

Dunnet Forestry Trust

LTFP Annex 3

Heathsfield Wood Management Plan 2020-29



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Company limited by guarantee no: SC231402
Scottish Charity no: SC033096

I. Woodland Description

I.1 Location

OS grid reference: ND217741, postcode KW14 8XR. The site is adjacent to B855 single-track road that leads to Dunnet Head lighthouse and is situated 200m from the coast on the edge of the Moss of Dunnet.

The site is not covered by any statutory designations.

I.2 Brief Description

Heathsfield Wood is 1.32ha in size, occupying a former croft area associated with a cottage. The site was deer fenced and most of it planted in 1993 with a mixture of broadleaved species, with some Sitka spruce as edge trees. The original owners, Mr & Mrs Heath, developed the site largely for amenity and conservation; with the sale of the cottage they wanted to see these benefits maintained and opened up to the community and offered the site to Dunnet Forestry Trust.

I.3 Tenure

Heathsfield is owned by Dunnet Forestry Trust, having been gifted by Mr and Mrs Heath in 2008. The southern portion (approx. one-third) of the site is part of the Dunnet Head and Brough Common Grazings.

I.4 Vision

To maintain the wood as a small amenity wood, with a wide variety of species appropriate to the local environment.

I.5 Neighbouring landuse

Croft land used for rough grazing. Several crofts in the area have small woodland areas or windbreaks around buildings. Most of these are planted with Sitka spruce.

I.6 Topography and drainage

The site is generally, flat, lying within a gently undulating to flat moorland/crofting landscape.

Drainage flows northwards with artificial drains cut around the site taking water to the eastern boundary. An artificial pond in the southern part of the site has an intake drain from the western edge and outflow to the southern edge.

I.7 Soils

Soils are a mosaic of peaty gleys and surface water gleys.

I.8 Vegetation:

In areas without tree cover, heather dominates on the peaty gleys, with other species common to wet heaths: cowberry, bog cotton grass, bog asphodel and crowberry. Soft rush dominates on the surface water gleys.

Prior to tree planting the site was used for rough grazing with a small area of vegetable cultivation. The site was planted in 1993 with a mixture of broadleaves on the surface water gleys and conifers on the peaty gleys. There is a small area of rosebay willow-herb (fireweed).

Sub-compartment	Species	Planting year	Area (ha)
a	Mixed broadleaves	1993	0.69
b	Open ground		0.12
c	Mixed broadleaves / conifers / open ground	1998	0.29
d	Sitka spruce	1993	0.14
e	Open ground / pond		0.08
Total			1.32

The trees are well established and quite vigorous. The Sitka spruce provides a good wind-break where it is present.

1.9 Invasive species

There is a significant area of salmonberry, which is tackled on a regular basis by volunteer work parties.

1.10 Fences

There is a perimeter 1.8m deer fence, 530m long with one 3m access gate at the north-east corner.

1.11 Wayleaves

An 11kv overhead power line runs East/West across the site.

1.12 Access

DFT created a new carpark for a maximum of 4 cars at the NE corner of the site.

The existing main path through the wood was upgrade, and a new section created to create a circular route of ~400m

There is a seat at the pond.

2. Management Proposals

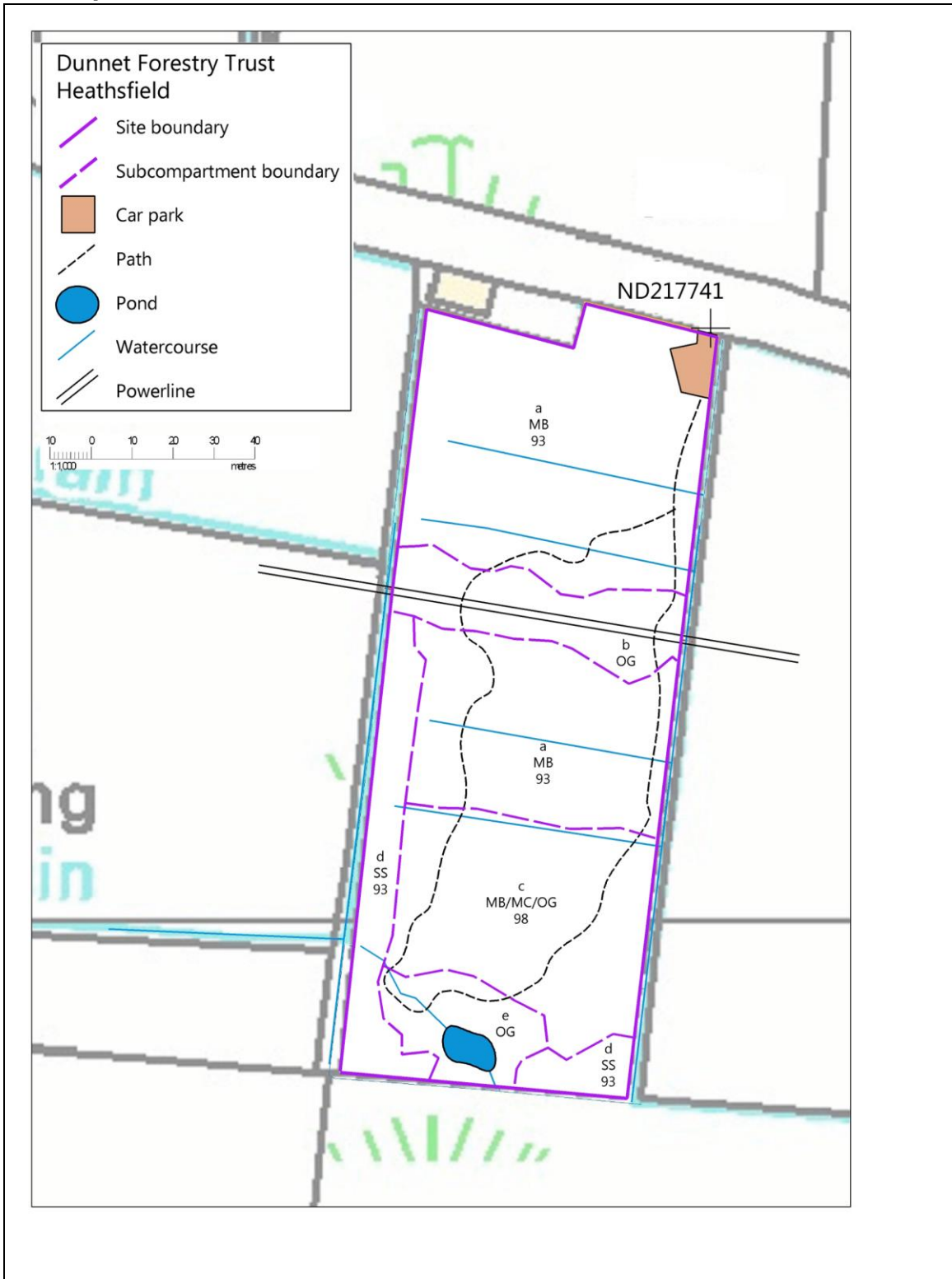
No felling or planting operations are planned for the plan period.

Dunnet Forest Trust will seek to maintain the amenity and environmental value of Heathsfield by:

- Maintaining the deer-proof perimeter fence;
- Maintaining the carpark and footpaths to ensure continued public access;
- Maintaining the perimeter and internal drains as required for footpaths;
- Ongoing control of salmonberry and other invasives
- Monitoring tree health within the wood.

DFT will maintain liaison with neighbours, especially those in Hilligoe, the neighbouring croft house.

3. Map



Map scale 1:1,500 approx.

4. Aerial imagery



Imagery from Marine Scotland

<https://marinescotland.atkinsgeospatial.com/nmpi/default.aspx?layers=718>

Appendix I

Species lists

Trees species

Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Eared Willow	<i>Salix aurea</i>
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Larch	<i>Larix europea</i>	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>

Other notable plant species

Gorse	<i>Ulex europeus</i>	Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i>
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Tufted hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>