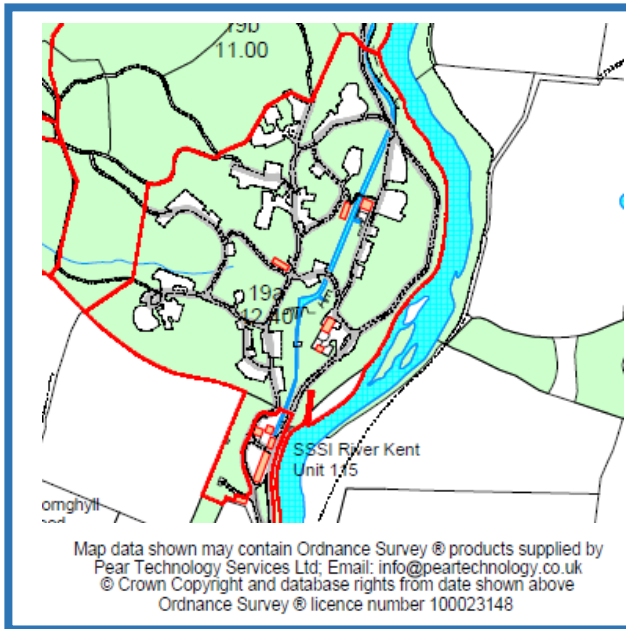
Key Species: Ash, oak, sycamore, wych elm and woody shrubs

Description: The River Kent Riverside woodland follows the bank of the River Kent which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area Conservation (SAC). The woodland is high forest with natural succession creating a diverse structure. Deadwood retained. Roe deer are a common sight. Yellow Star of Bethlehem and toothwort are recorded at the site.

Constraints: River Kent SSSI/SAC. Difficult access. Caravan park access road. Invasive species. Ash dieback . Deer browsing. Flooding.

Aims: Manage as high forest natural wet woodland – minimum intervention.

Intervention: Botanical survey – monitor key species. Tree Risk Management on roadside. Control invasive Himalayan balsam.



Compartment: 19a **Hectares:** 12.40 **Woodland Name:** Low Park Wood (CC) **Designations:** ASNW/SAM/LDNP/SSSI/SAC
Key Species: Oak, ash, sycamore, birch, bird cherry, Scots pine and Norway maple

Description: Cpt19a is the area to the south east occupied by the Caravan Club and includes Sedgewick Gunpowder Works Scheduled Ancient Monument (see photo). Around the pitches the trees are regularly coppiced and include ash, oak, birch, bird cherry and thorns. Towards the river the trees are more mature and include oak, ash, sycamore, horse chestnut, beech, Scots pine and larch, with willow

Constraints: Gunpowder Works SAM. River Kent SSSI. Caravan Club pitches & access roads. High visitor usage. Ancient Woodland. Ash dieback. Japanese knotweed & Himalayan balsam. Rabbit damage.

Aims: To maintain a regular coppice cycle around caravan site. Improve visitor access. Monitor biodiversity. Wood share coppice scheme.

Intervention: Cut coppice coupe 0.5ha annually & thin rest of stand. Protect regrowth. Control JK & HB. Improve way marking from visitor centre & on site interpretation. Tree Risk Management (annual surveys). Bird survey (TBC)



Compartment: 19b **Hectares:** 11.51 **Woodland Name:** Low Park Wood (CC) **Designations:** ASNW/SAM/LDNP/SSSI/SAC
Key Species: Oak, ash, birch, sycamore, wild cherry

Description: Cpt19b is to the north and west of the caravan pitches and is an area of ancient coppice with standards including veteran oaks. There are areas of younger ash, oak and wild cherry planted in 1984 with extensive ash regeneration. Woodland structure is good with standing and fallen deadwood. Japanese knotweed has been a problem and control is on-going.

Constraints: Gunpowder Works SAM. River Kent SSSI. Caravan Club pitches & access roads. High visitor usage. Ancient Woodland. Ash dieback. Japanese knotweed & Himalayan balsam. Deer browsing. Rabbit damage.

Aims: Thinning to improve woodland structure & timber quality. Control invasive species. Protect ancient oaks. Improve visitor access. Wood share coppice scheme.

Intervention: Thinning and coppicing to develop timber quality and open up ancient oaks. Cut coppice coupes & protect regrowth. Control Japanese knotweed & Himalayan balsam. Footpath maintenance.



Compartment: 19c **Hectares:** 2.74 **Woodland Name:** Low Park Wood **Designations:** ASNW/PAWs/LDNP

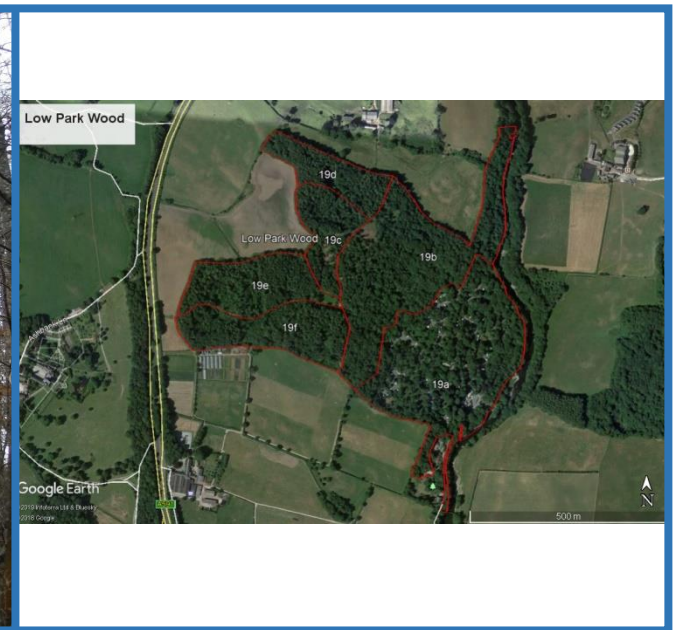
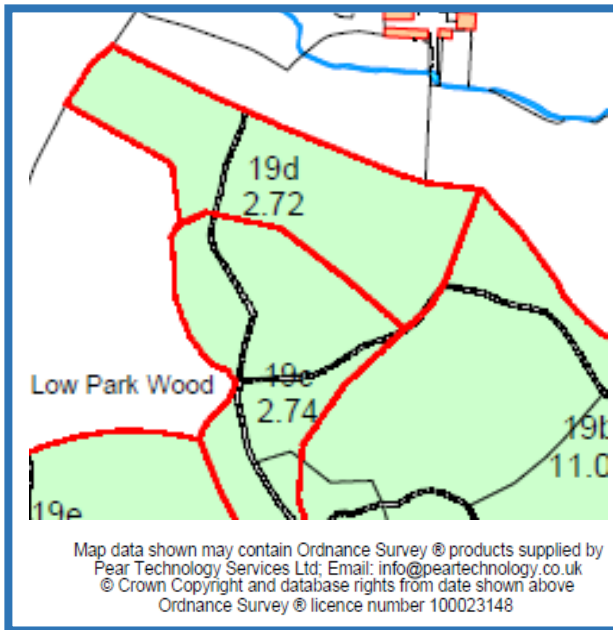
Key Species: Norway spruce, larch, beech, ash, oak, birch, sycamore and cherry.

Description: This area of ancient woodland was planted in the 1950's with beech, larch and oak. Recent clearings and re-planting with ash, oak, cherry and Scots pine have increased the diversity and structure. Ride s have been widened and stream sides cut back.

Constraints: High visitor usage. Ancient Woodland. Ash dieback. Deer browsing. Rabbit damage. Grey squirrel damage.

Aims: Restoration of the ancient woodland. High amenity value and visitor usage. Wood share coppice scheme.

Intervention: Cut 2 x 0.5ha coppice blocks (1 every 5 years) & thinning. Restock with native species. Protect from deer browsing. Ride management. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 19d **Hectares:** 2.72 **Woodland Name:** Low Park Wood

Designations: ASNW/PAWs/LDNP

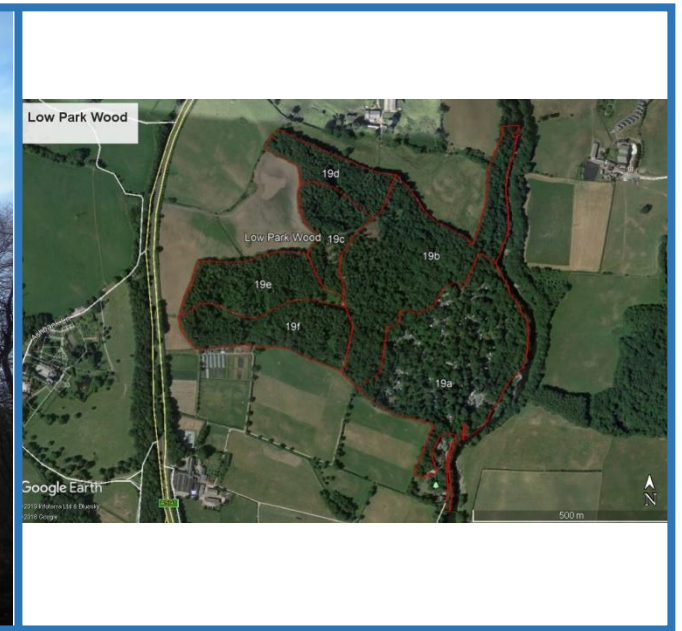
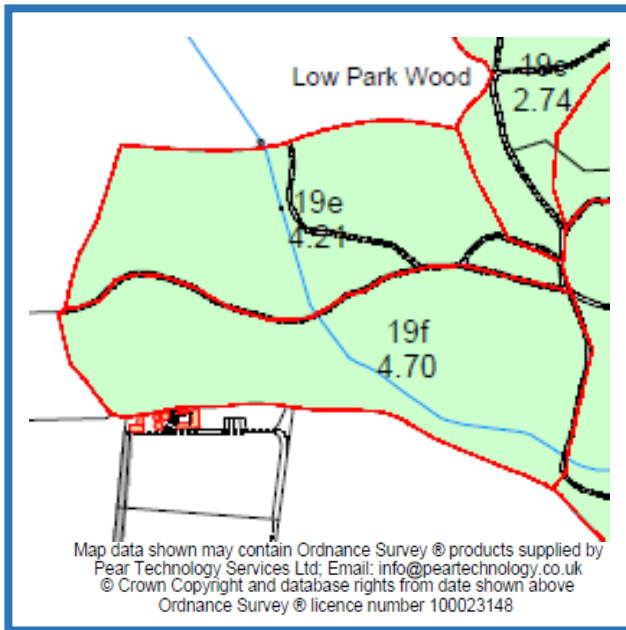
Key Species: Norway spruce, larch, beech, ash, oak, birch, sycamore and cherry.

Description: This area of ancient woodland was planted in the 1950's with beech, larch and oak. Recent clearings and re-planting with ash, oak, cherry and Scots pine have increased the diversity and structure. Ride s have been widened and stream sides cut back.

Constraints: High visitor usage. Ancient Woodland. Ash dieback. Deer browsing. Rabbit damage. Grey squirrel damage.

Aims: Restoration of the ancient woodland. High amenity value and visitor usage. Improve timber quality. Improve ride network.

Intervention: 8-year crown and low thinning cycle, reduce conifer composition, increase deadwood. Ride management. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 19e **Hectares:** 4.21 **Woodland Name:** Low Park Wood **Designations :** ASNW/PAWs/LDNP

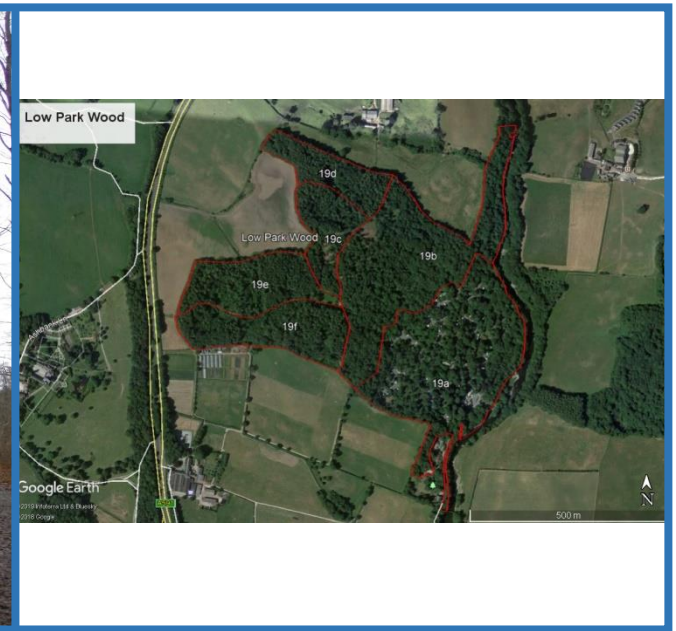
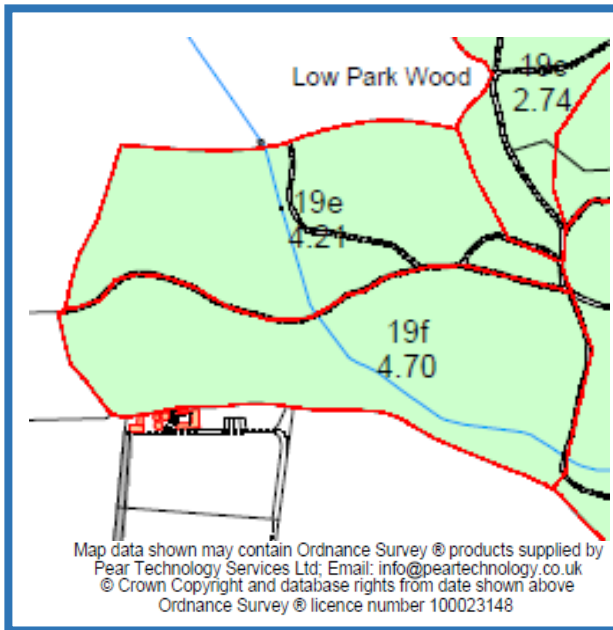
Key Species: Norway spruce, larch, beech, ash, oak, birch, sycamore and cherry.

Description: This area of ancient woodland was planted in the 1950's with beech, larch and oak. Recent clearings and re-planting with ash, oak, cherry and Scots pine have increased the diversity and structure. Ride s have been widened and stream sides cut back.

Constraints: High visitor usage. Ancient Woodland. Ash dieback. Deer browsing. Rabbit damage. Grey squirrel damage.

Aims: Restoration of the ancient woodland. High amenity value and visitor usage. Improve timber quality. Improve ride network.

Intervention: 8-year crown and low thinning cycle, reduce conifer composition, increase deadwood. Stone eastern ride. Ride management. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 19f **Hectares:** 4.70 **Woodland Name:** Low Park Wood **Designations:** ASNW/PAWs/LDNP

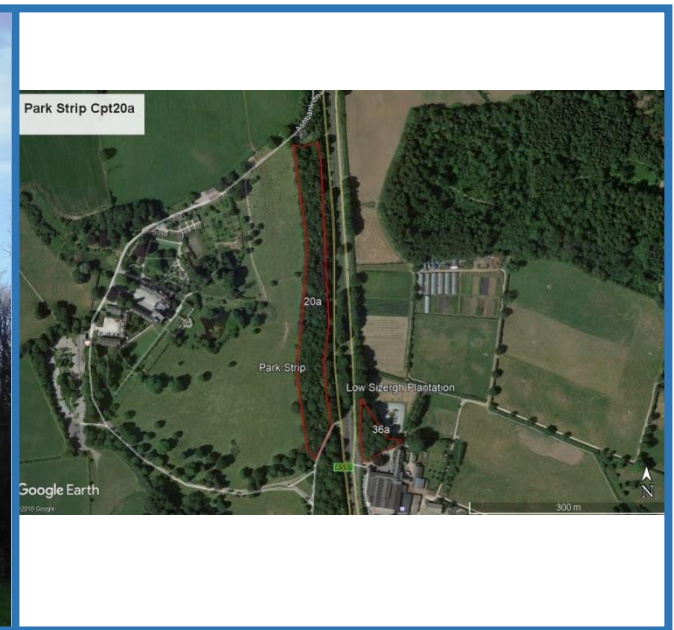
Key Species: Norway spruce, larch, beech, ash, oak, birch, sycamore and cherry.

Description: This area of ancient woodland was planted in the 1950's with beech, larch and oak. Recent clearings and re-planting with ash, oak, cherry and Scots pine have increased the diversity and structure. Ride s have been widened and stream sides cut back.

Constraints: High visitor usage. Ancient Woodland. Ash dieback. Deer browsing. Rabbit damage. Grey squirrel damage.

Aims: Restoration of the ancient woodland. High amenity value and visitor usage. Improve timber quality. Improve ride network.

Intervention: 8-year crown and low thinning cycle, reduce conifer composition, increase deadwood. Stone eastern ride. Ride management. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 20a **Hectares:** 1.58 **Woodland Name:** Park Strip **Designations:** LDNP

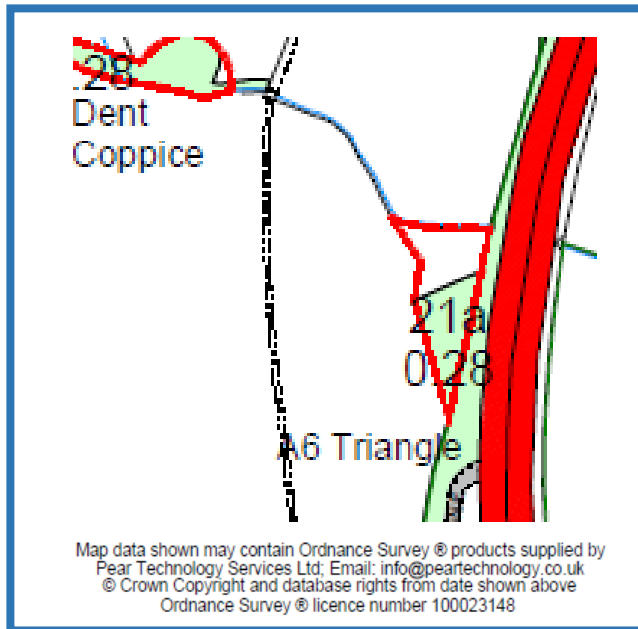
Key Species: Sycamore, Scots pine, hornbeam, sweet chestnut, oak ash, birch, beech and cherry .

Description: Park Strip was planted (1977 & 1982) to screen the A591 from Sizergh Castle. The wood is split into two compartments 12a and 20a. The species range is mixed broadleaves and conifer broadly even age with low levels of understory (elder, holly and field maple). Roadside wall is in poor condition including original Castle gateways.

Constraints: A591 roadside & wall. Deer browsing. Grey squirrel damage. Ash dieback. Timber extraction access.

Aims: Maintain screen to road. Increase structural diversity. Retain large specimen trees.

Intervention: Undertake thinning to encourage understorey. Identify veteran trees for retention. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 21a **Hectares:** 0.28 **Woodland Name:** A6 Triangle

Designations: LDNP

Key Species: Alder, sycamore with hawthorn and blackthorn.

Description: The A6 Triangle is a small copse to the north east of the Estate adjacent to the A591. The woodland is predominantly alder with some sycamore. Blackthorn and hawthorn were planted in 2006 and there is open ground which is quite wet.

Constraints: Wet ground. A591 roadside. Deer browsing. Small size.

Aims: Maintain the landscape feature & lay the western hedge. Maintain structural diversity.

Intervention: Coppice alders. Lay the hedge to the west. Protect from browsing. Maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 22a **Hectares:** 0.28 **Woodland Name:** Dent Coppice **Designations:** LDNP

Key Species: Willow, sycamore and alder with ash and oak.

Description: Dent Coppice is part of a series of small woodlands planted in 1984. This wet woodland is predominantly willow and alder with a few mature ash and sycamore on the boundaries. The alder and willow have been coppiced in the past.

Constraints: Wet ground. Deer browsing. Ash dieback.

Aims: Maintain the landscape feature. Maintain structural diversity.

Intervention: Coppice alders and willow. Protect from browsing. Maintain boundaries



Compartment: 23a **Hectares:** 0.07 **Woodland Name:** Crow Wood **Designations:** LDNP

Key Species: Oak with hazel

Description: This small woodland is on the edge of the Estate to the north west of Nether Wells Farm. The canopy is made up of oak with hazel in the understorey. The wall boundary to the south is maintained. The northern boundary is not owned by the Trust.

Constraints: Small size. Boundary walls.

Aims: Retain the woodland in the landscape.

Intervention: Maintain boundary walls.



Compartment: 24a **Hectares:** 0.39 **Woodland Name:** Goat Wood **Designations:** LDNP

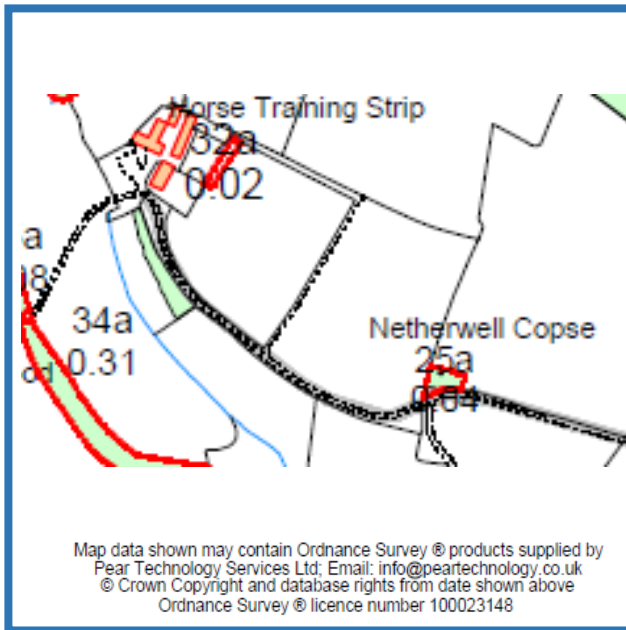
Key Species: alder, aspen, ash, wych elm, ash, birch and oak.

Description: Goat Wood is a small woodland to the north east of Nether Wells Farm. The farm was named after the well in this wood. Planted in 1984 with alder and aspen and there are more mature ash and elm. The overhead power lines split the wood

Constraints: Overhead power lines. Wet ground. Well.

Aims: Retain the woodland in the landscape & improve woodland structure.

Intervention: Maintain boundary fences. Light thinning & coppice pond scrape. Review deepening the scrape.



Compartment: 25a **Hectares:** 0.04 **Woodland Name:** Netherwells Copse
Key Species: Beech, oak, ash, birch, wych elm and cherry.

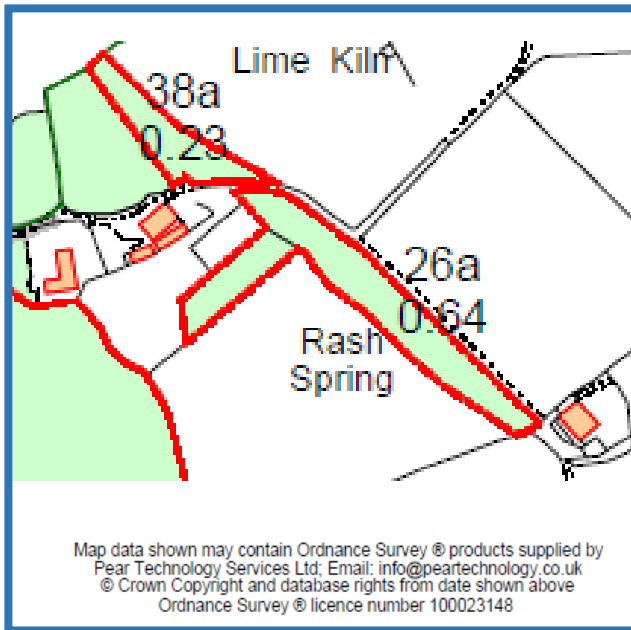
Designations: LDNP

Description: A small copse in a field corner to the east of Nether Wells Farm.

Constraints: Small size.

Aims: Retain landscape feature.

Intervention: Maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 26a **Hectares:** 0.64 **Woodland Name:** Rash Springs **Designations:** LDNP

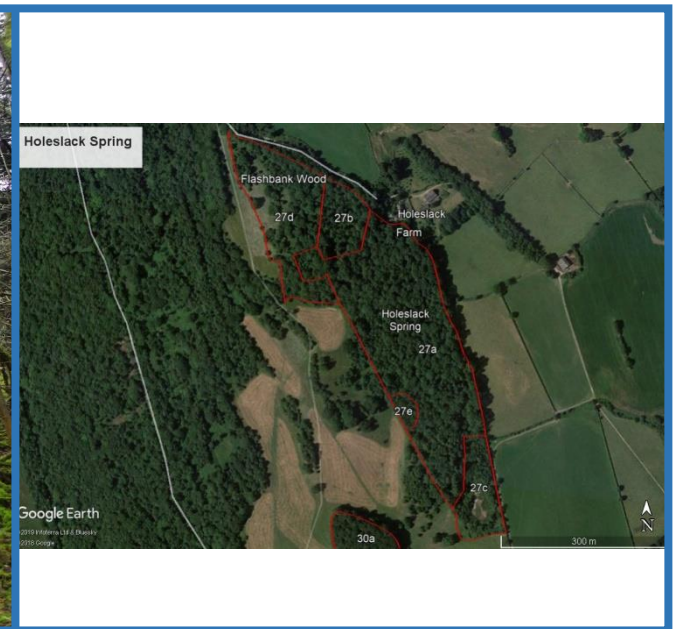
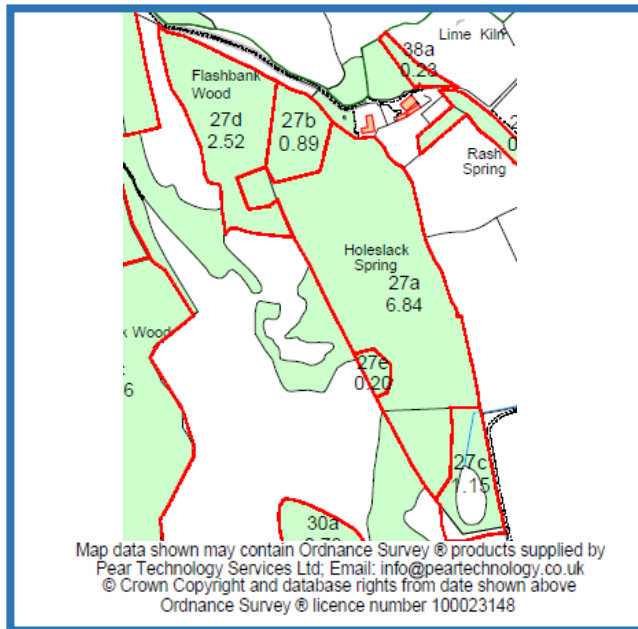
Key Species: Oak, sycamore, ash, cherry with Scots pine and larch.

Description: Rash Spring is split into two woodland compartments 26a and 38a; situated to the north and east of Holeslack Farm. The wood is on a steep slope on a buried escarpment. Grazed up until 1984 the woodland was then fenced, thinned and re-stocked. The trees are predominantly broadleaves with some pine and larch and a good understorey with field maple, rowan, hawthorn and hazel. There is a public footpath through the wood.

Constraints: Thin soils. Steep ground. Escarpment. Deer browsing. Public footpath

Aims: Thinning to improve structure & diversity. Improve footpath. Renew boundaries.

Intervention: Light thinning to improve diversity. Footpath maintenance. Boundary maintenance – possibly renew. Deer control.



Compartment: 27a **Hectares:** 6.84 **Woodland Name:** Holeslack Spring

Designations: ASNW/LDNP

Key Species: Ash, sycamore, yew, oak, cherry, elm with larch and spruce.

Description: Holeslack Spring forms a large bank of ancient woodland facing Sizergh Castle and visible in the landscape. The wood has been regularly thinned with an open canopy over a dense understorey. Good amounts of large woody debris. There are large old yews throughout the wood. Dog's mercury dominates the vegetation layer with bluebells, common dog violet, wood avens, false broom and mosses. Dry stone walls to the west, north and east are regularly maintained

Constraints: ASNW. Shallow soils. Limestone pavement. Dry stone walls. Deer browsing. Ash dieback.

Aims: Restoration to semi natural tree species. Improve timber quality. Maintain good visitor access facilities.

Intervention: Crown and low thin to favour native species (10-year cycle). Halo round ancient yews (gradually). Single coppice stools. Remove tree guards. Footpath maintenance.



Compartment: 27b **Hectares:** 0.89 **Woodland Name:** Holeslack Spring

Designations: LDNP

Key Species: Ash, sycamore, oak, cherry, yew, Scots pine, Norway spruce and larch.

Description: Cpt27b of Holeslack Wood is at the northern end and has been coppiced regularly to improve butterfly habitat. As well as the ash, sycamore, oak and cherry there are scattered Scots pine, Norway spruce and larch. The oaks to the western edge were planted from acorns collected from the Estate. Charcoal burns are undertaken in the wood.

Constraints: Ancient woodland. Deer browsing. Ash dieback. Grey squirrel damage.

Aims: Maintain the varied coppice structure. Protect the ancient yews and future veteran trees.

Intervention: Continue coppice cutting on 12-15 year cycle. Monitor hawfinch.



Compartment: 27c **Hectares:** 1.15 **Woodland Name:** Holeslack Spring

Designations: LDNP

Key Species: Alder, willow and birch.

Description: Cpt27c of Holeslack Spring is the south of the wood where there is a clay-lined pond surrounded by willow, birch and alder with some open areas. The pond is heavily silted up with emergent and floating mat vegetation including common spike rush, creeping bent and mare's tale. A bird screen with a short boardwalk links to the footpath through the wood.

Constraints: Successional vegetation. Groundwater supply. Disturbance to pond wildlife.

Aims: Restore & maintain the pond. Maintain visitor access

Intervention: Rotational coppicing of pond edges & clearance of emergent vegetation (slowly). Footpath & screen maintenance.



Compartment: 27d **Hectares:** 2.52 **Woodland Name:** Flashbank Woods

Designations: LDNP

Key Species: Oak, ash, yew, birch, hawthorn and limestone pasture.

Description: Flashbank Woods is an important mix of grassland with oak and ash woodland with bramble and bracken. It sits to the north east of compartment 1c and is also managed as wood pasture and formed a major part of the historic deer park.

Constraints: Deer park wall. Woodland succession.

Aims: Manage wood pasture and structural diversity of the habitat. Retain veteran trees.

Intervention: Wood pasture grazing. Monitor scrub & bracken management to see if intervention is required.



Compartment: 27e **Hectares:** 0.20 **Woodland Name:** Holeslack Spring

Designations: ASNW/LDNP

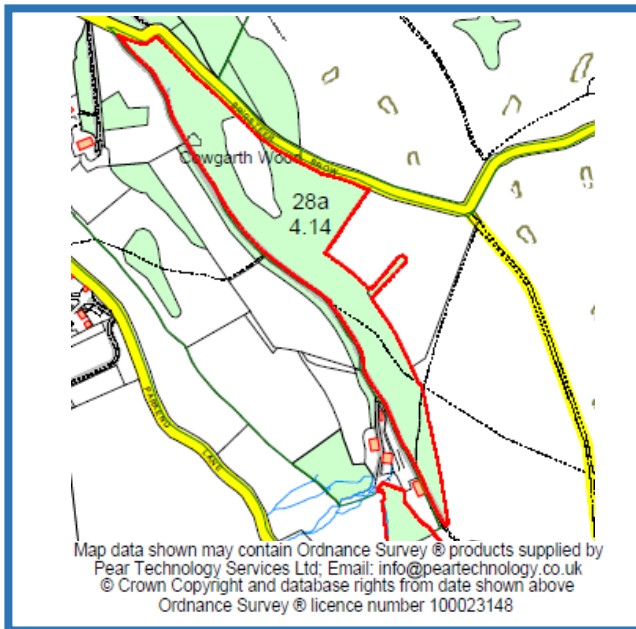
Key Species: Ash, sycamore,

Description: Compartment 27e is a small area on the western boundary that has been identified as an area that would benefit from coppicing as the soils are thin and opening the canopy could promote some interesting ground flora as well as diversifying the structure of the woodland .

Constraints: Ash dieback. Deer browsing.

Aims: Improve woodland structure and potentially hawfinch habitat.

Intervention: Coppice 0.2ha on west boundary. Supplementary planting potential to increase fruiting trees for hawfinch forage.



Compartment: 28a **Hectares:** 4.14 **Woodland Name:** Cowgarth Wood

Designations: LDNP

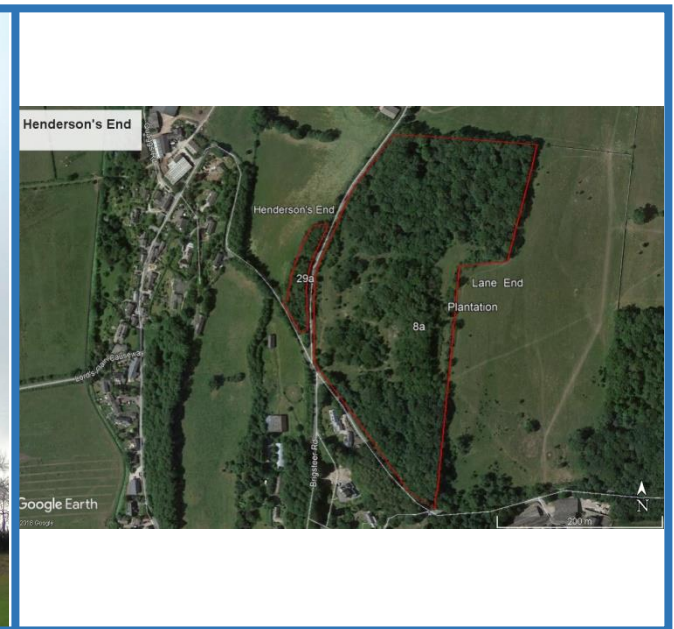
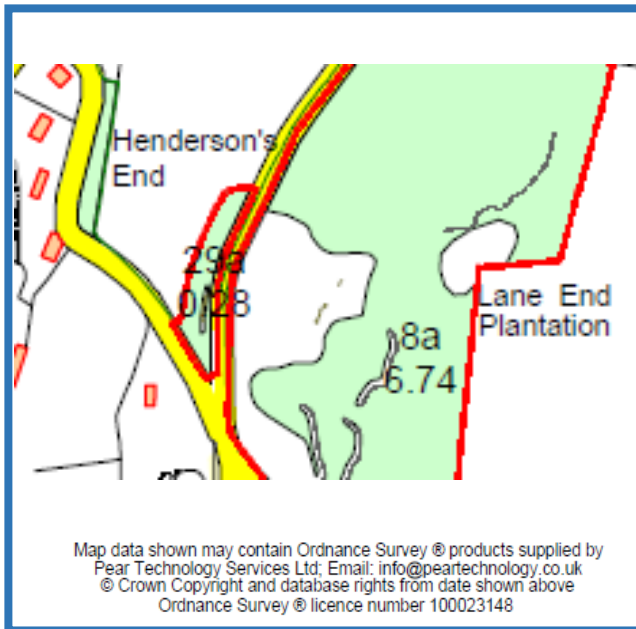
Key Species: Ash, sycamore, elm, yew and oak with open limestone grassland.

Description: Cowgarth Wood is on the steep eastern slope of the Lyth Valley. The woodland is a mix of ash, sycamore elm, yew and oak. Last thinned in 1985 the area has a good cover of standing and fallen deadwood. The southern tip of the wood shows woodland succession of the grassland with ash and oak interspersed by gorse. Yews are present and an occasional conifer. Towards the middle of the site scrub has been cut back with the aim of retaining some open grassland. There is a bridleway along the western boundary and a footpath through the wood.

Constraints: Steep slope. Shallow soils. Escarpment. Deer browsing. Road. Public rights of way.

Aims: To maintain some open grassland & visitor access.

Intervention: Annual maintenance of grassland areas (September) & footpath. Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 29a **Hectares:** 0.28 **Woodland Name:** Henderson's End

Designations: LDNP

Key Species: Ash, larch, oak and birch.

Description: This small field corner copse is opposite Lane End Plantation and north of the village of Levens. The mixed broadleaf canopy has naturally regenerated under the larch canopy. The ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury with bramble. The boundary to the road is dry stone wall and in need of some repair.

Constraints: Small size. Deer browsing. Road. Dry stone wall.

Aims: Retain the woodland feature in the landscape.

Intervention: Boundary maintenance and dry stone wall repairs. Light thinning for Tree Risk Management.



Compartment: 30a **Hectares:** 0.78 **Woodland Name:** Flashbank Plantation

Designations: LDNP

Key Species: Beech, sycamore, oak and larch.

Description: Flashbank Plantation was planted in 1935 as a pheasant covert in the old deer park west of Sizergh Castle. With much of the larch thinned over the years the woodland is now predominantly beech and sycamore with a few oak. The hedge was laid in the mid 80's and a new stock fence erected. Laurel was removed in 2015.

Constraints: Small size. Heavy shade. Deer browsing.

Aims: Retain the woodland feature in the landscape and improve structural diversity.

Intervention: Undertake a crown thin to break up the canopy and stimulate the understorey. Maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 31a **Hectares:** 0.99 **Woodland Name:** Hare Park Wood **Designations:** LDNP

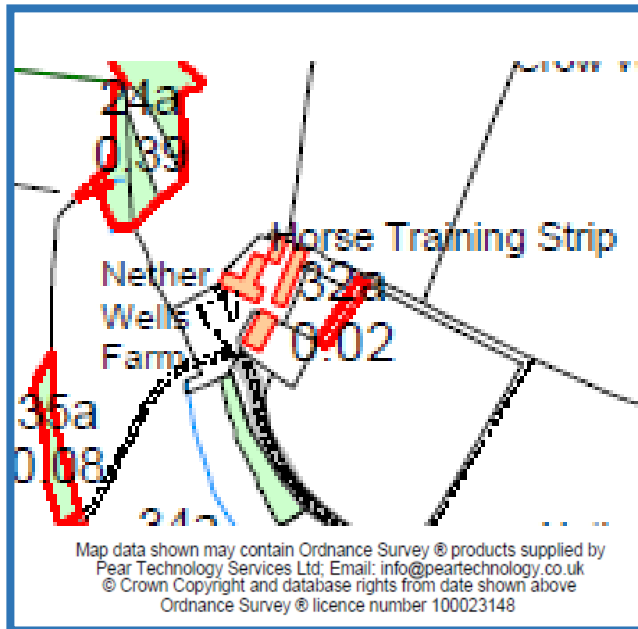
Key Species: Sycamore , ash, Scots pine and oak.

Description: Hare Park Wood set on the bank to the west of the main visitor centre car park is an important feature in the landscape. The field oaks and sycamore where fenced in 1935 with additional planting undertaken the wood is now a mix of sycamore, ash, pine and oak. Snowberry and elder are present with bramble in the field layer.

Constraints: Small size. Deer browsing. Badger sett.

Aims: To maintain the feature woodland in the landscape.

Intervention: Undertake a predominantly low thin of younger trees and maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 32a **Hectares:** 0.02 **Woodland Name:** Horse Training Strip

Designations: LDNP

Key Species: Cherry, ash, elm and hawthorn

Description: Planted in 1984 to screen the horse training paddock at Nether Wells Farm. Cherry is dominant with ash, elm and hawthorn.

Constraints: Small size. Ash dieback.

Aims: To maintain the landscape screen adjacent to the farm.

Intervention: Maintain boundaries.



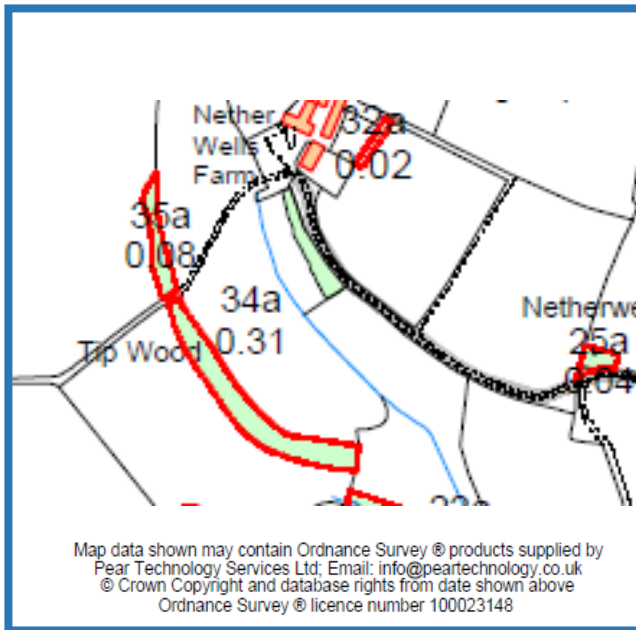
Compartment: 33a **Hectares:** 0.49 **Woodland Name:** Spring Bank **Designations:** LDNP
Key Species: Sycamore, ash, cherry, beech, pine and larch

Description: Spring Bank wood is an important wildlife corridor and follows the limestone escarpment. The area was grazed until 1984 when a light thinning and under planting was completed with larch, pine, sycamore, ash, cherry, field maple, hazel and rowan. There are two large c1780 beech which are excellent veteran habitats. Primroses are abundant. Fences and wall are stock proof.

Constraints: Shallow soils. Escarpment. Deer browsing. Ash dieback. Difficult access.

Aims: Maintain the high forest woodland, improve structural diversity. Retain veteran trees.

Intervention: Undertake crown and low thin. Maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 34a **Hectares:** 0.31 **Woodland Name:** Tip Wood **Designations:** LDNP

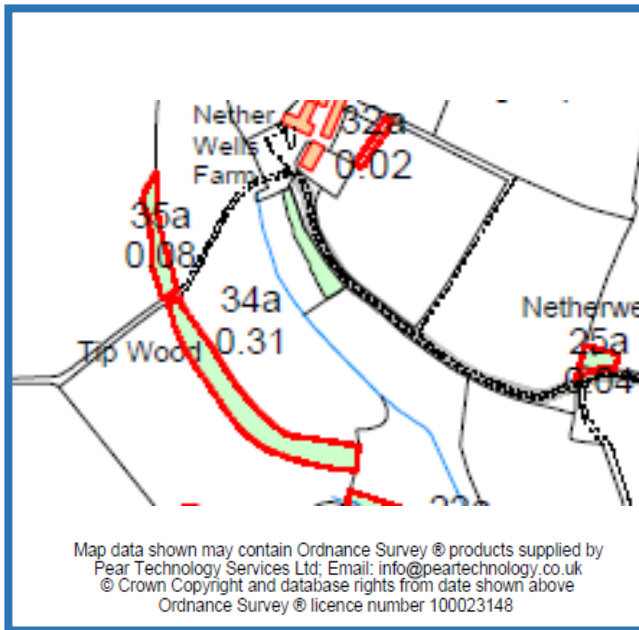
Key Species: Ash, cherry, sycamore, Scots pine and oak

Description: Tip Wood is split into 2 compartments by the track. This is an important small wood in the landscape and a wildlife corridor. The wood name derives from an old disused tip at the southern end. Dry stone wall to the north east boundary. The area was fenced from grazing in 1984 and underplanted.

Constraints: Steep slope. Shallow soils. Deer browsing. Public rights of way adjacent to woodland. Dry stone wall.

Aims: Retain woodland as a landscape feature. Maintain the high forest woodland, improve structural diversity. Retain deadwood.

Intervention: Undertake a crown and low thin. Maintain boundaries. Create & retain deadwood.



Compartment: 35a **Hectares:** 0.08 **Woodland Name:** Tip Wood

Designations: LDNP

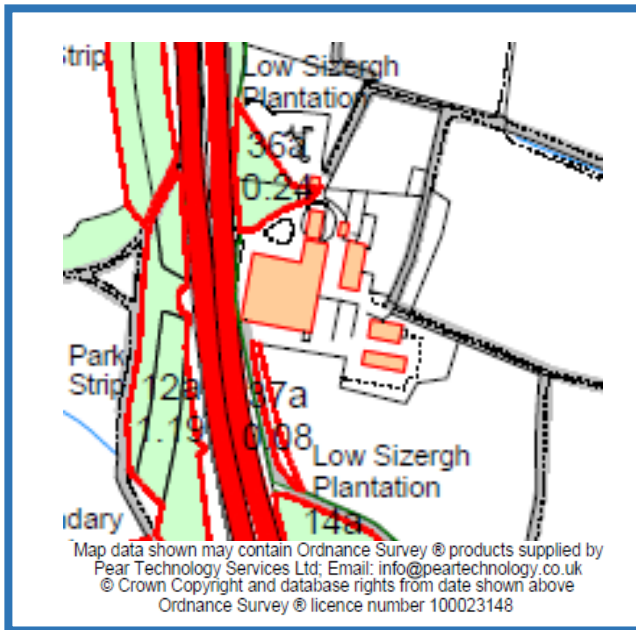
Key Species: Ash, cherry, sycamore, Scots pine and oak

Description: Tip Wood is split into 2 compartments by the track. This is an important small wood in the landscape and a wildlife corridor. The wood name derives from an old disused tip at the southern end. Dry stone wall to the north east boundary. The area was fenced from grazing in 1984 and underplanted.

Constraints: Steep slope. Shallow soils. Deer browsing. Public rights of way adjacent to woodland. Dry stone wall.

Aims: Retain woodland as a landscape feature. Maintain the high forest woodland, improve structural diversity. Retain deadwood.

Intervention: Undertake a crown and low thin. Maintain boundaries. Create & retain deadwood.



Compartment: 36a **Hectares:** 0.24 **Woodland Name:** Low Sizergh Plantation **Designations:** LDNP

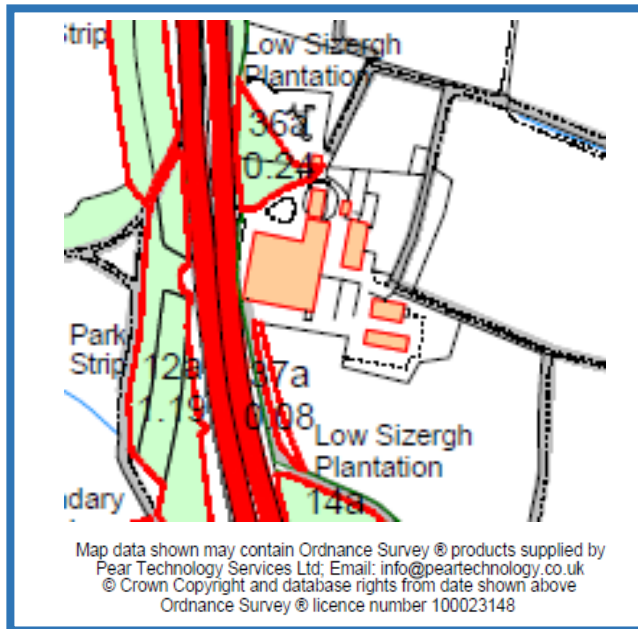
Key Species: Sycamore, beech, Scots pine and larch.

Description: The small plantation adjacent to Low Sizergh Barn planted in the late 1960's with sycamore and some edge shrubs. There is a large veteran Scots pine to the south and a thorn hedge to the eastern boundary.

Constraints: Deer browsing. Between the A591 and Low Sizergh farm car park. Grey squirrel damage. Timber extraction access.

Aims: Maintain screen to the road. Increase structural diversity and retain large specimen trees.

Intervention: Undertake thinning to encourage the understorey. Tree safety management.



Compartment: 37a **Hectares:** 0.08 **Woodland Name:** Low Sizergh Plantation

Designations: LDNP

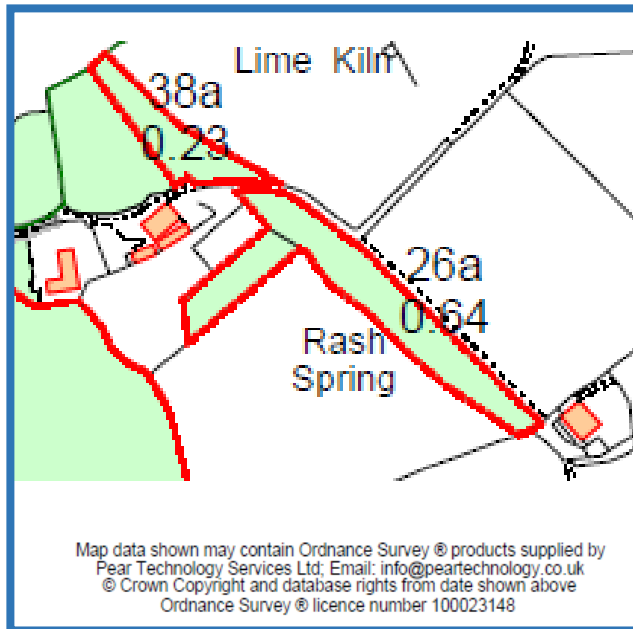
Key Species: Cherry, hornbeam, field maple, Norway maple and Scots pine.

Description: This narrow, linear plantation was planted as a screen in 1981 with a mix of species. It is well fenced and has an ancient hedgerow to the southern boundary with Nannypie Lane.

Constraints: Roadside screen planting. Small and narrow woodland.

Aims: Maintain as a screen planting and a landscape feature.

Intervention: Undertake thinning to encourage understorey. Maintain boundaries. Tree risk management.



Compartment: 38a **Hectares:** 0.23 **Woodland Name:** Rash Springs **Designations:** LDNP

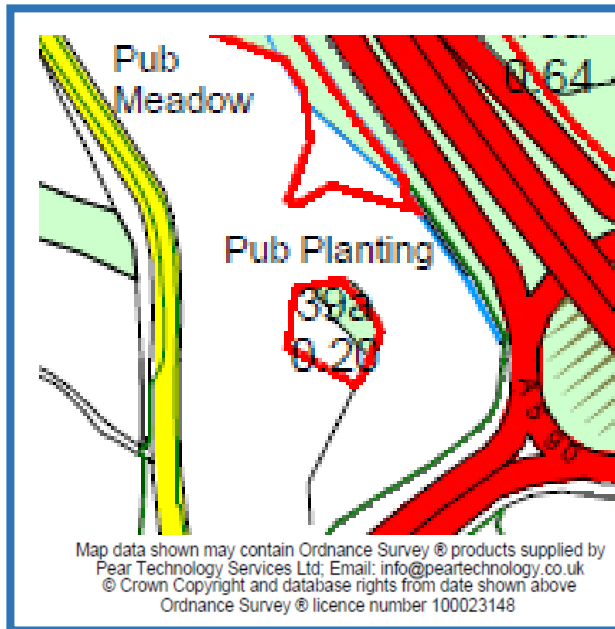
Key Species: Oak, sycamore, ash, cherry with Scots pine and larch.

Description: Rash Spring is split into two woodland compartments 26a and 38a; situated to the north and east of Holeslack Farm. The wood is on a steep slope on a buried escarpment. Grazed up until 1984 the woodland was then fenced, thinned and re-stocked. The trees are predominantly broadleaves with some pine and larch and a good understorey with field maple, rowan, hawthorn and hazel.

Constraints: Thin soils. Steep ground. Escarpment. Deer browsing.

Aims: Thinning to improve structure & diversity. Renew boundaries.

Intervention: Light thinning to improve diversity. Boundary maintenance – possibly renew. Deer control.



Compartment: 39a **Hectares:** 0.20 **Woodland Name:** Pub Planting **Designations:** LDNP

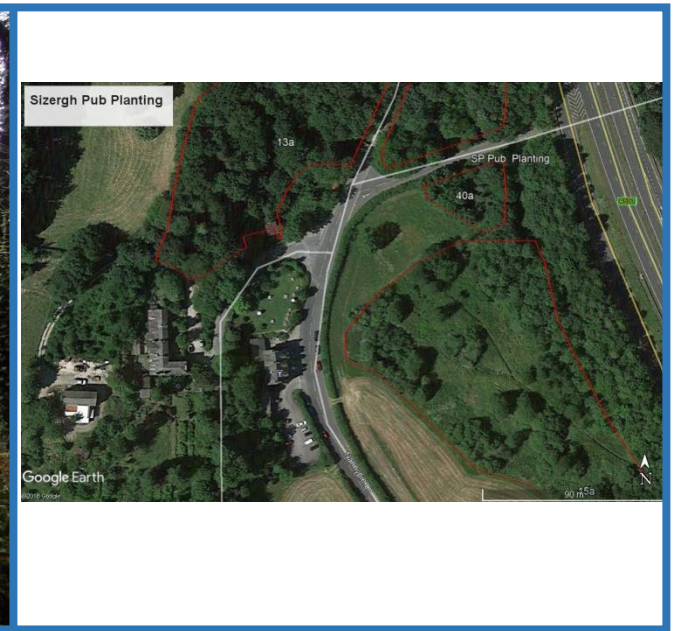
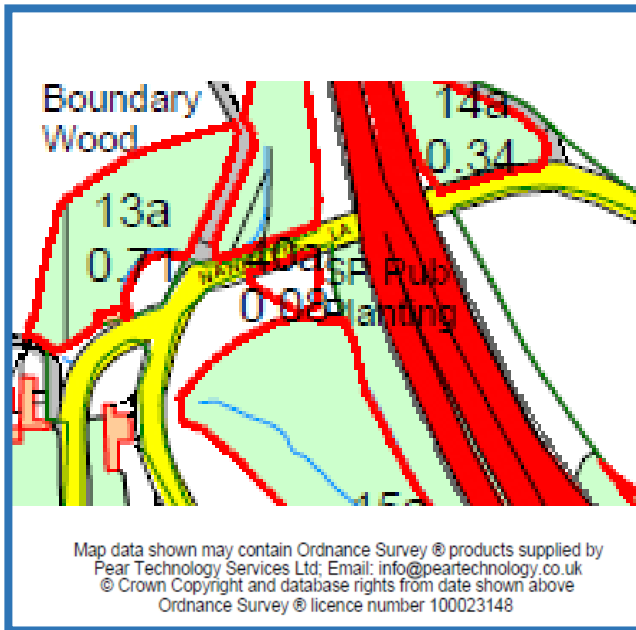
Key Species: Lime, ash, cherry and oak

Description: Pub Planting sits to the south of Pub Meadow and the Strickland Arms and was planted in 2014. It forms part of a series of small copses and hedgerows that help screen the A591. The copse contains a mature lime with ash, oak, cherry, hawthorn, hazel and holly and some open ground.

Constraints: Small size. Deer browsing.

Aims: To maintain the woodland in the landscape.

Intervention: Maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 40a **Hectares:** 0.08 **Woodland Name:** SP Pub Planting **Designations:** LDNP

Key Species: Scots pine, ash, Norway maple and oak

Description: This small woodland abuts Pub Meadow cpt15a and is east of the Strickland Arms. It forms part of a series of small copses and hedgerows that help screen the A591. Planted in 1990 this mixed woodland has a small watercourse that joins the watercourse in cpt15a.

Constraints: Small size. Deer browsing. Road. Ash dieback.

Aims: To maintain the woodland in the landscape.

Intervention: Undertake a light thin to promote structural diversity. Monitor ash dieback. Tree risk management.



Compartment: 41a **Hectares:** 0.08 **Woodland Name:** Sizergh Clump

Designations: LDNP

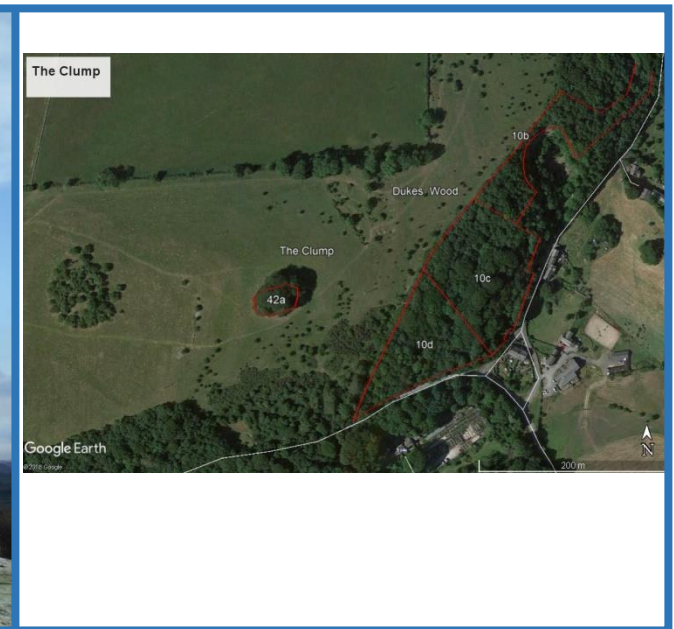
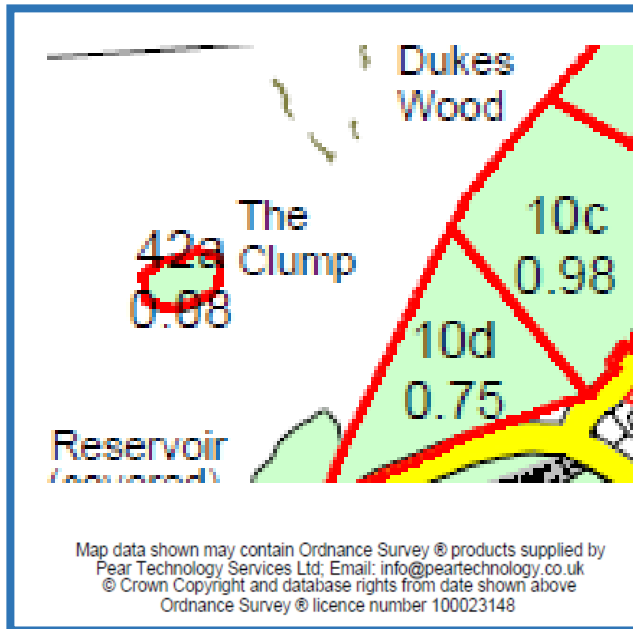
Key Species: Sycamore and beech

Description: This small woodland clump is located south west of Jubilee Wood cpt7a. It was fenced off in 1998 with supplementary planting of sycamore and shrubs. These are now well established. There is a field wall the western boundary.

Constraints: Small size. Deer browsing.

Aims: To maintain the woodland in the landscape and review the possibilities to extend the woodland.

Intervention: Maintain boundaries.



Compartment: 42a **Hectares:** 0.08 **Woodland Name:** The Clump **Designations:** LDNP

Key Species: Beech, ash, and mixed broadleaves.

Description: The Clump is a small copse in the lower field between Middle Plantation and Dukes Wood enclosed by a circular wall. The trees are mature and provide an important habitat as well as a landscape feature. There is a bench for the general public just outside the woodland boundary.

Constraints: Small size. Deer browsing. Ash dieback.

Aims: To maintain the woodland in the landscape.

Intervention: Maintain the woodland in the landscape. Maintain boundaries. Monitor ash dieback.



Compartment: 43a **Hectares:** 0.04 **Woodland Name:** Willison's Field **Designations:** LDNP

Key Species: Ash, mixed broadleaves and hawthorn.

Description: Willison's Field is a narrow strip of trees and shrubs to the south east of Rash Spring.

Constraints: Small size. Deer browsing. Agricultural operations in surrounding field.

Aims: To maintain the woodland in the landscape.

Intervention: Maintain boundaries.

Woodland Compartment Numbering.

Please note to comply with the Forestry Commission rules on woodland compartment numbering some of the woodland numbers have altered from the Sizergh Estate Plan 2017 to this Woodland Management Plan 2019 and they are:

Current Woodland Sub-compartment	Wood Name	Sizergh Estate Plan number
Cpt1c	Flashbank Wood	2b
Cpt4a	Brigsteer Moss	3
Cpt5a	Brigsteer Moss	3
Cpt6a	Brigsteer Moss	3
Cpt19c, 19d, 19e & 19f	Low Wood	20
Cpt20a	Park Strip	12
Cpt25	Netherwell Copse	None
Cpt27a, 27b, 27c, 27e	Holeslack Wood	5
Cpt30a	Flashbank Plantation	4
Cpt31a	Hare Park Wood	6
Cpt32a	Horse Training Strip	22d
Cpt33a	Spring Bank	25b
Cpt34a	Tip Wood	25a
Cpt35a	Tip Wood	25a
Cpt36a	Low Sizergh Plantings	14
Cpt37a	Low Sizergh Plantings	14
Cpt38a	Rash Spring	26
Cpt39	Pub Planting	None
Cpt40	SP Pub Planting	None
Cpt41	Sizergh Clump	None
Cpt42	The Clump	None
Cpt43	Willison's Field	None