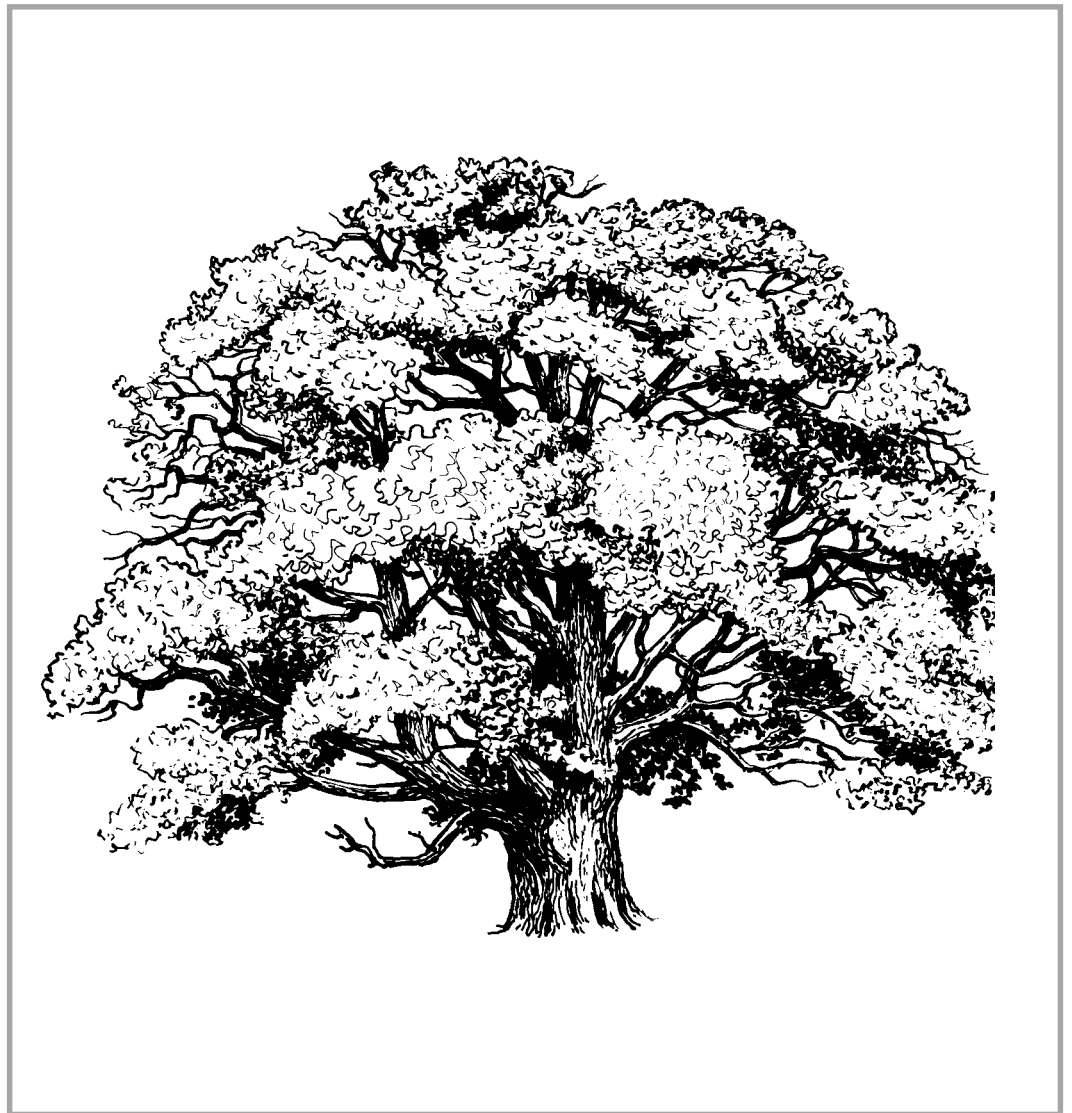


Wood-pasture and
parkland habitat action plan:
Progress report 2001

No. 459 - English Nature Research Reports



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English Nature Research Reports

Number 459

**Wood-pasture and parkland habitat action plan:
Progress report 2001**

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ISSN 0967-876X
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Preface

The Lowland Wood-pasture and Parkland Habitat Action Plan is aimed at promoting and coordinating conservation work on this habitat across the UK. It is led by English Nature but the work is done by a wide range of other government and non-government bodies. A meeting was held on 25 September 2001 to review progress. This summarises the meeting, but also includes a work plan with progress against the actions stated, this is an update of the report published in 2000.

For those who were at the meeting, we apologise for the delay in producing this report and for any misrepresentation of the speakers.

Rebecca Watson and Keith Kirby
JNCC and English Nature

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of the speakers who contributed to the meeting, and to all the organisations who are helping to take this work forward

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1. Introduction

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan Led to the development of individual Action Plans for the habitats that were considered to be of particularly high nature conservation value. The plan for Lowlands Wood-pasture and Parkland was formally published in 1998. The plan provided a broad description of the habitat, factors that had led to its decline in extent or quality, targets for its recovery and actions that should lead to those targets being achieved. The targets and actions are summarised in annex 6.

As part of the Biodiversity Action Plan process a government department or agency has been asked to lead on each habitat – for wood-pasture and parkland this is English Nature. However the actions and targets can only be delivered through the work of a wide range of other bodies, both government departments, voluntary organisations, and private landowners. For wood-pasture and parkland there is the additional need to ensure that the very high cultural, historical and landscape values of these areas are not compromised in the pursuit of delivering the biodiversity targets.

This report builds on the last progress report published in 2000. This report summarises some of the work and developments of the last year that were reported at a meeting of the Plan Advisory Group on 25 September 2001. The programme and list of attendees are given in annex 3. The draft work plan has also been updated with known projects and progress.

2. Progress and Problems 2000–2001 by country

2.1 England

Presented by Keith Kirby, English Nature

Targets

There will be an interim review of targets across the habitat action plans. As the scope of the plan has been extended, it has been suggested that the biological targets (for re-creation etc) should be doubled. The total resource was previously underestimated and the whole plan will need updating in the future.

Definitions

The sub-group on definitions has met and a draft wood-pasture and parkland definition has been produced (see Annex 1). Any comments should be made in writing to Keith Kirby.

National (UK) parkland and wood-pasture database

The structure of the database as an add-in to Recorder 2000 has been completed and a trial data collation has been carried out. The online reporting tool has also been produced and can be viewed and tried out at www.blue-bag.com/lpwis. Please bear in mind that although many sites are listed for the test data area of Shropshire and Montgomeryshire not all the possible information that can be held is available electronically and therefore has not been collated to date. The next step of the project will be to build on the experience of the data collation trial and create a full national data set. If you have any electronic data that you would like to make available for this exercise please contact Rebecca Watson at English Nature with details of the information you have and how it is stored.

Veteran Trees

Following a workshop on 12 October it has been decided that there is a clear need for a national (UK) database of veteran tree records. Woodland Trust with input from key users and existing data holders will explore how to take this project forward over the next 12 months; they are currently developing an HLF bid. For further details please contact Jill Butler, Woodland Trust.

Agri-environment schemes review

English Nature's Agri-environment officer Chris Reid wrote to all the BAP groups to ask for their input to the forthcoming agri-environment schemes review being carried out by DEFRA. A sub-group was formed which met in November and the following questions were discussed and consensus view agreed.

- What are our desired outcomes for wood-pastures and parklands?
- How well do current schemes work and could they be improved?
- What are the management needs of wood-pastures/parklands in relation to agri-environment schemes?

- What is the future role of agri-environment schemes?
- Are agri-environment schemes suitable for the achievement of favourable condition on wood-pasture/parkland SSSIs?
- What are the wider benefits or conflicts with wood-pasture/parklands?

The full response has been sent to English Nature and will inform their response to the consultation and can be found in annex 5 of this report.

2.2 Scotland

Presented by Kate Holl, Scottish Natural Heritage

A preliminary survey of the wood-pasture resource has revealed 190 sites across the whole of Scotland. SNH has also held a meeting with the Scottish Executive to discuss measures for wood-pasture and parkland to be included in the Rural Stewardship Scheme. It will become part of the scheme in 2003 but it is not clear which department (agriculture or forestry) will be responsible for the scheme.

Peter Quelch has produced an illustrated guide to wood pasture details available on the ATF website. www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum

Significant progress has not been made in Wales and Northern Ireland over the last 12 months so no report was made.

3. Habitat Networks

Presentation by Mike Smith, Borders Forest Trust. Co-authors George Peterken and Alan Hampson

3.1 The Development of a Habitat Network within the Ettrick and Yarrow River Catchments

Introduction

The long-term aim of this project is the creation of a woodland habitat network in the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys that will extend and link existing semi-natural wooded areas by natural regeneration or with new tree planting. This is consistent with the creation of a wider habitat network that could link all semi natural habitats in these valleys with existing, restored and new habitats. These habitats have been related to Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and their assigned priority Habitat Action Plans (HAPs). This will act as a model for other valley systems found within the Borders Hill Natural Heritage Zone (as defined by Scottish Natural Heritage) and the same principles could be applied to other Natural Heritage Zones throughout Scotland

In the short term the creation and restoration of wooded habitats on a site by site basis using the grant mechanisms that are available coupled with the Tweed Forum HLF funded Riparian Woodlands is the best practical way forward. A habitat network needs to be put into context into the landscape in which it is found for both aesthetic and ecological integrity. This should take the form of the management of appropriate habitats for favourable condition in the appropriate situation.

Before looking at the role of wooded habitats in habitat networks it is important to look at the cultural landscape in which they are found

Cultural landscapes are those in which the component ecosystems have developed over many centuries by the interaction between man and the environment (Bunce 2000)

It is important when looking at landscape not to look at habitats in isolation from the other habitats that are found in the wider ecological and cultural landscape. The development of catchment based management strategies should be developed as these have a range of habitats that interact with each other. This interaction has often been masked as a result of more recent agricultural practices but can still be occasionally seen. In most cases it is the transitions between the habitats that have disappeared leaving on the face of it isolated unrelated habitats.

From looking at remnants of these interactions it is possible to start to build a picture of what the intact cultural/ecological (eco-cultural) landscape may have been and using field and documentary evidence develop a model for restoration as part of a habitat network. The restoration of cultural landscapes and their related catchment based habitats is also likely to have a large positive effect on nature conservation and should be linked to the Biodiversity process

The example of cultural landscape investigated here are found in the Borders Hills Natural Heritage Zone and include the valleys systems of the Tweed upstream of Selkirk paying particular attention to the Ettrick and Yarrow catchments, in which Borders Forest Trust

amongst others are developing a Habitat Network. These valleys contain a wide range of upland and lowland habitats

Methodology

Field Survey

The survey of wooded areas identified from the Borders Woodland Inventory to Life survey methodology provided data on these woods and assessed the opportunities for restoration and expansion. Future National Vegetation Classification survey on selected woods will assess the range of communities found within the Etrick and Yarrow Valleys and an indication of the diversity of these communities. This will be useful for comparative assessment of restoration.

Data Gathering and GIS Analysis

Collating existing data on habitats and their management and presenting it on a GIS system will facilitate the strategic overview required for the efficient development of a fully integrated habitat network. To this end sources of habitat and management information were located and presented on GIS, where this information is not already in a digital format it will be digitised. This information will highlight areas that are of priority for management within the habitat network

The range of habitats in the Etrick and Yarrow catchments were noted by the author while undertaking survey of the woodlands and have been included as background for the development of this habitat network model. Detailed information, where available, was sourced from other habitat surveys that have been undertaken in the river catchments. A list of references is given in the appendices. Where possible this information was converted to a digital form so that it could be presented on GIS

Habitats found in the Etrick and Yarrow Catchments

The following major habitat types are found within the Etrick and Yarrow catchments and these are related here to the Biodiversity Action Plan habitat types to which they have been allocated. Each habitat listed has a brief description of the plant communities found on them

Non Wooded Habitats

The Blanket bog and Upland heath habitats, (Blanket bog and Upland Heathland HAPs) 'Muir', can be looked at, as a single management unit within the eco-cultural landscape though there are important differences between them ecologically. These heath and mire plant communities that are found on the hilltops, saddles and upper valley slopes are heather dominated and are differentiated by the depth and hydrology of the peat on which they are found. These have been modified through management both as grouse moors and for summer grazing.

The dry grasslands and scree slopes (Upland Calcareous Grassland HAP) found on the unenclosed valley slopes have developed as a result of the past grazing management. Heavily grazed acid grassland plant communities dominates much of these valley slopes which tend to be species poor. Where base rich parent material is found at or near the surface or around

base-enriched flushes and soakaways a species rich calcareous grassland develops. Interesting plant communities, often botanically diverse have developed on the many scree slopes found on these valley slopes This is thought to be in a successional relationship with both woodlands and grassland communities.

The Upland Hay Meadows and Rush Pastures (Upland Hay Meadow and Purple Moorgrass and Rush Pasture HAPs) would once have been common on the haughs of the valley floor. Agricultural improvement has resulted in a dramatic decline in these hay meadows and rush pastures with an impoverishment of the plant communities found within them and this has been augmented by drainage and the uniformity of treatment that these enclosed fields have undergone. The communities that are found in these habitats are largely dependent on the grazing regime and level of agricultural improvement the particular site has undergone. The rush pastures and fen meadows found at the wetland edge were previously widespread and also cut for hay and were known as 'watter meddes' where meadowsweet was an important crop. Both would then undergo aftermath grazing in the late summer and autumn

Fens (Fens HAP) found on the valley floor are associated with willow carr and can be varied and have often been affected by a range of management practices. They range from open water and carr complexes to drained remnants with seasonally inundated marshy grassland. Moving away from the wetlands the transition to drier ground has often vanished as a result of agricultural improvement over the last few centuries. Reeds were once cut as a fodder crop

Wooded Habitats

There is a wide range of woodland communities in a number of different habitats found in the Etrick and Yarrow valleys over a very short distance. These range from upland oakwoods in cleughs to the west to more lowland ash/elm woodlands in the east as well as willow Carr and alder dominated riparian woodlands

High Forest Habitats

Cleugh Woodlands; (Upland Oakwood Habitat Action Plan) these woodland refugia can be very diverse in themselves with a wide range of communities and species depending on the base status of the soils. Juniper and Scots pine (native?) on the acid heath dominated soils to ash/elm ground flora where there is base enrichment.

Riparian alder woods; (Wet woodland HAP) along the rivers and streams of the Etrick and Yarrow valleys there are often alder dominated burnside compartments which usually amount to little more than a single line of alders, often coppiced, on either side of the stream. The Tweed Foundation through Heritage Lottery Funding is fencing much of length of the rivers to allow natural bankside processes to occur for the development of the river habitat. This also has the additional benefit of allowing regeneration of these riparian alderwoods.

Gorge woods; (Wet woodland, Upland ash/elm and Upland Oakwood HAPs) where more extensive areas of woodland have persisted in gorges and the occasional closed canopy woodlands on valley slopes a range of woodland types are found together in transition with each other. The distribution of the woodland communities found is largely dependent on the edaphic conditions prevalent on the site. On the deeper more base rich soils on the valley sides' ash/elm woodland is found. There is a zonation with this community and the alder

woodland on to the flat waterlogged soils of the valley floor and also where there is flushing. The more base-poor soils on the valley sides support mosaics of oak-dominated woodland communities.

Willow carr; (Wet Woodland HAP) This habitat is found on the larger fen complexes where willow dominated wet woodland has developed on the flat valley floor. The ground vegetation ranges from wet swamp species, with stands of *Glyceria maxima* through to *Filipendula ulmaria* mire.

Plantation woodland; examples of plantation and policy woodland are more common at the eastern lowland end of the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys and they should be included as part of the habitat network. In many cases woodland processes have over time been established in these woodlands or maintained where these occur on ancient woodland sites. Here the diversification of the woodland is the priority.

Scrub (Montane Scrub HAP)

The scrub types found in the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys have an important role in habitat networks

Hawthorn savannah The grazing maintained Hawthorn savannah is often found in association with the botanically interesting base rich grassland and can contain veteran standards of ash. It is unclear if this is a relic of canopy wood-pasture or not though in a structural sense it fits the criteria for wood-pasture in its own right.

Ash Hazel Scrub is found as remnants often as an hazel coppice understorey in other wood pasture communities either with ash/elm or oak standards but can be found as a grazing maintained wood pasture in its own right.

Juniper can be occasionally found at the cleugh heads at the transition to heath and this form of upland scrub is particularly important when it comes to creating links from one stream system to another

Goat Willow is commonly found at the cleugh heads and is the most frequent scrub type associated with transitions to heath and again this form of upland scrub is particularly important when it comes to creating links from one stream system to another

Other scrub types;

Areas of Bird cherry can be found associated with slope alder woodlands either as large individual plants or forming dense thickets. Elder can become the dominant scrub species in areas associated with less base-poor ash/elm woodlands

Wood Pasture (Wood-pasture and Parkland HAP)

The exact definitions of wood pasture are at present imprecise and are currently being reviewed. The most important feature that defines them is their structure.

Long established wood-pastures are a grazing maintained habitat that should be comprised of veteran trees with old-growth features of open grown character (with wide deep crowns and short tapered stems). These will not have developed within a woodland canopy and have a

wide but irregular spacing, with clumping at times often with an uneven age structure. (PQ 2000)

There are other features of wood-pasture, which are useful in helping to define this habitat (see Annex 1 to this report).

History

The history of wood-pasture in the Borders is unclear but is believed to have been widespread on the valley sides of the Borders Hills and historical research is currently in progress. Prior to agricultural intensification, the industrial revolution and the Highland clearances, when more pastoral-based agricultural practices were prevalent throughout much of Scotland some grazed woodland is likely to have evolved into wood pasture. Here there may have been some active silviculture, which may have been carried out on an ad hoc basis, (unlike the more well developed pollarding systems documented throughout parts of England) with the end result being well-spaced open grown trees. The trees that are found at remaining wood-pasture sites are very likely to be veteran trees since the origins of these sites are likely to pre date the industrial revolution and the accompanying changes in agricultural practices

Biodiversity interest associated with Wood-pasture

Wood element

Wood pasture containing veteran trees and associated dead wood habitats provide biological interest for a range of species lichens, bryophytes and fungi which provide micro-habitats for specialist insects which are in turn important for larger predators

Pasture element

In long established wood-pasture, stable grazing-maintained plant communities are likely to have developed as a result of this management where elements of both woodland and grassland communities would be found. The complexity of grassland structure and species along with the red ant mounds, fungi typical of unimproved and undisturbed pasture and other indicators of long-term grazing is one way to differentiate these wood-pastures from grazed woodland.

As with most habitats, post war intensification of farming will have resulted in the degradation of wood-pastures, where there is no regeneration of tree species and the ground flora has lost much of its interesting character and associated species.

Wood-pasture types

If we use structure as wood-pastures most important defining criteria then it is possible for any woodland type or community to have a wood-pasture derivative including the minor woodland types. The following are found in the Etrick and Yarrow valleys.

Ash/Elm areas of ash/elm wood pasture are generally found with on south facing valley slopes and can also be associated with scree slopes and hawthorn savannah. These wood-pastures can be derived from more lowland examples of the ash/elm woodland communities and this is reflected in the ground flora. These tend to be found in less intensively managed

unenclosed sites. The best example is to be found at Tinnis and it is here that an ancient ash is to be found.

Slope alder wood pasture tends to be found on flushed slopes or valley floors in association with wet grasslands and rush pastures. These alder remnants tend to be found in unenclosed upland sites, which are less intensively managed. The Best example of this is above Mungo Parks Birthplace on the Yarrow

Oak wood-pasture can be found in a wide range of locations from the classic lowland wood-pasture over improved grasslands through species rich neutral grasslands to upland situations over heath as found on the Ettrick at the Light Oaks

Habitat Networks

Linking management and habitats

The co-ordination of habitat management will play an important role in the development of habitat network. Habitats rarely function in isolation from those around them and management designed specifically for one habitat may be beneficial to others. There needs to be a strategic approach to the management of range of habitats in the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys that is based on a fuller understanding of the resource. The overall assessment from survey will be the primary criterion for site selection for expansion and restoration, and from this the range of core, secondary and tertiary sites can be identified for both active and infilled ancient wood pastures. This will allow sites to be integrated with wider conservation strategies

Core sites

These are Habitat Action Plan sites where the management priority is protection and consolidation of the resource. This will require maintenance and possibly diversification of plant communities. These are high quality sites, which have good examples of HAP resource and associated plant communities of high conservation value

Secondary sites

These are sites that will require management for consolidation/diversification and some restoration. They will have remnants of HAP resource of high conservation value, and associated plant communities.

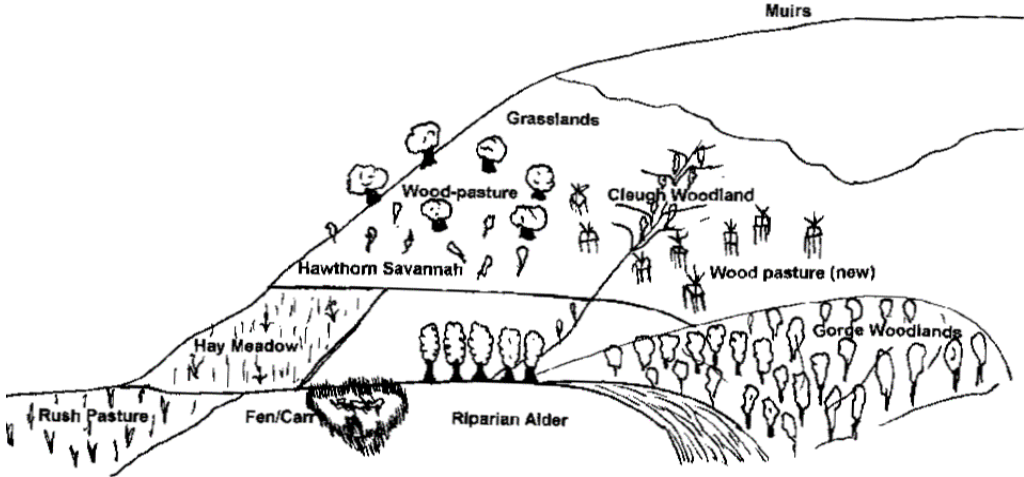
Tertiary sites

These are sites that will require management for restoration and creation, where the creation of wood pasture in suitable locations will be undertaken in the context of creating a network of semi-natural habitats e.g. linking areas of species rich grassland to an area of semi-natural woodland.

This type of evaluation will rank the nature conservation value of all HAP sites surveyed. Other criteria for ranking sites would include the degree of connectivity with other habitats. Targeting should recreate larger areas of wood-pasture and transitions into other habitats; sites with this potential for greater eco-integrity will be priorities for restoration.

The aim of habitat networks is to develop connectivity of habitats to form a landscape of higher biodiversity/conservation value. This would involve the linking of semi-natural habitats with new wood pasture as part of this habitat network. Wood pasture and scattered scrub would link the areas of woodland refugia both in terms of ecological connectivity but also aesthetically in landscape terms, as it would allow for gradation from closed canopy woodland to open pasture.

These habitats can also be part of the link of the other semi-natural habitats found in this landscape again through ecological connectivity and also through their management.



Future sustainable land use

This network of semi-natural habitats should be used as a low input low output farming system that would be organic and an alternative land use for landowners. It would restore species-rich grassland covered with traditional broadleaf trees free from pesticides and chemicals, a working habitat not just a degraded remnant. Organic farming methods are compatible to the grassland management techniques required for wood pasture and for the creation and maintenance of species rich grassland under the Rural Stewardship Scheme.

Grazing management on different habitats

	Muirs	Wood-pasture	Hay Meadow	Rush pasture	Riparian wood
Spring grazing		X		X	
Summer grazing	X	X			
Aftermath grazing			X	X	
Winter grazing			X		
Hay crop			X	X	
Fodder crop		X			X
Muirburn	X				

This management structure coupled with appropriate habitat restoration techniques for the respective habitats should allow for the development of a truly integrated habitat network. The habitats that are found and the transhumance are inextricably inter-linked. This model offers the opportunity to base future conservation management strategies on traditional sustainable land use methods. In this model a mixed herd of rare/specialty breeds could be utilised through

conservation grazing to enhance the biodiversity interest of the range of habitats within the catchment areas.

The wider benefits of this landscape approach to Habitat networks include the restoration of an attractive historic landscape that is good for walking where archaeology preserved and visible. The restoration of wood pasture allows for the continuation of grazing in a woodland environment that favours hill cattle farming with the right type of livestock shelter where the land remains in full agricultural use and tenancy. It will help restore soil health and water quality and is also an excellent deer and game habitat. Habitat networks with wood-pasture at their core can be seen as a revival of a great Scottish land-use tradition

Meggat Water/Dryhope Network Example

A good example for potential habitat integration is the Meggat Water/Dryhope complex See Map 1 Where there are examples of core sites covering a range of different habitats and also a range of different management activities being carried out. The potential for the development of the habitat network as an example of what could be possible throughout the catchment is shown on Map 2. where possible secondary and tertiary sites are indicated. The Layer Knowe heft of Dryhope is being managed by BFT as a model for Habitat restoration as part of the wider habitat network in the Ettrick and Yarrow catchments.

Henderland Bank SSSI This is a core area of Ash/Hazel scrub woodland and in landscape terms fits most closely with the gorge woodland category as outlined above. As a SSSI its management is in part the responsibility of SNH and the area surrounding it, a secondary site is under a WGS instigated by BFT as part of the HLF Riparian Woodland Project. Other areas of WGS funded NNW projects have been undertaken by private individuals and these effectively become part of the habitat network, as do areas developing under other schemes such as ESA or other agri-environmental grants (these unfortunately cannot be mapped at present.)

Tweedsmuir Hills SSSI is an upland SSSI with Blanket Bog and Heath habitats and much of the high plateaus will be this upland muir from the SSSI boundary across to the tops of Capper Law and Dryhope Rig

Meggat Water (Part of the R Tweed SSSI)

The Tweed Foundation through Heritage Lottery Funding is fencing much of length of the rivers and major tributaries to allow natural bankside processes to occur for the development of the river habitat. This is primarily for the benefit of spawning Salmon but also has the additional benefit of allowing regeneration of riparian alderwoods. This in effect will create the skeleton of the habitat network. There are other areas under such management and the development of more will be invaluable for both the fishing interest and in the development of the habitat network.

St Mary's Loch SSSI

This is an open water SSSI.

Cleugh woodlands There are a number of fragments of woodland refugia within the numerous cleughs to be found within the Meggat/Dryhope complex and the expansion of

these core sites is a priority and is being addressed by FC Woodland Grant Schemes. Some of those administered by BFT form part of the HLF Riparian Woodlands project. The continued fences of areas around these refugia allowing natural regeneration should be continued and its success monitored

Wood pastures An area of possible wood pasture origin has been identified on the slopes of Capper Law, there is areas of species rich calcareous grassland and Hawthorn savannah as well as the occasional ash tree. The 1st Edition OS six inch to a mile is a useful tool in identifying such areas. This area has recently been fenced under WGS for woodland regeneration and this is probably the best short term management for this area though the reintroduction of grazing will be required to maintain the grassland interest in the longer term. The development of new wood pasture, possibly on historic sites, can be used to link areas of closed canopy woodlands. There could also be small areas of closed canopy woodland within the areas of new wood pasture.

Upland Grasslands On some of the south facing slopes within the area there are good examples of the botanically interesting CG10a and U4b communities often found in association with scrub as at Capper law. These may well have been associated with past wood pastures and conservation grazing regimes should be instigated on these grassland and the wood pasture sites

Hay Meadows and Rush pastures There are no unimproved examples of these habitats in this area though the potential is there. The flat valley floor along the Meggat water is a prime site for the creation (recreation) of such habitats. Coincidence mapping using information on 'Recorder' of hay meadow and rush pasture species from the Borders Biological records centre would be able to highlight areas that were recently these habitats. These areas are likely to still have a viable seed bed resource that would make the creation/restoration of these habitats more effective.

Scrub The sufficient reduction of grazing pressure to allow scrub to develop, both continuous and scattered; will effectively extend the continuity of wooded habitat networks in the Meggat/Dryhope complex

New Borders planting design

A practical guide to creation of new native woods in the Borders should be produced to complement the development of the Habitat network as this could provide information on how planting within the Natural heritage zone can be integrated into the wider habitat network. There are only so many site types in a typical Borders Hills site for New Native Woodlands, and it would be possible to describe these in layman's terms, and then prescribe options for woodland type. This would include species composition, special features of that type, and associated open ground that are associated with it. It could also look at NNW in the Borders hills landscape and the set of circumstances that can be associated with them.

Discussion

It is envisaged that this will be an evolving project as more information becomes available it can become another theme on BFT GIS System. For example the SNH Native woodland model though ready will not be published till later but we can get the themes the same goes for SERAD's info and this will become available in time.

The same can be said for the habitat network itself as more land goes into conservation management then the network will be developed and more areas of potential connectivity can be identified.

4. Progress on management and advice

4.1 National Trust Initiatives

Presentation by Keith Alexander

Livestock Grazing in National Trust Parklands - its impact on tree health and habitat

A report commissioned by the National Trust Estates Department, Cirencester

Jonathan Cox and Neil Sanderson, May 2001

Summary

The National Trust owns some 150 historic parks; there have been widespread fears both from within the National Trust and elsewhere that a significant number of Trust's parks are in bad condition, with poor tree health being identified as a major cause of concern. The most significant factor implicated in causing this damage is inappropriate stock grazing and related agricultural management. This was therefore the main focus of this investigation.

This study is based upon visits to 26 lowland parks in England and Wales undertaken during the summer and autumn of 2000. At each park an assessment was made of its ecological condition based upon interviews with local Trust staff and the completion in the field of a standardised condition assessment form. Information was collated on tenancy and lease arrangements with farmers, agricultural and tree management practice, as well as the condition of the grassland sward, tree health and dead wood habitats.

As suspected, many of the parks visited were in ecologically poor condition. Only 5 out of 26 are in good condition, only one (Calke Abbey) is in good condition throughout. In some 23% of the properties, a significant proportion of the park has been destroyed through conversion to arable.

On the positive side, 35% of parks visited show clear signs of recovering condition. Grassland swards were found to be generally species poor. Many parks have unhealthy trees. A significant proportion of some parks (36%) have so few trees that they can no longer be called parkland; most parks have good representation of mature and newly planted trees, but few veteran trees and few in the 25 – 100 year age class. Fallen dead wood is of only poor or average quality in >80% of parks, only 32% have significant representation scrub habitat.

The main causes of damage to parkland ecology and to their trees in particular are:

- use of fertiliser,
- heavy stocking
- supplementary feeding.

Other sources of damage include:

- removal of dead wood for firewood and aesthetic reasons.
- Arable cultivation, which is still widely practised in National Trust parks, was found to be highly damaging and incompatible with their conservation.

Parks let to farmers under tenancy agreements – both traditional and recent Farm Business Tenancies – are in the poorest condition, this applies to >60% of parks investigated. The few in-hand parks under National Trust direct management and those managed under grazing licences are in the best condition.

Agri-environment schemes such as the Countryside Stewardship Scheme have had a significant impact in reversing damaging trends in some 60% of parks. Despite this, grassland swards in parks managed under agri-environment schemes remain generally species poor and it is believed that lack of local seed sources may be a significant factor in limiting the rate at which grassland species can re-colonise.

Wood pastures are traditionally associated with many parklands and are being restored in three parks (Felbrigg, Lanhydrock and Basildon) with great benefits to the ecology and historic landscape. There is huge potential to link many other parks to adjacent areas of former ‘deer park’ or wood pasture with equal benefits.

Although much is currently wrong with the way National Trust parks are managed, there is tremendous potential to restore them to create places of great nature conservation and landscape value. It is hoped that this report will help the Trust and other organisations manage their parks for the future with the fundamental and inter-dependent elements of parkland soils, grasslands and trees seen as crucial to the conservation of their ecological and cultural value. As largest owner of parks in the UK, the National Trust is in a better position than any other organisation to conserve these precious places for the future.

National Trust have also undertaken the following over the last 12 months:

1. Surveys
 - NT Bio Survey Programme
 - Contract Surveys
2. Training days on ancient trees and fungi
 - Cornwall, Spring 2001
 - Thames & Chilterns, September 2001
 - funds allocated for 2002/3
3. FSC UK Woodland Assurance Scheme
 - Trees & Woodland Guidance Notes being drafted
 - including one on Old Trees, Decay and Dead Wood
4. AGM 2000 & Members Resolution on the conservation of ancient trees
 - 100 394 members voted in favour, 2353 against;
 - scoping paper for implementation of recommendations

4.2 Parkland Restoration

Presentation by Bill Cathcart, Windsor Great Park

A great deal of management of parkland is undertaken in the area around Windsor. The following examples illustrate two different types of works: management and restoration. At Cranbourne Chase a significant amount of work has been done to manage the public access and the demands this places on the site. Bracken is invading the site and is being controlled with a 'bracken breaker'. The equipment damages the above ground parts of the plant and leaves it to die, if the process is repeated regularly the plant is debilitated to the point where it can no longer regrow. There is a balance to be struck between controlling the bracken and compaction of the soil by the equipment. The decaying bracken also creates a potential fire risk which is of great concern on a site with public access.

A second safety concern is dead wood. From a conservation point of view it is desirable to retain deadwood, however a compromise is required as safety of the public is a consideration in the management choices. On the site fallen dead wood is retained but moved to the base of the tree, this serves two useful purposes, firstly it protects the area surrounding the tree from trampling and hence compaction of the soil, secondly it reduces the risk to the public from further falling dead wood as people are kept away from the high risk area. Where there are standing dead trees the crown has been removed but the trunk left standing again to reduce the risk to the public of falling branches.

At Bear's Rails a conifer Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) is being restored as a millennium project. Wood-pasture is being reintroduced to 30 – 40 hectares by clearance of the plantation to reveal the existing veteran trees, the site has also been deer fenced to allow natural regeneration.

As more than 10ha of woodland needed to be felled an Environmental Impact Assessment was required, as was justification for not replanting the entire area, before a felling licence could be issued. These potential stumbling blocks to the restoration were overcome by the site being an SSSI and being able to show that the restoration was desirable in terms of achieving favourable condition of the site.

The project is on going, the veteran tree release will take some time (4 – 5 years), as if the surrounding trees are removed too suddenly the change can be damaging to the veteran tree. The site is also being cleared of Turkey oak and rhododendron and their regeneration will be controlled.

It has not yet been decided what to graze the area with, it has been suggested they look at old photos to see if cattle were used.

4.3 Protecting Parkland Sites from Development threats

Presentation by Jill Butler, Woodland Trust

Case Study Byrkley Park

Historically the site was wood and parkland and it is now within the National Forest. A planning application for a hotel and golf course affected 69ha in the west side of the site.

When the Trust became aware of the threat to the site outline planning permission had already been granted however due to their submissions to the planning authority some significant modifications were made.

Initially the protection area around each of the veteran trees extended only to the current canopy area, this was modified so that development had to be at least 15 times the diameter of the tree away.

A survey of the site found 58 ancient oaks and more than 84 ancient ash trees. To put this in context the ATF has a register of sites containing veteran trees and there are only 10 sites with more than 1000 ancient trees, 35 sites with 100 – 1000 ancient trees and 205 sites with between 20 and 100 trees.

Brockworth Park: this site is threatened by a new application for a housing development. There is a commitment to protect the veteran trees however the scale of the development will isolate them within the housing. Parts of the site are ancient woodland but they are too small to appear in the Ancient Woodland Inventory hence the local plan commitment to protecting ancient woods does not apply. What should we do to protect it?

This is a difficult question to answer, in theory policies are in place to do this however as was pointed out planners have lots of fine words protecting both old trees and ancient woodland but the conservation organisations and agencies often find out about development too late i.e. once a plan has been submitted and outlines approved. We should be able to get in on the first step when a developer first considers buying a site so they are aware of the special interest there before they purchase it.

4.4 National Forest – parkland restoration project

Presentation by Audrey Brown

The National Forest has been in existence since 1987, it has grown from the initial idea to a company launched in 1995. It covers a total area of 200 square miles in Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire and comprises all habitats, not just woodland. Initially there was just 6% woodland cover; they are aiming for 33% cover. The parkland project fits in with the biodiversity aims of the Forest. The forest BAP was launched in 1998. An audit of the biodiversity resource showed that there was 638ha of wood-pasture (1.3% of the forest area). The plan aims to restore 50ha by 2005 and a further 50ha by 2010. To date 27ha have been created / extended mostly through countryside stewardship and the Trent tender scheme.

The National Forest has now made a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to fund the remaining restoration. The project comprises two strands: the parkland restoration and a landscape history project. The HLF bid led to a feasibility study to assess the potential to restore historic parks, to establish a suitable mechanism, and produce a detailed plan for the stage 2 bid.

The method is to verify all the existing parkland sites and look for some additional ones – aiming for 50 sites they will then approach the landowners to get a shortlist of sites committed to restoration and advise on appropriate grant mechanism but they have not had the interim report yet.

For stage 2 each site will need to establish the heritage status (local / national) identify the conservation and restoration features, establish any local interest or links to the local community, and list outputs related to habitats, access and community involvement.

For the final detailed bid to HLF they need to prepare plans for schemes in year 1 (3 –5 projects) including works required and cost, the funding sources and partners and prepare outline plans for the following 4 years.

If successful they hope to restore and conserve 100 – 150ha of parkland, contribute to other HAP and SAP targets, contribute to targets on education and access and have a project coordinator in place to maintain the momentum.

5. Extent of resource

5.1 Parkland Inventory

Presentation by Jonathan Webb, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

A survey of the Staffordshire parkland resource has been completed and County Wildlife Sites have been identified. The survey has already proved its value as one of the sites was threatened by development and its presence on the parkland inventory prompted action by the trust and partners to help protect it.

There are some problems with the methodology used to identify parklands: boundaries are difficult to define as sites peter out into the wider landscape, but there is a need for hard lines on a map for planning purposes.

The main criteria for site selection was veteran trees, 10 as a minimum, they usually found lots but there was a problem of deciding what a veteran tree was so they have probably under counted.

Most of the parklands were classed as degraded due to arable conversion and planting of conifers. Those that were intact often had improved grassland.

The main conclusion of the project is that inventory works as an alert system but it could be better.

5.2 Early medieval Tree List - Della Hooke

A gazetteer of all trees recorded in pre-conquest place names and charters is being compiled at the institute for Advanced Research in Arts & Social Sciences, the University of Birmingham; their geographical distribution is also being mapped. This includes references to individual or groups of trees noted as boundary landmarks. While it is unlikely that any surviving tree is likely to appear in such a record the distributions are of considerable interest. One paper will be published in *From Earth to Art* ed. C. Biggam (Rudolphi), early in 2002. A special study of references to thorn trees is also being carried out for the Anglo-Saxon Plant Name Survey.

6. Links to species and non-biological interests

6.1 Biodiversity: linking the Habitat Action Plan for Wood Pasture and Parkland with the requirements of priority and other parkland species

Emma Goldberg – English Nature

Introduction

This is a review of a forthcoming English Nature report, “Biodiversity: Linking the Habitat Action Plan for Wood Pasture and Parkland with the requirements of priority and other parkland Species” which was written by Tim Smith and Helen Scarborough of Ecological Services Ltd.

Structure of Report

The report is aiming to link together information on species found in wood-pasture and parkland and the management of the habitat.

Information on the ecology, distribution, habitat requirements and management needs are given in species datasheets for a range of flora and fauna characteristic of veteran trees and of unimproved grassland.

Priority species (BAP species) characteristic of wood pasture and parkland are the main subject of this report. These are rare, or have undergone recent rapid decline, may have restricted ecological niches and/or limited distribution patterns

Ecological requirements can be very precise and cannot always be potentially provided by management at every parkland site. Other species were also included in the report which are characteristic of the broad parkland habitat (including some from grassland). These generally have a wider distribution, abundance, and broader ecological niches.

The report is presented in a series of “levels” that aim to guide you through the specific to the general. Starting with data sheets for individual species, which are separated by BAP and non-BAP designation, there are then data sheets for groups of organisms, similarly split by priority and non-priority species. There is then a generic datasheet for the organisms grouped together and finally a datasheet on the entire habitat.

Summary of the Report Findings

Common themes include: retention of existing habitat, provision of new habitat, need to accept “deformity” in old trees, creation of “deformities”, tree management and parkland soils

Potential conflicts are in management of ivy, re-pollarding, provision of fallen timber, accelerated rot-hole formation and tree regeneration

Widening out the BAP species to include other rare or scarce species is a good idea because BAP species can be so specialised that they may fail to add anything useful to management prescriptions. Hence, management for BAP species, especially highly specialised ones, does

not work as a keystone species for this habitat. Species that might preferentially be selected as a keystone species as more common and less specialised than the BAP species are also likely to have a conflict of interest with them.

6.2 English Heritage Report for 2000/01

Presentation by Jenifer White

Extent and distribution

- Upgrade of individual entries on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.
- Spot registration and thematic reviews e.g. public parks to include more sites.
- MAGIC multi-agency geographic information for the countryside.

6.3 Policy and legislation

- Power of Place – a review of policies relating to the historic environment prepared for Government by the heritage sector. The report covers:
 - What is the historic environment?
 - Why does it matter?
 - Conservation led renewal: unlocking value
 - Reinvestment: the benefits of old and new
 - Prevention not cure: common sense makes economic sense
 - People and place: reflecting wider values
 - Managing change and enhancing character
 - The first precondition: knowledge
 - The second precondition: leadership
 - Action for Government, the heritage sector, local authorities and regional bodies, and owners.
- EH, EN and other agencies have been advising DEFRA on implementation of EU EIA regulations for semi-natural habitat farmland that could help protect park pasture.
- Comments and joint letter with EN, Countryside Agency and Sports England on the Consultation Draft for PPG 17 sport, open space and recreation. The House of Commons Transport, Local Government and the Regions Select Committee will hold an inquiry on PPG 17 this autumn.
- Urban Green Spaces Task Force is in progress. EH officers are on two of the Taskforce working groups.
- There is a SR2002 Cross cutting spending review underway on improving public open space. EH has provided DCMS briefing for this HM Treasury-DTLR review.
- Forthcoming Green Paper (autumn 2001?) on planning and a reform agenda (announced 26 July 2001 see www.dtlr.gov.uk/about/ministers/speeches/byers/260701.htm) may provide opportunity to raise HAP planning issues.
- HLF Horizons of Heritage consultation document on their next strategy.

- NOF consultation document about next themes for funding e.g. Transforming Communities which includes green spaces.

Site safeguard and management

- On going management of EH's 409 historic properties. EH now has five regional landscape managers in post.
- EH peat free policy.

Advisory

- EH has five regional landscape architects providing advice on planning applications and grant schemes for grade I and II historic parks and gardens.
- Special edition of Conservation Bulletin on gardens and landscape including an article on the habitat action plan. Conservation Bulletin goes out to all local authority Conservation Officers.
- EH continues to advise HLF on applications and monitor projects.
- Forthcoming joint EH/EN/and others publication on cemeteries.
- Forthcoming joint EN/CoAg/EH advice on HLF wood pasture and parkland HAP projects.
- EH has held a number of liaison days with other conservation organisations (NT/DEFRA/EnvAg) about site protection and restoration of historic landscapes.
- EH supports the Gardens History Society and the Association of Garden Trusts to advise on historic parks and gardens and to promote their conservation e.g. AGT Enabling Development and the Historic Environment Conference 26 October 2001.
- EH is developing guidance for owners and managers on preparing conservation management plans for historic parks and gardens (see also Informed Conservation publication).
- EH is investigating development of a gardens and designed landscapes at risk strategy to help owners and managers assess condition of parks and their design features.
- EH continues to promote historic parks and gardens conservation interests in agri-environment schemes e.g. LEADER+.
- In 2002 DEFRA will be undertaking a review of Countryside Stewardship and EH will contribute to this assessment.

7. Funding opportunities

7.1 The Heritage Lottery Fund

Presentation by Corrina Woodall

The national heritage memorial fund (NHMF) administers the Heritage Lottery Fund. Natural heritage has a budget of £300 million per annum and it is currently under spent!

There are several key issues that must be addressed in any lottery money application. Public benefit: this is a national priority and a condition attached to any money is that it must provide some public benefit. Sustainability of the project is a new issue and should be addressed by applications.

An overview of the different schemes available and the type and size (cost) of project HLF could support was given (see Annex 2).

Overall the HLF would like to see good projects that are more holistic / well integrated. Please contact the Biodiversity office for any clarification or advice about which grant to apply for.

7.2 HLF and Wood-pasture - background

The HLF has itself been an evolving process. Initially the heathlands project (“Tomorrow’s Heathland Heritage) generated a great deal of interest, and a similar grassland bid was put forward. However, now projects tend to involve a mosaic of habitats, and it was clear that putting bids in separately for each habitat would be unnecessarily time-consuming. Generic guidance was needed to put forward key issues in conjunction with specific guidance for different habitats. These are found under the Habitat Action Plan bids, in separate annexes at the back of the generic guidance, and so far consist of wetlands, grasslands and native woodlands (produced by Patrick Green Forestry Commission). There is some duplication, and some inconsistencies between the specific guidance. However, it is intended that the full guidance will always be read in conjunction with the specific. HLF officers (who generally do not have an ecological background) then use these guidance notes in appraising projects.

Key issues for HLF bids are that they encompass public access, public benefits, interpretation – this is an area that is greatly underspent. The HLF HAP project scheme takes forward HAPs and ecological awareness but also historical, sociological, cultural archaeological issues; it is a framework for projects within an area. Hence it must take into account the interests of partners in a holistic landscape – this is the HLF’s great strength. To date, AONBs have mainly benefited, as they are already ideally suited to taking a balance of views from their board.

HLF would ideally like to see some best examples (say 10) to look at the scale of the issues. It was initially considered that parklands would be easier to provide examples than wood pasture, although the difficulty with both habitats is that the best examples are just the tip of the iceberg, as the real problem lies in knowing what the scale of the resource is. However, the scoping study will demonstrate the resource for Shropshire and the report on the survey of Staffordshire parkland can also be used to illustrate the issues.

Private lands were raised as a funding issue. HLF can only fund projects on private land under APS (Area Partnership Sites). The difficulty is that the funds cannot be used for individuals' personal gain; it must be for overriding public benefit, preferably with public access (although there are grounds for intellectual benefits.) However, private lands are covered by Stewardship funding if they are contributing to the HAP.

Timescale

October 2001:	First draft out for consultation, period to before Christmas
February 2002:	Final version (circulate to HAP group).
April 2002:	HLF strategy to be produced.

8. Developing the HAP

8.1 Wood pasture – the future

Richard Smithers, Woodland Trust

Richard gave the following talk as a precursor to a discussion on the ideas presented.

To avoid duplication with other HAPs it has been made clear to me that we must “focus on those wood pasture areas or processes that are not being picked up in other plans”.

But what does that mean in practise? At the inaugural meeting of this group Keith Kirby drew a diagram showing how the wood pasture HAP overlaps with all the other native woodland HAPs. Following the same logic, to my mind it also overlaps with all terrestrial HAPs. However, I would go further and say that it actually encompasses them all.

And I’m not being a wood pasture fundamentalist! It’s just common sense when you consider the original Wildwood, irrespective of whether you agree with Rackham’s ideas of wooded savannah, Vera’s ideas of moving mosaic’s or hang onto more traditional thoughts of squirrel’s making arboreal journey’s from Land’s End to John O’Groats. After all the country was home to large numbers of large herbivores, so it must have been wood pasture.

Our problem is that like all human beings we’ve sought to take control by pigeon holing things in boxes. But in reality habitats don’t naturally operate like that and other species do not view the natural world in such black and white terms. Badgers like to live in woods and forage in unimproved meadows, many saproxylic invertebrates follow a similar tack, greater horseshoe bats need a mosaic of habitats and so on. Is it any wonder? Think of the Wildwood.

I would argue that wood pasture is unlike all the other HAPs, it is not so much a habitat as a natural process. Biodiversity Counts, a report published earlier this year by the group, Biodiversity Challenge, identified that, while the BAP has made real advances for biodiversity in so many ways, it has been less successful at addressing cross cutting issues, notably the need for agricultural reform and the need to develop adaptive strategies in relation to climate change. It seems to me that as a group we have hit upon another such issue that cuts across all terrestrial HAPs, **wood pasture**.

Okay, so we can seek to “focus on those wood pasture areas or processes that are not being picked up in other plans” but in practise what does that mean? Put charitably you might say it means parkland and that we should be content with that. But I’m not! Looking to our existing wood pastures and those capable of restoration, it seems to me that by leaving wood pasture to be compartmentalised between HAPs, it will unconsciously, sub-consciously or even consciously lead to management that fixes the mosaic, rather than ensuring long term sustainable dynamism, with different organisations concerned with different elements and different grants schemes reinforcing fossilisation.

As a group, I guess we must be pragmatic and work with the system, not against it, if we are to make any ground. But as a group my belief is that we must use the HAP to bring wood pasture to the attention of those concerned with agricultural and forestry policy development.

It is a subject demanding attention, not just in terms of what people view as existing wood pasture's and those capable of restoration, witness:

- Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage – Ted Green's pointed out that it's led in some cases to heathland being restored by numbers - steam cleaned of trees.
- The current FC consultation on SNOGH's and the fact that they are viewed as competing with the native woodland HAPs.
- Our efforts to sustain woodland edge species by felling woods to create SNOGHs because all the surrounding SNOGHs have been lost.
- The need to put our ancient woods (the majority less than 5ha) on a more sustainable footing in the face of intensive agriculture and climate change.

What could be more natural than the idea of promoting wood pasture as a future land use? A land use that would give space for nature beyond the tiny enclaves where, as conservationists we currently strive to maintain habitats in boxes against all-comers be they friend or foe.

Many people argue that there is no longer a cogent case for timber production or food production having a significant economic role in the UK. As conservationists, I would argue that if we are to help provide our wildlife with a sustainable future, rather than simply continuing to act powerlessly and monitor its loss, we must look out from our woods and SNOGHs not in on them and seek to promote ecological functioning at a landscape scale. And what better way to do that than through wood pasture?

So I lay down the gauntlet to you. If we as a group cannot focus on wood pasture as a whole but only those elements not covered by other HAPs, then what specific actions should each of us take and what specific actions should we suggest others take, in the short and medium term, to promote more holistic thinking that embraces our natural world as a whole through wood pasture, rather than seeking to divide and conquer it.

Discussion after Richard Smithers' talk

Integrated Landscape Approach

- Wood pasture provides the matrix that integrates all the HAPs
- We need to talk to the other HAP groups to identify joint issues, and find out if our concerns are also being voiced there.
- Most importantly, within conservation, there is a marked need to get over intolerance of trees and scrub in other habitats, particularly habitat specialists. Having a patchwork of scrub and trees within other habitats (as in parkland...) enriches them enormously. Different species use different habitats at different stages, and need that matrix. It is species specialists who really appreciate this, while habitat specialists tend to concentrate on phytosociological assemblages and not the overlap between different habitat types.
- We need to promote wood pasture as a process, and promote dialogue.

Dialogue with other HAP Groups

- Other HAP groups must be aware of the problem of non-integration between habitats promoted by the BAP process? – Or are trees seen as a problem?
- Under the HLF process, Area based schemes – HAP annexes to the HLF framework, this means that HAP groups do meet up – could be a possible forum for the wood pasture group to meet other groups?
- This could be taken forward as a 2 stage process –
 1. continue stages of progressing wood pasture in the HAP programme;
 2. develop a strategic view, underpinned on biological basis, to feed into wider front.
- Gain agreement to principle of double-accounting, such that a habitat can be counted towards wood pasture target and woodland/grassland/heathland as necessary. (This is already possible).
- But - potential habitat segregation event at a site scale.
- Opportunity to use wood pasture as a means of developing habitat network.
- Look at habitat network with view to create within context of cultural landscape (Natural Heritage Zones) – different for different areas.
- Upland/lowland differences – historically uplands are more open with more merging boundaries, whereas lowlands, more intensively used, have had long-developed hedgerows which themselves have served for the movement of many animals and helped with mosaic.
- Can't we look to how we reintroduce dynamism into the lowlands?

Definition of Wood pasture and Parkland

- Definition of wood pasture needs to be tightened up to send other to other HAP groups and especially woodland groups. We need to play carefully because if we say there is overlap with the wood pasture and all the other groups, there is a chance that the result would be that the group would be dissolved.
- We need a definition for purpose of reporting which avoids duplication.

Boundary definition

- Concern for credibility of broadening boundary too much; if we have to “test it out” the hard way – through courts for example – and lose, we will really lose credibility totally. We should start with a not too broad boundary definition and expand from there, rather than jumping too far in.
- The system of reporting creates problems of boundaries. (eg native woodland HAPS – if a group of ecologists cannot distinguish pine wood from birch wood, how much more time could be spent on other individual native woodland types? When at the end of the day, does it really matter what it is? Couldn't we concentrate on “native woodland”)
- What is it “reasonable” to include within the boundary of a wood pasture? Keep it simple – need to improve biodiversity (and avoid splitting plans where possible). We should aim for hotspots that embrace other HAPs

- Can we have boundaries with “fuzzy edges”? – Why does it have to be to a precise line?
- The idea of “buffers” has been raised before, in Europe as well as here, but there is never consensus on how wide they should be.
- There are models on specific habitat and models on wider landscape basis; but they are not mutually exclusive.

Scrap the BAP?

- Has the BAP process done anything to help, or has it just hindered us by putting habitats in boxes?
- Putting habitats in boxes has increased isolation of thinking, instead of helping to integrate. What we would like to see is a seamless merger of habitats one into another at the landscape scale.
- The BAP process *has* helped, because it has helped to channel money into conservation. Now we need to aim towards integrating the habitats together.

Taking it Forward

- There is a head of steam building up on the integrated habitat approach particularly in Europe – especially in the Netherlands with Franz Vera’s work, but also Germany, Denmark, and Sweden. We should recognise this and not get left behind. It would be really fascinating to hold an international meeting and share thoughts with European colleagues.
- Can we learn any lessons from Tir Gofal, working at integrating conservation good practise at a whole-farm scale?

9. Action points from the meeting of the Advisory Group September 2001

1. The meeting agreed that a definition of a veteran tree is needed. – Neville Fay is going to take this forward and present to the wider group for agreement.
2. Agri-environment group needs to be set up. Steve Clifton & Dave Clayden willing to be involved, plus Richard Smithers. Also invite Susie Smith.
Link to SNH work.
 - Workshop was held and notes have been circulated to the advisory group. The group's input to the Country Agencies is attached as Annex 5.
3. Need to set up “non-biological interest” group.

Fix date in January & circulate to key people.
4. HLF Habitat Guidance development. EG & RIS to take this forward. See Annex 4 for draft guidance.
5. Links to GAP work (John Bacon to be invited to Network Meeting).
6. Use GAP group to pull together ideas on grazing restoration in wood-pastures.
7. Request condition assessment methodology for parkland from Keith Alexander.
8. Planning issues need sorting out. Submission on Green Paper consultations due by 22 April 2002.

“Virtual Group” for inputs on this; particularly agencies, FC, WT/ATF.
9. Old growth issue raised. A short contract has been let to ATF; the brief is in Annex 7.

Annex 1 A Definition Of Wood Pasture and Pasture Woodland

Scope. This definition was produced for the Advisory Group for the Parkland and Wood Pasture HAP by the Definitions Sub-Group Meeting. The terms of reference were to produce: *'a practical set of working definitions for different types of wood-pasture systems (both upland and lowland) to guide implementation of the HAP'*.

It does not cover parkland as this can be defined by its distinctive features involving enclosure of a set area to maintain deer or for landscape effect. This definition is intended to mainly cover semi-natural wood pastures on unenclosed rangeland, relics of these and other similar habitats. In recent years it has become increasingly clear that wood pastures occur and occurred much more widely and in more varied forms than had previously been widely appreciated. These are linked by some basic features and are rich in rare and declining species but can be found in many different landscapes. As such there is a need for a loose definition that can accommodate very different types of wood pasture.

Synonymy & the Problem. Wood pasture and pasture woodland are taken to be synonymous here. This has not always been so. The latter term has been used to cover both trees over pasture (savannah) and the denser cores of trees over grazed woodland communities (grazed high forest), a structure which encourages the survival of rich epiphytic lichen floras. The New Forest exemplifies this latter structure, which is produced by patchy natural regeneration in the presence of grazing. Many definitions of wood pasture confine it to savannah, regarding all closed canopy woodland as wood, anciently grazed or not. Open savannah is a more conducive habitat for warmth loving dead wood invertebrates than for lichens and the pure savannah habitat is typical of wood pasture suffering from regeneration failure or designed parkland. The inclusion of the New Forest within the HAP however means that any definition based on pure savannah habitat with all closed canopy woodland being excluded as wood is untenable.

Definition. Wood-pastures are areas that have been managed by a long-established tradition of grazing, allowing where the site is in good condition, the survival of multiple generations of trees, characteristically with at least some veteran trees. The tree component may have been exploited in the past and can occur as scattered individuals, small groups, or as more or less complete canopy cover. Depending on the degree of canopy cover other semi-natural habitats, including grassland, heath, scrub etc may occur in mosaic with woodland communities. While oak, beech, alder, birch, hazel or pine are often dominant, a wide range of other tree and shrub species may occur as part of wood-pasture systems.

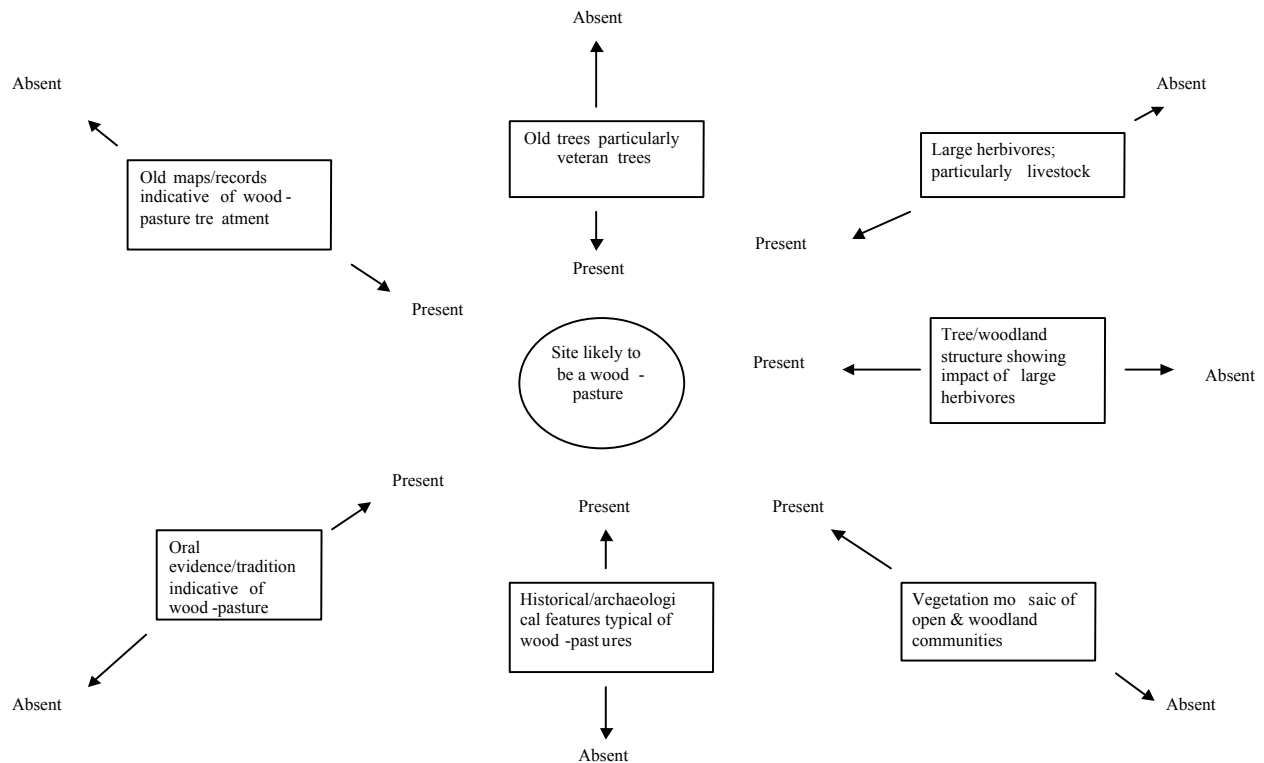
The following diagram may help judge whether a site is/was a wood-pasture. Wood-pastures in good condition are likely to have most factors scoring towards the central circle. Sites with a wood-pasture history (relic wood pastures) that have not been managed as such recently may be lacking some of the characteristic features. Land use is fluid and just as relic wood pastures are evolving into different woodland types, other woodlands, or formerly open ground, may be evolving towards wood pastures with increases in grazing pressure or tree invasion respectively. Again these will not score as closely to the centre of the diagram.

Boundaries

Some wood-pastures have very clearly defined boundaries; in others it may be difficult to set limits and many may simply be part of a much larger range landscape. In the same way that a mire will be only part of a larger moorland ecology with the heath and grassland on drier ground, wood pasture is often intimately linked to non treed land. While it may be pragmatic to distinguish the area that represents the tree component of the wood-pasture from the broader grazing unit, this should not lead to the treed area being regarded as uniquely separate from the rest of the ecological unit.

Consequences

This is intended as a guide to the identification of high quality relic and evolving wood pasture. Identification does not mean that all areas identified as such should be managed as wood pasture but it is vital that its existence is appreciated and the possibility of maintaining or enhancing wood pasture features are considered. The positive features of grazing in woodland and the role of wood pasture in planning ecological restoration needs recognition.



Notes (clockwise from top left):

1. Old maps, these are variable across the country, but many do indicate unclosed grazed woodland as different from enclosed woodland. To determine how a given map depicts the habitat, compare known wood pastures with known enclosed woods. A very useful source, especially in the uplands, is the 1st series 6 inch OS maps dating from 1860s & 1870s. At this time most coppices will still be shown as enclosed, any wood shown as unenclosed, with dense stands irregular in shape and with areas of open scattered trees is likely to be an ancient pasture woodland. Enclosed relic stands will, however often have been enclosed in the lowlands by this time.

2. The term veteran tree includes both ancient (massive limb loss and large visible hollows) and post mature trees (thinning of crown and hollowing starting but not very visible yet). Old trees are strictly a consequence of wood pasture management and not part of the definition, but they do indicate sites likely to be of great biodiversity interest. The more the better but any are significant.
3. Significant numbers of herbivores must be present in a working pasture woodland but these may have been long gone in relic sites. Presence in past can be significant in relic sites, if significant numbers of trees originated under grazing pressure survive.
4. & 5. Structure is a complex factor and can be very different between woods and between regions, but characteristic features are irregular boundaries, very uneven stocking, frequent glades and areas with scattered trees. In healthy and expanding wood pastures scrub and thickets of infilling young trees are also to be expected but are normally patchy in working pasture woodlands. Only where they are all enveloping due to the cessation of grazing are these negative features. Closed canopy stands are also typical in many wood pastures but these will be in mosaics with more open stands. Uniform even aged closed canopies are a negative feature, but not closed canopies per se. Non-boundary pollards nearly always indicate grazing but not all pasture woodlands have pollards. Alder pollards are highly indicative of summer grazed upland wood pasture but unprotected Alder coppice on wet soils is characteristic of lowland pasture woodlands. Open grown trees are typical but this does not mean just fully open grown trees but also includes tall partially open grown trees with irregular growth forms in low density grazed high forest. Typically boundaries with open vegetation are diffuse.
6. Archaeological features will vary regionally and can include the total absence of features, as in many New Forest pasture woodlands. An absence of former boundary banks enclosing, or inside wooded areas is a positive feature. Charcoal can be made from pollards or unenclosed Alder coppice, so a few charcoal hearths do not indicate former coppice but a high density may.
7. Useful for 20th century, not usually before this.

Annex 2 HLF Grant Options

Heritage Lottery Fund – Our Grant giving programmes

We have several grant-giving schemes designed for different types and sizes of heritage projects:

Awards for All
Local Heritage Initiative
Your Heritage
Main Grants programme
Joint Scheme for Other Places of Worship in England
Museums and Galleries Access Fund
Townscape Heritage Initiative
Urban Parks Programme

Awards for All

In partnership with other National Lottery distributors, we make grants of between £500 to £5,000 through Awards for All to small community groups usually with an annual income of less than £15,000.

Through Awards for All we aim to widen the appreciation and understanding of heritage by helping local groups to introduce people to heritage for the first time or to extend their experience to different types of heritage. We also want to increase participation by local people as volunteers in practical activities such as maintenance recording and interpreting the heritage.

Local Heritage Initiative

The Countryside Agency runs the local Heritage Initiative for the Heritage Lottery Fund in England. We are currently planning similar schemes in Scotland and Wales. The Initiative supports a wide range of local heritage projects with grants of between £3,000 and £15,000. It helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. The scheme is not intended to help with one-off projects because groups should work on a range of heritage assets in their area over time.

Your Heritage grants of £5,000 to £50,000

We have made it easier and quicker to apply for grants of between £5,000 and £50,000. There is a simpler application pack and if you apply, you should normally hear our decision within three months of us receiving your filled in application form.

Main Grants Programme

There is a separate application pack for projects requesting grants of over £50,000. The pack contains information on our criteria and assessment process for awarding capital and revenue grants.

Joint Scheme for Places of Worship in England

In partnership with English Heritage we run a special Joint Grant Scheme for Places of Worship in use. This is designed to help address many of the problems associated with the repair and improvement of historic places of worship. Under this scheme we target our grants at those communities with a particular social and economic need.

This special scheme operates only in England, but we continue to make grants for churches and places of worship elsewhere in the United Kingdom through our main funding programmes.

Museums and Galleries Access Fund

This scheme helps museums and galleries bring their collections to a wider audience, especially among disadvantaged or excluded groups. We give support for temporary and touring exhibitions, as well as for projects that enable museums and galleries to test innovative proposals to widen and develop access.

Townscape Heritage Initiative

Through our Townscape Heritage Initiative, we make grants that help communities to regenerate the historic parts of their towns and cities. The programme is designed to address problems in areas of particular social and economic need throughout the United Kingdom. It encourages partnerships to carry out repairs and other works to a number of different historic properties within those areas, and so to improve the quality of life for all those who live, work or visit there.

Urban Parks Programme

This scheme makes grants to help restore historic public parks and green spaces in towns and cities. Our awards through the Urban Parks Programme focus on areas of high social and economic deprivation.

Please contact our helpline. Phone: 020 7591 6042, 6043, 6044 or 6045. Textphone: 020 7591 6255 for more details or see our website www.hlf.org.uk

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Fax 202 7591 6001

Northern Ireland
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Scotland
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9450
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Annex 3 Programme and attendees of Wood-pasture and parkland HAP advisory Group meeting 25 September 2001

**Wood-pasture and Parkland Habitat Action Plan Advisory Group Meeting
25th September 2001
The Screen Room, Dunham Massey Hall
Altrincham**

Programme

9.30 - 10am Coffee and Start

10.00 Introduction by Keith Kirby, English Nature

10.15 Reporting Scotland - Kate Holl, Peter Quelch and Mike Smith

10.45 Recent initiatives within the National Trust - Keith Alexander

11.05 Staffordshire parkland survey - Jonathan Webb, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

11.15 Management of Cranbourne Wood-pasture of Windsor Great Park - Bill Cathcart

11.40 Woodland Trust Parkland Initiatives - Jill Butler

12.05 Species Collation Project - Emma Goldberg, English Nature.

12.30 - 14.30 Lunch

During the lunch break (1300 - 1400) Andy Riley will lead a guided walk round the part of the park that is open and discuss the management.

14.30 HLF Grants available to parkland projects - Corinna Woodall

14.55 National Forest HLF bid for parkland restoration - Audrey Brown

15.20 Wood-pasture as a future land use? - Richard Smithers, Woodland Trust

15.45 Reporting England - Keith Kirby

16.00 Any other updates

16.30 Close

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Audrey Brown	National Forest
Bill Cathcart	Crown Estates Office
Corrina Woodall	Heritage Lottery Fund
Della Hooke	Society for Landscape History
Emma Goldberg	English Nature
Helen Read	Corporation of London
Hilary Miller	Countryside Council for Wales
Jenifer white	English Nature
Jes Dagley	Corporation of London
Jill Butler	The Woodland Trust
Jonathan Webb	The Wildlife Trusts
Kate Holl	Scottish National Heritage
Keith Alexander	National Trust
Keith Kirby	English Nature
Mike Smith	Borders Forest Trust
Neil Sanderson	British Lichen Society
Neville Fay	Ancient Tree Forum
Rebecca Watson	English Nature
Richard Smithers	The Woodland Trust
Roger Key	English Nature
Steve Clifton	English Nature

Annex 4 HLF Habitat Guidance

Notes on HLF Guidance for Wood Pasture and Parkland

Prepared by Emma Goldberg, English Nature, for the UK Wood-pasture and Parkland Steering Group

These notes provide supporting information for Heritage Lottery Fund funding applications. They should be used in conjunction with the main document, Framework for Habitat Action Plan Projects.

Section 1 of this advice note describes wood pasture and of parkland and then details key threats. Section 2 gives criteria that should be incorporated in projects seeking HLF funding. Section 3 has details of some current research, and a further reading list.

Introduction

Wood pasture and parkland are the products of historical land management systems and include some of our most famous woodland sites, the New Forest, Epping Forest, Windsor Park, and Dunham Massey Park in England, Dinefwr Castle and Powys Castle in Wales, and Dalkeith Country Park, and Glen Finglas in Scotland. They typically have large, open grown or high forest trees, in a matrix of open habitats such as grassland or heathland. Many include historically important designed landscape. The biological objectives for this habitat, more than any other habitat listed under BAP, intertwine intimately with cultural and historical interests. These sites are an important part of our social history.

Vision: Parkland and Wood Pasture regaining their place as an integral habitat in the landscape, rich in wildlife, reflecting our cultural history and regional identity, and providing generations to come with recreational, cultural and spiritual benefits.

Wood pasture

Wood-pastures are areas that have been managed by a long-established tradition of grazing allowing, where the site is in good condition, the survival of multiple generations of trees, characteristically with at least some veteran trees. The tree component may have been exploited in the past and can occur as scattered individuals, small groups, or as more or less complete canopy cover. Because it covers such a spectrum between pasture and woodland, the precise definition of wood pasture is hard to pin down. While oak, beech, ash, alder, birch, hazel or pine are often dominant, a wide range of other tree and shrub species may occur as part of wood-pasture systems. Wildlife benefits include habitats for saproxylic species, epiphytic lichens, sheltered grassland habitat for butterflies and moths, animal dung for insect habitats, undisturbed habitats for fungi, open woodland favours some birds, e.g., black grouse, flora for grassland and woodland. They can provide an important linking habitat between semi-natural grassland and woodland.

The following are indicators of wood-pasture: old maps/records suggesting open wood land conditions; scattered old trees and particularly veteran trees; large herbivores present, particularly livestock; tree/woodland structure showing impact of large herbivores; historical/archaeological features typical of wood-pastures such as ha-has (the ditches used to

contain animals), medieval features such as park pales, pillow mounds and fishponds; vegetation mosaic of open and woodland communities.

Boundaries Some wood-pastures have very clearly defined boundaries; in others it may be difficult to set limits and many may merge into the wider landscape. The area of wood-pasture will be wider than the tree component alone, because the wood pasture is an ecological unit that has elements of open habitat within, or around it. A holistic management approach is important and schemes should take account of these other land uses.

Parkland

Parkland has a similar structure and features of interest as wood pasture; it differs from wood pasture in that it is often more clearly defined, for example, by a boundary wall, the tree density is often quite low and in the case of deer parks, grazed by deer instead of livestock. They have been a common feature of the British landscape since at least the Middle Ages, when they were used as hunting grounds for the wealthy and privileged, and became places of social, aesthetic, economic and sporting importance that they remain today. Parklands are often associated with veteran trees and high volumes of dead wood with associated fungal and saproxylic insect interest. The Biodiversity Action Plan excludes parks of 19th century origins or later that do not have the same range of biological and historical characteristics as older parks. The exception is those parks that were redesigned in the 19th century but replaced existing parks, and retain features, such as veteran trees, from their precursors.

English Heritage¹ gauge the historic significance of parks and gardens against the following criteria:

- Sites with a main phase of development before 1750 where at least a proportion of the layout of this date is still evident, even perhaps only as an earthwork;
- Sites with a main phase of development laid out between 1750 and 1820 where enough of this landscaping survives to reflect the original design;
- Sites with a main phase of development between 1820 and 1880 which is of importance and survives intact or relatively intact;
- Sites with a main phase of development between 1880 and 1939 where this of high importance and survives intact;
- Sites which were influential in the development of taste whether through reputation or references in literature;
- Sites which are early or representative examples of a style of layout, or a type of site, or the work of a designer (amateur or professional) of national importance;
- Sites having an association with significant persons or historical events;
- Sites with strong group value.

¹ English Heritage (1998) *The Register of Parks and Gardens*.

Key threats to wood pasture and parkland

Biodiversity Action Plan lists several different threats to wood pasture and parkland, on different scales from local to global. Heritage Lottery Funded projects can be used to target the following threats.

- Lack of young trees, needed to replace decaying trees for future enjoyment of the habitat.
- Loss of expertise in tree management, especially in parklands
- Removal of dead wood in parks
- Soil compaction and erosion/car parks/ overgrazing
- Isolation, fragmentation
- Pasture lost through conversion to agriculture
- Pasture improved through reseeded
- Inappropriate grazing

Project criteria

The objectives and targets set out in the Habitat Action Plan for wood-pasture and parkland calls for survey, restoration, project planning and management. Such activities are required in order to provide a basis for the establishment of ecological networks, species recovery programmes, the management of recreation and access and the involvement of local communities. In addition, projects seeking HLF funding should incorporate historic landscape restoration, nature conservation and landscape setting/amenity value.

Projects should contain the following core elements, and some of the subsequent list.

All projects should:

- include conservation management plans for the sites to show how they will be brought into or maintained in favourable condition, with specific analysis and evaluation, policies and management programmes of the habitat types that the particular site contains
- outline how other funds have been considered (see box 1)
- demonstrate that proposals for wood-pasture and parklands integrate with other priority habitat types
- demonstrate that any potential conflict between biodiversity and heritage is considered and resolved/resolvable. However, HLF does have funds available for conflict resolution if it involves local consultation and participatory approach.
- safeguard historic features within the habitat, that serve as reminders of the way we have used parklands and wood pasture;
- make available material for educational, recreational, publicity purposes relating to wood-pasture, parks and veteran trees

Box 1. Other available grants:

- Countryside Stewardship (from DEFRA),
- Tir Gofal (Countryside Council for Wales),
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme (DEFRA),
- English Nature grants for local nature reserves,
- NNR capital grants scheme,
- biodiversity grant scheme,
- English Heritage grants for repairs to outstanding parks and gardens listed on the Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England register.

-

General Criteria

Projects should provide an outline description of the site or sites involved, and if possible additional information on what is already available and what needs to be researched. See box 2.

Countryside Stewardship criteria should be followed where this is also relevant, and, in Wales, Tir Gofal criteria, which can be used to fund parkland schemes. Heritage Lottery Fund may not be matched with Countryside Stewardship funding; however, payments can be in partnership, paying for separate but complementary measures. (e.g. HLF consents to pay for tree guards, CS consents to pay for boundary wall, etc).

The main document, Framework for Habitat Action Plan Projects, outlines some important issues on access, public benefits and social and economic regeneration. These should be considered in conjunction with proposals on wood-pasture and parkland.

Current areas of research

This section contains information on useful sources of data on wood pasture and parkland, and areas of research currently underway. More information sources are listed in the further reading section. However, the picture remains incomplete and it is difficult to establish the status of a given site and even if some information exists whether this covers the range of interests involved.

- A scoping study has been commissioned by English Nature to look at data collection and how it could feed in to Recorder 2000 in an accessible way, and how that data needs to be stored in terms of comparability with other similar data.
- A project has been carried out by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to find out the extent and quality of wood-pasture and parkland in Staffordshire and its current state. This is available as an English Nature research report, number 416. Almost 3000 ha of land were surveyed, of which 1223 ha was in good condition.
- The Countryside Agency has undertaken work on the countryside character...(RG more details for inclusion please)
- (Add any other projects...)

Box 2: Useful information that could be included in the brief, where relevant:

- Location;
- Local authority area – county/unitary/district/parish council;
- Ownership and occupancy details such as tenure – freehold, leased or managed under licence;
- English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England description and map;
- Any local historic park and garden type designation;
- Conservation Area;
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or veteran trees;
- FC Felling license
- Scheduled monuments;
- Listed buildings;
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- National Park;
- Green Belt;
- Countryside Character area;
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and other nature conservation designations; operations likely to damage (OLDs)
- National Nature Reserve;
- Protected species and their habitats e.g. bats and water voles
- Other nature conservation designations such as SINC (site of nature conservation interest);
- Public rights of way and national trails;
- Other designations such as common land;
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Nitrate Sensitive Areas and other farm land zoning;
- EC structural fund areas and other socio-economic areas such as Less Favoured Areas.

Existing documentation

- Include existing surveys and plans that could be useful, if any, such as:
- Guide books and leaflets;
- Published histories of the site or family e.g. Country Life articles;
- Estate archives, relevant historic estate surveys and maps and landscape paintings and where they are held;
- Current land ownership map;
- Ecological surveys e.g. phase I or II habitat surveys;
- Tree surveys;
- Measured plans of buildings;
- Earlier restoration or conservation plans, heritage landscape management plans, whole farm plans for the historic park and garden and other property e.g. historic house;
- Feasibility studies;
- Condition surveys or quinquennial inspections
- Visitor and traffic surveys

Further Reading

BULLOCK, D.J. & ALEXANDER, K.N.A., 1998. Parklands – the way forward. Peterborough: *English Nature Research Reports*, No. 295.

CLARK, K., 1999. *Conservation plans in action. Proceedings of the Oxford Conference*. London: English Heritage

COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION, (date). *Site management planning: a guide*.

COX, J. AND SANDERSON, N., 2001. *Livestock grazing in National Trust Parklands - its impact on tree health and habitat*. National Trust

ENGLISH HERITAGE (to be published 2002). *Conservation management plans for restoring historic parks and gardens*. Guidance for owners and managers on plans and commissioning consultants. English Heritage.

FORESTRY COMMISSION, (date). *How to consult*.

HARDING, P.T. & ROSE, F., 1986. *Pasture-woodland in lowland England*. Huntingdon: Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

Historic parkland restoration guidance

KIRBY, K.J., 1995.

Management plans for parklands

PETERKEN, G. F., 1993. *Woodland conservation and management* (2nd edition). London: Chapman and Hall.

RACKHAM, O., 1980. *Ancient Woodland its history, vegetation and uses in England*. London: Edward Arnold.

READ, H., 2000. *Veteran trees: a guide to good management*. English Nature

SCARBOROUGH, H & SMITH, T., 2001. Biodiversity: linking the Habitat Action Plan for Wood Pasture and Parkland with the requirements of priority and other parkland species. Peterborough: *English Nature Research Reports*, No. 423

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE, (in prep). *Wood pasture inventory and management guidelines*.

VERA, 2000. *Grazing animals and forest ecology*.

VETERAN TREES INITIATIVE, 2000. *Veteran trees: a guide to grants*. English Nature.

WEBB, J., 2001. County survey of parkland – the Staffordshire experience 2001
Perterborough: *English Nature Research Reports*, No. 41

Annex 5 Wood-pasture & Parkland HAP

Review of agri-environment schemes: a submission to English Nature by the Wood-Pasture and Parkland HAP Advisory Group

Summary of recommendations

There was a general acknowledgment that DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship (CSS) and Forestry Commission's Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) were the principal agri-environment schemes to consider, with geographically-focussed support from Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) and English Nature's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (WES) for SSSIs in England. Further comments from Wales are required.

Q1: What are our desired outcomes for wood-pastures and parklands ?

- The success of Agri-Environment Schemes (AES) should be measured by their contribution to the **delivery of HAP targets**; maintaining site condition, restoring site condition, expansion of resource.
- There will be an acknowledgement of wood pastures/parklands within the wider unenclosed countryside **at a landscape level** and this will be reflected by AES.
- AES need to consider the **sustainability** of benefits acquired through AES and address the need for long-term planning/commitments to maintaining these features.

Q2: How well do current schemes work and could they be improved?

- They require **additional budgetary resources** to enable greater and wider funding of benefits, and require **greater incentivisation** in the form of competitive payment rates to attract uptake from key stakeholders.
- Specific options under CSS covers parklands well and should continue to be the principal source of AE support for such features. **Prescriptions on field margins and orchards should however be improved** to reflect old trees and invertebrate interest. A much greater link on wood-pastures from WGS is required which will then require greater flexibility from FC to adapt support to more dynamic ecological systems typical of woodland-based features (greater focus on old trees, decaying-wood, grazing).
- Area-based targeting based on national targets (but see extent of resource issue) with **greater regional weighting of scoring** to focus delivery of national targets.
- To maximise opportunity for enhancing site conditions, there is a need to **link higher payments with more qualitative conditions**, such as setting levels of decaying-wood (avoiding over-tidiness in certain areas), regulating grazing levels (to avoid over-grazing) and ensuring compliance with Agricultural Codes of Good Practice. It was felt there was a need for a national menu of **minimum quality standards** tailored to each AES, coupled with the ability to

have local flexibility on specific prescriptions for specific outcomes e.g. managing for a species.

It was felt that an over-arching concept of national mandatory standards of sustainable land management as a basic requirement central to agricultural policy.

Q3: What are the management needs of wood-pastures/parklands in relation to agri-environment schemes

- There is a need to link management of WPPs to a definition of ecological condition – further development of attributes required.
- A greater regard to established veteran tree principles within AES could be established (applying VTI work) and used to develop minimum standards for WPP funding options.

Q4: What is the future role of agri-environment schemes?

- Important need for reporting identified and a **clearer link to HAP targets** required by DEFRA/FC when reporting on delivery of AES.
- The current short-term roles of AES are to maintain/enhance/buffer existing WPP remnants. AES could be considered as interim measures to accommodate landscape/wildlife conservation within a largely un-restrained agricultural environment. With demands for CAP reform and greater resources into environmental benefits as opposed to production, this may change. It is envisaged that **there will still be an important future role for AES** as a higher tier of management standards, to ‘reward’ those with responsibilities towards stewardship and enhancement of special landscape/wildlife/cultural features.

Q5: Are agri-environment schemes suitable for the achievement of favourable condition on wood-pasture/parkland SSSIs?

- Although Government PSA target (95% of SSSI area favourable or improving by 2010) is applicable across all government departments and agencies, SSSIs represent the finest and most important remnants of WPP and require specialist, high quality advice and work. **English Nature should continue to take lead role in advising on SSSI management and achievement of favourable condition.**
- **English Nature could continue to fund just wildlife-related work within WPP associated with special interest, in conjunction with CSS/WGS.** With greater financial incentives, it would seem strange for owners to be eligible for three equally well-financed but separate AES and a pragmatic approach to engage stakeholders will be required. Given its objectives, an incentivised CSS would seem to be the most appropriate AES for parklands, with wood-pastures the focus of a broader WGS.

Q6: what are the wider benefits or conflicts with wood-pasture/parklands?

- To **avoid potential conflicts with other HAPs**, such as lowland heath, there is a need for a wider view from all HAP Groups in their specialist advice on the concept of wood-pasture.
- There was a clear **endorsement of a site ‘management plan’** to cater for these potential site-based conflicts and it is important that AES continue to promote their production prior to grant-aid.
- **Need for an element of long-term planning within AES**, especially with habitat such as WPP. AES on WPP tend to be short-term schemes with longer-term objectives (500 years?) and are vulnerable to changes in outlook when/if ownership changes hands. Consideration should be given to **longer-term agreements** perhaps of 20 years, with the suggestion of building-in a 10 year aftercare condition to protect public investment of funds. Forest Estate Plans are a useful example.

Discussions of the sub-group at Grantham (29/11/2001)

Q1: what should be the outcomes for pastures/parklands

The success of Agri-Environment Schemes (AES) should be measured by their contribution to the **delivery of HAP targets**; maintaining site condition, restoring site condition, expansion of resource. The published targets are a minimum due to the current lack of knowledge on extent of wood-pasture/parkland (WPP) resource. Additional work assessing this resource is underway and will be vital to measuring achievement of targets.

(Definition of condition/restoration/expansion issue for HAP Group to address).

AES need to acknowledge wood pastures/parklands within the wider unenclosed countryside **at a landscape level**. Many sites are likely to have lost their integrity and have been subsumed into a modern, intensively-managed countryside with scattering of old trees only sign of their former presence.

There is a need to target key stakeholders of wood pastures/parklands; large private estates, charitable bodies and public bodies are key in managing remaining parks, whilst farming businesses and leisure businesses could be more influential in maintaining or restoring ‘ghost’ parklands. AES need to address and adopt a pragmatic approach to these stakeholders in terms of the level of funding and their eligibility.

AES need to consider the **sustainability** of benefits acquired through AES and address the need for long-term planning/commitments to maintaining these features. AES may not be able to ensure long-term sustainability but should be required to integrate this concept into agreements and prescriptions as far as is practicable.

The effectiveness of AES in delivering HAP targets may require further work on national/regional targeting based on ‘hotspots’.

AES should contribute to local BAP targets at a tree level by greater integration with CSS (the primary land stewardship mechanism in the absence of mandatory farming standards) or perhaps in conjunction with greater use of TPOs.

Q2: current schemes – do they work?

They work in places but are ineffectively resourced and under-valued at DEFRA level. They require **additional budgetary resources** to enable greater and wider funding of benefits, and require **greater incentivisation** in the form of competitive payment rates to attract uptake from key stakeholders.

There is a need for greater clarity of AES mechanisms; whilst CSS and WGS have different objectives (to effectively deliver specific outcomes), they should be a closer link to maximise their potential to benefit WPP. AES could be marketed to landowners and managers under a single umbrella of national (regional?) agri-environment support; a single broad package of measures which aims to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits across the UK landscape.

Current AES payments are considered to be lacking:

- Un-realistic rates for capital items e.g. pollarding, tree surgery.
- There may be a bias towards well-financed parks.
- Perception that AES rates compare badly with schemes such as English Nature WES rates for SSSI managers (75-100%).
- Rates for site survey/management planning considered to be poor but could in effect be attractive and this may not be widely appreciated e.g. WGS can provide 100% funding for wood-pastures >20% woodland cover.
- Appropriate emphasis and funding for natural regeneration of trees and shrubs within wood-pastures/parklands through enclosure fencing and tree protection

Ancient trees and their requirements often not considered within many AES options and payments e.g. WGS does not automatically draw attention to old trees, decaying-wood, woods very often not considered in wider context such as suitability of new woodland creation within parklands. There is scope for considerable development of WIGs to benefit wood-pasture/parkland HAP.

Specific options under CSS covers parklands well and should continue to be the principal source of AE support for such features. Greater **emphasis on old trees** within the wider countryside is however needed. Veteran trees along field boundaries and within open fields would benefit from wide field margin prescriptions.

Prescriptions relating to **orchards** require improvement to reflect their invertebrate interest and decaying-wood resource.

Much greater link on **wood-pastures from WGS** required which will then require greater flexibility from FC to adapt support to more dynamic ecological systems typical of woodland-based features.

Advice on all AES has considerable potential to be improved; greater consistency of advice across regions is felt to be required, along with a greater understanding of individual AES as land management options (only FWAG Advisors officially cover all). There is a need for AES to now reflect a new political context and advocate wholesale environmental benefits as equitable to economic ones, whilst there is a continued need to ensure AES advice appreciates estate/business management and can maximise opportunities for positive action.

Better quality advice required (*comments?*) and a greater breadth of knowledge desirable amongst land management advisors.

There is considerable scope to improve take-up of AES within WPPs; currently schemes are largely reactive with a significant number of agreements generated by third parties. As voluntary schemes, there is no compulsion and therefore requires greater emphasis on persuasive measures or greater financial attractiveness.

Need for area-based targeting based on national targets (but see extent of resource issue) with **greater regional weighting of scoring** to focus delivery of national targets. Idea of ‘ring-fencing’ cash for national wood-pasture parkland hotspots to generate work relating to targets, especially expansion targets which are best focused on existing high quality remnants.

Existing AES have in the past under-valued wood-pasture/parkland requirements, with the risk of agreements merely maintaining the status quo through annual payments. There is a need to **link higher payments with more qualitative conditions**, such as setting levels of decaying-wood (avoiding tidiness in certain areas), regulating grazing levels (to avoid over-grazing), ensuring compliance with Agricultural Codes of Good Practice (*are these WPP-friendly?*) and ensuring there are resources for funding agencies to monitor compliance.

It was felt there was a need for a national menu of **minimum quality standards** tailored to each AES, coupled with the ability to have local flexibility on specific prescriptions for specific outcomes.

Over-arching concept of national mandatory standards of sustainable land management

More use of ‘special projects’ made within CSS which provide considerable flexibility and can suit individual site-based management requirements.

CSS considered to be largely compatible with historic objectives but require more comment from English Heritage on delivery of historic objectives.

Generally, **current prescriptions were felt to largely cater for parkland requirements, subject to the comments above, especially those relating to improving habitat condition.**

Q3: Management

There is a need to link management of WPPs to definition of condition – further development of attributes required before consideration of this question.

A greater regard to established veteran tree principles within AES could be established (applying VTI work) and used to develop minimum standards for WPP funding options.

Q4: Future role of schemes

Important need for reporting identified and a clearer link to HAP targets required by DEFRA/FC when reporting on delivery of AES.

The current short-term roles of AES are to maintain/enhance/buffer existing WPP remnants. AES should ideally be considered as an interim measure to accommodate landscape/wildlife conservation within a largely un-restrained agricultural environment. CAP reform and greater resources into environmental benefits as opposed to production.

Need to work with future development of a basic land management/stewardship policy across the wider countryside - Overarching concept of national mandatory standards of sustainable land management. Still be a role for AES; role in future might be as a higher tier of management standards, to ‘reward’ those with responsibilities towards stewardship and enhancement of special landscape/wildlife/cultural features. Ongoing maintenance costs within parklands are now unlikely to ever be self-sustaining features unless additional incomes/revenues can be invested back into site management.

It was felt that the importance of engaging the public to foster support/awareness/appreciation to back AES mechanisms should not be underestimated and is vital to ensuring there continues to be demand for public benefits.

Development of Forest Estate Plans to ensure WPP targets should be maximised as can be a good method of developing long-term management planning on WPP sites. The need for appropriate conditions in these agreements are required, e.g. maintaining parkland trees and decaying-wood, having appropriate grazing levels, minimum of fertiliser/pesticide use.

Q5: should AES produce favourable SSSI condition targets?

Although Government PSA target is applicable across departments and agencies, SSSIs represent the finest and most important remnants of WPP, requiring specialist, high quality advice and work. **English Nature should continue to take lead role in SSSI management and achievement of favourable condition.**

AES currently contribute to this target, as they are able to tackle and fund work to deliver additional objectives beyond SSSI condition. Although good at integrating features of parks, many agreements only maintain site condition to the satisfaction/demands of the landowner and reflect historic requirements of

preservation, rather than achieving enhancement and therefore improvements in condition (see comments relating to use of conditions attached to payments).

Securing favourable condition on WPP sites may take many years and DEFRA should recognise that instant results may not be attainable in the short-term.

Examples of regional differences in eligibility of SSSI for CSS in particular; cases of SSSIs not being considered as suitable for CSS support.

The main question is likely to be who distributes AES resources. Clarification is needed on whether English Nature should be the principal administrator of AES support on WPP SSSI. There are difficulties for EN with catering for historic/cultural features which are beyond EN remit. **English Nature could continue to fund just wildlife-related work within WPP associated with special interest, in conjunction with CSS/WGS.** With greater financial incentives, it would seem strange for owners to be eligible for three equally-financed but separate AES and a pragmatic approach to engage stakeholders is required. **Given its objectives, an incentivised CSS would seem to be the most appropriate AES for parkland AES.**

English Nature's WES payment rates should reflect special management requirements and need to be financially realistic and attractive in order to facilitate action. EN support now unusual in that there is a perception that management of SSSI is now considered to be compulsory in one form or another, following CROW 2000.

An ongoing issue for English Nature is the support, or current lack of, given to approved bodies managing Section 35(1c) NNRs. The subject of funding NNR managers such as the National Trust is being discussed and requires attention.

Q6: are there wider benefits and conflicts?

A clear definition of WPP and their boundaries is important to **avoid potential conflicts with other HAPs**, such as lowland heath. Need for wider view from all HAP Groups in their specialist advice on concept of wood-pasture. There is considerable scope for WPP to deliver a range of HAP and SAP targets (Issue for UK BAP Group).

An awareness of the **inherent conflict within WPP** HAP would be helpful and should be reflected in AES; remnant parklands are often enclosed, modified landscapes requiring an element of preservation and are to a degree detached from the wider countryside, wood-pastures are more dynamic in contrast and require a more semi-natural ecological approach to their management. AES need to have regard to these.

There is of course potential for conflict with other AES aims, such as landscape/visual impacts from tree felling and fencing, differences in requirements between ecological and historic features, access and H&S considerations (grazing animals, dogs, shooting). There was a clear **endorsement of a site 'management plan'** to cater for these potential conflicts but they need to be sensible in their detail and not overly lengthy or cumbersome. Smaller sites without conflicts could be catered for by more

simpler management statements to support AES applications/agreements. Important that AES continue to promote their production prior to grant-aid.

Need for an element of long-term planning, especially with habitat such as WPP. AES on WPP tend to be short-term schemes with longer-term objectives and are vulnerable to changes in outlook when/if ownership changes hands. These sites are very suitable for **longer-term agreements** of 20 years, with the suggestion of building-in 10 year aftercare condition to protect public investment of funds. Forest Estate Plans are a useful example.

Explore implications of Environmental Impact Regulations 2002 in relation to this. Could be increasingly more difficult to change land-use within WPP thus public benefits protected from loss/neglect.

Conflicts with other rural funding mechanisms and damage to WPP through inappropriate schemes were identified, examples being woodland planting within long-established orchards (Objective 5b funding) and the creation of mixed woodland within a 'lost' parkland landscape which retained its parkland boundary features (WGS).

Other non- AES measures identified as being particularly relevant:

Fiscal measures – Inheritance Tax Relief can ensure long-term maintenance of parklands through generations.

Greater regulation of farming practices and formal adoption of minimum standards as part of cross-compliance. Challenge to cultures of estate management.

Opportunities for market-led approach to WPP products, such as venison – certification schemes. Organic schemes.

HLF opportunities such as a national parkland project relating to publicly-owned parkland.

CSS eligibility of owners/tenants on wooded commons.

Development control issues – planning pressures (golf courses/leisure use) in relict parkscapes.

The sub-group meeting was attended by:

Rebecca Watson (JNCC)
Richard Smithers (Woodland Trust)
Helen Stace (English Nature Three Counties Team)
Fred Currie (Forestry Commission)
Ian Johnstone (DEFRA Rural Development Service)
Steve Clifton (English Nature East Midlands Team)

Annex 6 Action plan progress

Target No	Output/outcome	Projects	Comments	Progress 2001 – 2002
4.1.1	Estimate of current extent, distribution and condition of wood-pasture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National data-base (2002) (various) County/local based surveys (2000 ongoing, but key counties covered by 2005). 	Surveys, restoration work, new creation are likely to be organised locally; in some cases on a site-by-site basis. The key requirements initially seem to be a way of recording where and what is going on, with a more targeted programme to fill gaps from 2003 onward.	Continued work on the national database. Guidance on local surveys - Staffordshire Report and SNH survey of wood-pasture sites.
4.1.2	An active programme of restoration work over at least 2,500 ha (2010).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of restoration work (2001). 		
4.1.3	500 ha of expansion of new wood-pasture initiated (2002).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of new work (2002). 		
Policy and legislation				
5.1.1	VTs given sympathetic treatment under TPO system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of 1994 review implemented 1999. Revisit key remaining aspects (TPOs) 2001/2002 (link with 5.1.2, 5.1.3). Lobby for parliamentary time as necessary (2002). 	Further changes to TPOs will need the support of DETR for new legislation. Hard evidence is needed that veteran trees are being lost under the current rules <i>and</i> that a change of rules would reduce this loss.	Opportunities may come up in the forthcoming planning green paper. Country agencies to check
5.1.2	VTs given special treatment under felling licences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review felling licence practice (2002/3). Lobby for change as needed (2003). 	Similar position to above, except that Forestry Commission need to be involved.	
5.1.3	VTs given special treatment with respect to public liability/safety issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review in light of outcome of CROW bill (2001/2). Lobby for change as needed (2002). 	The CROW bill may reduce the burden of liability on land-owners generally or at least provide precedent for doing so.	This needs to be explored
5.1.4	HSD Annex I category for wood-pastures etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In abeyance as no opportunity to alter Annex at present. 		

Target No	Output/outcome	Projects	Comments	Progress 2001 – 2002
5.1.5	Support for VTs and woodpasture in incentive schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on Stewardship (2000/01). Develop other sources of funds eg HLF (2001/02). Review of gaps in other schemes (2001/02). 	Increase in the monies available for Stewardship have changed the financial landscape - hence need to review. HLF may prove a useful additional source, but preparatory work needed.	Preparatory work on HLF done guidance needs to be completed. The HAP group has produced a submission for the agri-environment scheme review 2002.
5.1.6	CAP support for extensive pastoralism including wood pasture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review change to area based payments (2001/2). Input to mid-term review (2002/3). 	Not clear that there is much scope for wood-pasture in here; watching brief within other work on CAP.	
5.1.7	Guidance about wood-pasture and VTs in PPGs and other planning documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees and woodland circular (2000/01). PPG9. 	Significant opportunities to modify these over the next year; discussions in England being organised via working groups of the England Forestry Forum. Position in Scotland Wales and NI?	Opportunities may come up in the forthcoming planning green paper. Country agencies to check
5.1.8	Simplified procedures for fencing on commons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review policy and practice (2001/02). Seek to implement recommendations (2002 onward). (Link to 5.2.5) 	Mixed results from recent attempts to get fencing for conservation grazing on commons.	
Site safeguard and management				
5.2.1	Adequate SSSI coverage of habitat/species assemblages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of current coverage (2000/02). Identify gaps (2001/02). Programme for filling 2002 onward. 	Ongoing work on review of SSSI series by the agencies.	Options for notifying veteran trees sites are being explored.
5.2.2	SAC list sites designated (2004).			Latest tranche of sites has been submitted.
5.2.3	Increased funding for buying/managing sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible HLF bid (2000/01). Review other sources (2001/02). 	Work should not be funding-led, but there is a need to be aware of what different sources can offer.	

Target No	Output/outcome	Projects	Comments	Progress 2001 – 2002
5.2.4	Long-term integrated plans for key sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model formats/procedures developed (2001/02). Register of uptake 2002 onward (link to 4.1.2, 4.1.3). 	The proposed register of sites where work is going on will form a basis for then developing model plans.	
5.2.5	Re-establishment of grazing and new tree establishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on best practice on grazing restoration (2001/02). (Link to 5.1.8). 	Link to work of the Grazing Animals Project (GAP) and build on National Trust survey (2000/01)	Results from the National Trust survey expected in 2002. GAP has published the Breed profile handbook and animal welfare guide.
5.2.6	Restoration of former wood-pasture on arable/plantation sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on restoration best practice (2001/02) (link to 4.1.2, 4.1.3). 	Use experience of work at Felbrigg, Burnham Beeches, etc.	
5.2.7	Expansion of wood-pasture in targeted areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on target areas (2001/02). (Link to 4.1.3, 5.2.6). 	Use data-base and key species distributions to identify priority areas.	
5.2.8	Integration of HAP with relevant species plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of links to SAPs (2001/02). Guidance on incorporating relevant species needs (2001 onward). 	Work on key species going on via Species Recovery Programme (particularly on saproxylics).	Report published: Biodiversity: Linking the Habitat Action Plan for Wood Pasture and Parkland with the requirements of priority and other parkland Species
5.2.9	Translocation of key species where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of relevance of translocation (2002/03). Programmes for translocation (2005 onward). 	Not clear whether this really is an appropriate activity.	
Advisory				
5.3.1	Handbooks on best management practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reprint VTI booklets as needed (2001/02). Review need for new guidance 2003/4 (see also 5.1.8, 5.2.4, 5.2.5, 5.2.6). 	Major distribution of VTI publications taking place at present.	Discussions started with ATF on the possible need for a second edition
5.3.2	Clear guidance on best practice <i>viz a viz</i> safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute/reprint VTI Safety Guidance (2000 onward). Produce revised guidance notes 2003/4. 		

Target No	Output/outcome	Projects	Comments	Progress 2001 – 2002
5.3.3	Training available on best practice with respect to wood-pasture management for site owners, managers, advisory staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of VTI and other literature to courses, colleges etc (2000 onward). Ongoing programme of field based demonstration days. Review uptake and progress (2002/3). 	ATF taking forward demonstration day programme.	ATF programme continuing
International				
5.4.1	Estimates of European habitat extent and distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build networks (2000 onward). Review extent/distribution (2002/03). Conference on management and conservation (2004/05). 	Considerable links already exist at personal levels; build on these and for a such as international saproxylic conference in 2002; training course held by C.o.L in 2001.	Project to assess the European significance of veteran tree resource let to ATF (Dec 2001)
5.5.1	List of sites, sources and evaluation, linked to NBN (2002).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National database (2002). County-based surveys (2000 ongoing; key counties covered by 2005). (Also included in 4.1.1). 	Phase 1 of data-base build nearing completion; phase two to be started.	Database build is nearly complete, the web reporting tools are currently being tested.
5.5.2	Standardised recording and condition assessment procedures available and being used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop generalised condition assessment for wood pasture (2000/01) (see also 4.1.1). Promote recording and condition assessment (2001/02). Collate results and report (2002/03). 	Condition assessment being developed for woodland SSSIs; work on extension to wood-pastures and parkland needed.	Wood-pasture “module” to be added to the guidance (Feb / Mar 2002)
5.5.3	Surveys of “underworked” sites by 2005.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priorities for surveys (2001 onward). Survey programme for targeted sites (2002/05). 	Use information from data-base, county surveys etc.	
5.5.4	VT recording results from SSSIs & Wildlife sites fed into NBN.	(Link to 5.5.2).		

Target No	Output/outcome	Projects	Comments	Progress 2001 – 2002
5.5.5	Results from surveillance and monitoring fed into BAP reporting process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input to 2002 report (2002/03). Input to 2005 report (2005/06). 	Part of BAP bureaucracy	Input made to targets review
5.5.6	Expanded national research programme on wood-pasture and related topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a port-folio of c15 potential MSc/Ph.D projects on key topics and circulate this to relevant institutions (2001/02). 		
Communications and publicity				
5.6.1	Increased awareness of importance and vulnerability of resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular series of articles, news releases (2-3 a year). (2000 onward). (Possible outlets: QJF, Tree News, EN magazine, F&BT, Timber Grower, Arboricultural Journal, Biodiversity News, Broadleaf, IEEM Bulletin, BES Bulletin, Heartwood). Establishment of web-page (2000/01). (Links to 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.2.5, 5.2.6). Establish contact with relevant LBAP groups (2000/01). 	See ENACT Vol 8(3) Autumn 2000, as an example.	Articles appeared in <i>inter alia</i> Tree news, English Heritage magazine, National Trust Magazine, Scottish Woodland History Bulletin and Scottish Forestry Naconex program workshop on Tools for preserving woodland biodiversity, followed by publication of same name.
5.6.2	Increased awareness of VTs and their appropriate management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Effectively covered by 5.6.1, 5.3.2, 5.1.3, 5.3.3). 		Naconex program workshop on Tools for preserving woodland biodiversity, followed by publication of same name.

Annex 7 Old growth definition project brief

Developing a usable definition of ‘old growth’ in a UK context

Background

There is increasing interest in the value of old trees and old stands of trees, loosely often referred to as ‘old growth’ from a conservation point of view in the UK. However there is no agreed definition of what is included as ‘old growth’ in a UK context or listing of where it occurs.

This project is intended to explore how these issues might be addressed.

Objectives

To produce a working definition of ‘old growth’ that has wide support across the UK conservation and forestry sector and is clearly related to how the term is used internationally;

To develop a practical method for listing where ‘old growth’ occurs, initially for England, but with indications of how it might also apply in the other countries.

Methods

Views of what counts as ‘old growth’ should be sought across the conservation/forestry sector and compared with definitions used on the Continent and in North America. We need an agreed definition that is relevant to UK conditions, but is clearly related to how the term is used elsewhere since we wish to make comparisons between ‘old growth’ in the UK and elsewhere.

In developing the inventory methodology the following points should be borne in mind:

- it is unlikely that a method based on direct fresh field survey to discover and identify the sites will be practical (or affordable); indirect methods based on remote sensing, historical sources, existing survey data etc, should be sought;
- the emphasis should be on the methods of identifying and characterising the sites, not on how the data are subsequently stored (although some thought should be given to this);
- as with the ancient woodland inventory the methodology does not have to be 100% perfect; picking up c80% of the locations is sufficient in the first instance;
- there should be links to existing initiatives such as the ancient woodland inventory, the developing Lowland Wood-pasture Data-base as much as possible;
- there may need to be differences in approach between countries and between the uplands and the lowlands; in the first instance a methodology appropriate to England is sought, but issues that may arise in applying this elsewhere should be noted;
- the method must be compatible with and link to the National Biodiversity Network;

- it is not expected that a full scale trial of the method will be carried out as part of this study, but some examination of how the proposals might work under different landscape types is sought.

Outputs

A report in electronic and paper form compatible with English Nature systems.