

# Castle Wood Management Report



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## Executive Summary

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## Executive Summary

Castle Wood has been neglected for at least 10 years and probably longer.

Despite being on the Ancient Woodland register and carrying the local authority designations of Tree Preservation Order (TPO), Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) and Open Space Protection Area (OSPA) it has continued to decline. This is in stark contrast to the adjacent and well managed Duchess Wood, which is much larger and much better managed.

Castle Wood has considerable potential value for the community and for biodiversity although its potential timber/ commercial value is low. It already contributes significantly to the local landscape, even in its current dilapidated state.

The key issues are firstly, invasive species in the form of laurel, *Rhododendron ponticum* and to a lesser extent, sycamore. Secondly, drains have become blocked and the woodland is very wet in places. Some water is seeping out and causing a hazard for adjacent properties.

Thirdly, a few trees are leaning out over neighbouring properties and are a cause for concern. Finally, the wood is suffering from low level anti-social behaviour, mainly in the form of littering.

Four options for the future are considered. They are:

- Do nothing- the wood will slowly continue to deteriorate still further
- Housing Development- 100% of the public access and 90+% of the biodiversity value will be lost
- Link with Duchess Wood- this would have great benefit to Castle Wood, leading to positive management
- Community Management- local responsive management offers the best hope to reverse the decline in fortune suffered through the abandonment of Castle Wood

## A. Site Description

### A1 Ownership

Castle Wood was bought from the MOD in 2004 by Margery Osborne and Thomas Paterson, together with 3 nearby smaller fragments of woodland. Of these, two have been built on and the third was clearfelled in 2011.

### A2 Context

The context is complex and will not be detailed in this report. The four ex MOD woodland sites had TPO 16/04 placed on them in March 2005, shortly after they changed hands. The Castle Wood (W4) site currently has a planning application dating back to 2006 for a mix of mainstream and social housing.

The owners commissioned Redacted, Chartered Forester, to prepare a Tree Survey and Arboricultural Constraints Report and Tree Survey Schedule which was produced in January 2008.

At about the same time (Nov 2007), the owners also commissioned Central Environmental Surveys to prepare an Ecological Impact of Proposed Housing Development for Castle Wood.

Argyll and Bute Council commissioned Donald McPhillimy, Chartered Forester, to prepare a Management Report on Castle Wood (Feb 2012) which this report updates.

### A3 Council Policy

The most relevant Argyll and Bute Council policy with regard to woodland and development as referred to in the Local Development Plan (2013) is Policy SG LDP ENV 6 - Development Impact on Trees/ Woodland. This states:

“In accordance with Schedule FW 2, Argyll and Bute Council will protect trees, groups of trees and areas of woodland by making Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) where this appears necessary in the interests of amenity.”

The woodland is also valued open space as defined by Policy LP REC 2 and is designated part of an Open Space Protected Area. (OSPA)

## A4 Designations

Castle Wood has three designations:

- Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)
- Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS)
- Open Space Protection Area (OSPA)

The LNCS and OSPA status appear to have been conferred due to its proximity to the much larger and better known Duchess Wood, with which it is contiguous across Rhu Road Higher. Duchess Wood is also the only Local Nature Reserve in Argyll & Bute but this designation doesn't include Castle Wood.

Taking these in order, Castle Wood does appear on the Scottish Natural Heritage Register of Ancient, Semi-natural and Long-established Woodlands. The significance of this is that there has probably always been woodland on this site since the last ice age. It is not a comment on the current quality of the site which is poor but does indicate that there is some potential here. Some sensitive species may still be present in the wood in small numbers and may develop under positive management.

The LNCS designation has been conferred by Argyll & Bute Council (A&BC) and as such is a second tier site with Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) being the top tier. The major part of the justification for the LNCS designation lies in Duchess Wood.

The OSPA designation is useful as it discourages development, reflecting A&BC's view that the site should remain as open space, together with the adjacent Duchess Wood and sports pitches.

The implication for management of these three designations is that SNH and A&BC would welcome positive management on a site which has been sadly neglected for a number of years. Both organisations would provide advice should that be requested.



## A5 Site

Castle Wood lies to the south of the sports facilities beside Rhu Road Higher. It is roughly square in shape with extensions to the south-west and north-east. The northern ¼ of the wood is fairly flat and around 50 metres above sea level. It slopes moderately down towards the back gardens of the houses in West King Street and Ardencaple Quadrant. In the middle of the wood is an open area of amenity grassland with the remains of simple benches or supports for structures which have been removed by the MOD.

The soil in the woodland varies from a deep waterlogged clay loam in the wetter areas to an intermittently waterlogged clay loam in the middle and western parts of the site. This latter has 5 cms humus layer (A horizon), on 10 cms topsoil (B horizon) with a high organic matter content on a deep subsoil (C horizon). The soil under most of the grassland is different with 2 cms A horizon on 25 cms of a very stony, freely draining sandy loam B horizon, on a sandy loam C horizon. One part of the grassland is gleyed with soft rush prominent.

## A6 Woodland Description

The woodland is dominated by sycamore, birch and beech although the other species, such as holly, are also prominent and significant. The most outstanding tree in the whole wood is an oak, located close to the centre. If development were to take place, great care would need to be taken to protect this tree and it would pose a threat to adjacent buildings.



The age class distribution of the trees in the woodland is wide with most trees clustered around 45, 30 and 15 cms diameter suggesting 3 periods of planting or regeneration. A 4<sup>th</sup> phase is currently under way, represented by the prolific ash regeneration. There are few very old over-mature trees in the wood (which is a relief to neighbours) but plenty of lying dead wood where trees have blown over, mainly due to waterlogged soils, notably at the east end.



The trees in the north-west of the wood, next to Jutland Court, often have multiple stems. Presumably this coppice regrowth is a response to cutting by the local residents. One or two trees have been damaged by fire, although not recently, and there is some fly tipping in this area. This could be removed now that the flats are empty, and it would be less likely to recur.

The lower slopes of the wood, and indeed the whole of the southern and eastern edges, is a tangle of laurel, rhododendron and broadleaved trees growing out from the woodland towards the light. Some of these trees, which are mainly sycamore and beech, are quite substantial. A few do present a risk to the adjacent properties as should they become unstable, for example due to waterlogging of the roots, they could blow down in high winds towards the houses. Most wouldn't reach the houses but would end up in the gardens. They should be assessed on a tree by tree basis.

Any trees with damaged branches or trunks, which are away from the edges, do not present a threat and indeed standing dead wood within a woodland is very positive for biodiversity and should not be tidied up. Dead trunks are a magnet for fungi, insects, insectivorous



birds, such as treecreepers, and cavity nesting birds, such as woodpeckers.

Access through the woodland is informal. The main desire line runs between the tennis courts on the north side and Jutland Court in the south-west corner. The woods are used by children for adventurous playing and a rope swing tied to a dead branch was noted.

Overall, the woods have been neglected for a long period of time and would respond well to care. The rubbish, invasive species and poor drainage give an atmosphere of abandonment and dereliction, similar to that of the adjacent buildings of Jutland Court. This doesn't encourage access and those who cut through between Rhu Road Higher and Jutland Court probably do so fairly quickly and along a well demarcated route. Castle Wood, at present, is not a place to linger. It could be so much nicer, for both people and wildlife.

If the woodland is to be managed as woodland and not be developed as housing, the vast majority of the trees can remain standing. Only trees next to significant paths and boundaries would need to be monitored and occasionally tended. If houses are built, half to three quarters of the trees would need to be felled to clear space for buildings, gardens and roads plus many others on grounds of safety and convenience for the new householders.

## A7 SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long established broadleaved woodland</li> <li>• Good age structure</li> <li>• Natural regeneration of mainly ash</li> <li>• Part of a LNCS and FHN</li> <li>• Diverse ground flora</li> <li>• Enriching gardens</li> <li>• Well used by local community</li> <li>• Positive effect on property values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small fragment</li> <li>• Waterlogged soils in eastern section</li> <li>• Trees overhanging gardens</li> <li>• Water seeping out through gardens</li> <li>• Band of dense laurel</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More community involvement</li> <li>• Outdoor classroom</li> <li>• Improve informal access by pruning</li> <li>• Some enrichment planting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing development</li> <li>• High winds</li> </ul>

## B. Value of the Woodland

### B1 Community Value

Castle Wood has been the backdrop to the local community for a long time, since the first houses were built. It is a useful open space, even in its current dilapidated state, used as a short cut, for dog walking and a meeting place. It provides a respite from the hardness of streets, houses and urban infrastructure. Small songbirds, resident in the woods, will frequent the bird tables to be found in the surrounding gardens. The laurel provides some cover but very little food.

The woodland provides a great deal of shelter to the surrounding houses, gardens and sports facilities and will tend to remove dust and salt spray from the air.

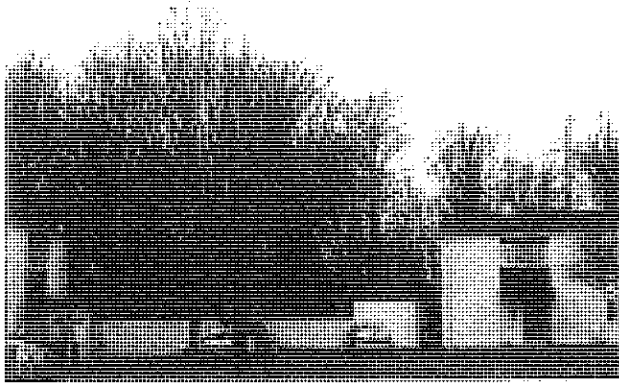
There are schools nearby and the woodland could play a bigger role as an educational resource. The old pavilion would make an ideal woodland classroom.

On the debit side, overhanging trees and water outflow do pose a hazard to some of the surrounding properties. Both of these problems are getting worse. The overhanging trees



are getting bigger and the water table is rising as the outflows become further blocked, leading to increased seepage through gardens.

## B2 Landscape Value



The wood is prominent in the local landscape and forms a visual whole with the rest of Duchess Wood. It forms a backdrop to many streets and houses in the area, for example Bannachra Drive to the east.

The wood will have a positive effect on property values in the surrounding area and this could be enhanced.

## B3 Biodiversity Value

This is an ancient woodland, part of a Local Nature Conservation Site and despite having been planted with some non native species and suffering neglect, remains a functioning woodland ecosystem. The ground flora, in places, is diverse, less so in others. The woodland shows some signs of regenerating itself and increasing in naturalness. This is offset by a reduction in naturalness where the invasive species are expanding. Overall Castle Wood is fragile as demonstrated by the current threat of housing development. It may or may not contain rare or threatened species. This kind of woodland fragment is itself a threatened habitat.

Of great significance is its place within an ecological unit, contiguous as it is with the rest of Duchess Wood, which itself forms part of a major Forest Habitat Network (FHN) to the north.

## B4 Timber/ Commercial Value

Objectively, the timber value of the trees in the woodland is low due to a lack of management in the past. There would be some wood fuel potential but most of the houses in the surrounding area would be unlikely to have this as a fuel source.

Realistically, timber and wood fuel production are likely to be low priorities for Castle Wood.

## C. Key Issues

### C1 Invasive Species



A major sign of neglect in Castle Wood, which greatly diminishes its biodiversity and aesthetic value, is the proliferation of laurel and rhododendron. The laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is an invasive non native plant which prevents a ground flora from developing due to

shade and phytotoxic effects, as does *Rhododendron ponticum*. The laurel dominates the southern boundaries behind the West King Street, Ardencaple Quadrant and Bannachra Drive gardens, extending up to 30 metres into the woodland in places, almost 25% of the width. The bushes are quite mature and up to 5 metres in height.

The invasive rhododendron (*R. ponticum*) is a native of Asia Minor and quite different from the more colourful species found in the Himalaya region. Unfortunately, it is the former which is present in Castle Wood and throughout the west of Scotland. At present it is

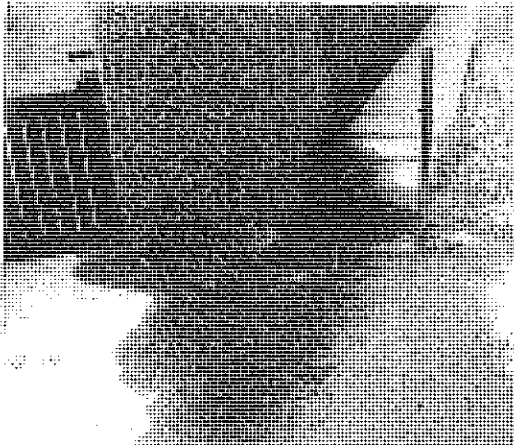


restricted to two clumps in the northern part of the wood but it appears to have expanded rapidly since the last survey. It currently has the form of a vigorous plant.

There may be some garden escapes and a little willow herb present but the laurel and rhododendron are, by far, the most significant invasive species present. They are expanding rapidly and should be completely eradicated.

## C2 Water Management

Two open drains have been cut through the north-eastern part of the wood. These have almost no flow and are not draining the wood which, in this part, is waterlogged. South of these drains and just to the west of the back gardens of Bannachra Drive, another drain has been cut more recently (see front cover). This is flowing freely to a waterlogged area behind the gardens of Redacted and flows out through these gardens



and shared hedgeline, to puddle in the road before flowing into the storm drains. This could present a hazard in frosty weather. There may have been a culvert taking this water, which has become blocked. This situation is likely to continue to deteriorate.

## C3 Boundary Issues

There is an issue of dangerous trees close to boundaries which needs to be addressed by whoever is managing the woodland. In a few places large trees are leaning out of the woodland towards the light. Several of these, if they fall, could cause damage to property. An inspection was made of the all of the boundaries for this report, starting in the south-west corner. Trees can be identified on the map accompanying the 2008 tree survey, as the same numbers have been used. There have been only minor changes since then.

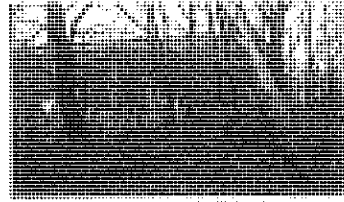
1. **SW corner.** There is some confusion with the numbering in the report. Only minor action is required.
2. **Corner to playground.** There is one small rowan and another small sycamore, leaning towards



buildings, both of which could be felled.

3. **Playground to SE corner.** This section is severely overgrown with laurel which makes inspection difficult. A number of large and smaller trees, mainly sycamore, line the edge and have a tendency to lean out towards the light, towards the houses and gardens. Fortunately, most appear to be sound but would be monitored regularly by a responsible owner. According to the tree survey only one sycamore (#315, diameter at breast height (dbh) 31 cms) and coppice growth from a stump (#318) need to be felled. In the SE corner, one small sycamore (#585) could be felled.
4. **Behind 25 Bannachra Drive.** The line of mature boundary trees continues eastwards under a different ownership. Moving northwards, the principal trees are goat willow of small to medium size. Only one modest tree, a goat willow (#624) is recommended for felling, as it is largely dead and leaning outwards.
5. **Behind 23 & 24 Bannachra Drive.** The only trees which are a problem here are a medium sized birch (#656, 30 cms) and a large rowan (#657, 57 cms) which are adjacent to the boundary and have major cavities.
6. **Behind NW corner of Bannachra Drive.** There is a group of mainly goat willow and downy birch here, often leaning over the gardens and houses. A group of downy birch (#757, 760- 764, dbh 34- 49 cms) could be felled, as they are past their prime and becoming unstable. Birches are short lived trees
7. **Back of north side of Bannachra Drive.** 12-15 medium broadleaves, mainly sycamore & goat willow, 40 cms, some have a slight lean over fence & large branches. They appear to be mainly sound. The threat is low due to the size of the trees and long gardens. The dead downy birch (#775) can be left standing.
8. **Behind 13 Rhu Road Higher.** Small group of medium sized broadleaves, mainly sycamore and ash, with a slight lean over the garden. They appear sound. A larger ash stands close to the road with a slight lean over a house. It has some rot in its base and should be felled. (#19, 66 cms)
9. **Along the main road.** Trees along the road are small to medium in size with a slight lean. They appear to be stable although trees further into the wood have collapsed against them. One downy birch is recommended for felling (#15).
10. **Pavilion entrance.** Entrance to the pavilion has a small clump of fairly small ash and willow which appear stable.
11. **Northern edge.** The trees along the edge next to the amenity grass have grown towards the light but are fairly small and don't present a threat. Of more concern are the very large beech and European larch situated further back within the woodland. The beech shows some signs of disease and should be monitored regularly.

12. **Triangle behind sports centre.** This narrow triangle is mapped as being in a different ownership but this should be confirmed. Several trees, mainly medium to large sycamores, have already blown over. This suggests that a combination of soil and exposure may result in further windblow.



13. **Behind Jutland Court** Four small to medium sycamores and one goat willow (# 220, 221, 222, 228, 229, dbh 17- 30 cms) are damaged and diseased and could be felled.

In conclusion, only a small number of trees, most of them small sycamores, downy birch and goat willow need to be felled to protect adjoining properties.

## C4 Human Activity

A woodland which is allowed to fall into disrepair looks uncared for and this encourages further anti-social activity. Sadly, this has happened to Castle Wood. Instead of being an oasis of tranquil and useful greenspace in the midst of a housing area, it looks sad and neglected, even abandoned. Some trees have been cut or burned and fly tipping has taken place, for example the bicycle on the front cover. Other light weight rubbish has blown in and nobody cares enough for the woodland in its present condition to remove it.

## D. Options for the Future

### D1 Do Nothing

Without active management, the woodland will continue to deteriorate further. The water table will rise further as the outlets become increasingly blocked. This will affect tree health and in some cases trees will die and be blown over. Peripheral trees will increase in size and start to blow down into neighbouring properties. The laurel and R ponticum will continue to expand and poison/ shade out the ground flora beneath them.

Worst of all the wood will be unloved and uncared for. It will continue to be a venue for anti-social activities rather than picnics, games and environmental education. Parents will warn their children not to go there rather than encouraging them to use a safe local greenspace.

Under the do nothing option, the woodland will feel increasingly neglected and abandoned.

## D2 Housing Development

The proposed housing development is incompatible with the woodland continuing as an intact woodland ecosystem. In the words of the TPO- "The whole area of woodland or segments of woodland when these are highly valued and not capable of absorbing development without fundamental damage occurring to the integrity, appearance or prized features of the woodland." The prized features include-

"- the remaining part of an ancient or semi-natural woodland;	yes
- recreational value to local people;	yes
- amenity value;	yes
- the woodland setting;	yes
- the habitat value;	yes
- highly valued tree specimens;	yes (limited)
- windbreak characteristics;	yes
- the configuration of open space, glades, network, canopy and under-storey components within the woodland area;	yes
- the important contribution of the woodland, as key landscape features, to local and regional landscape character and distinctiveness."	yes

All of the above apply in the case of Castle Wood, although the number of highly valued tree specimens is probably small. The central oak tree is an outstanding specimen.

The remaining tiny fragments would be more fragile than before. The community value of the woodland would be greatly diminished although there would be some benefits in terms of water drainage and tree safety.

## D3 Duchess Wood Link

Duchess Wood at 23 hectares, is much larger than Castle Wood at 2.2 ha and contains greater variation and hence biodiversity within it. Duchess Wood has been managed in a systematic way, through a management plan since 1994, although the style of these plans has varied. The current plan for 2012 to 2016 is available on the Argyll & Bute Council website. <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/duchesswood>

This is an impressive document which provides the basis for current management. In particular, the plan has clear objectives of management expressed as long, medium and short-term desirable actions. The objectives are:

- i. to manage the Wood so as to maintain and enhance its semi-natural broad-leaved habitat and conserve and improve its biodiversity;
- ii. to provide and enhance provisions for public access;

- iii. to maintain access ways and other facilities used by visitors;
- iv. to encourage and publicise research;
- v. to encourage and promote education and recreation
- vi. to support voluntary involvement

These objectives can be contrasted with the current lack of objectives for Castle Wood.

Duchess Wood has been evaluated in terms of Ecological Values (rarity, diversity, naturalness, rarity, etc.) as well as the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). Comprehensive species lists are provided, the results of many hours of survey work. The wood is discussed in terms of the Argyll & Bute local Biodiversity Action Plan (IBAP). Old and new maps are provided and boundary issues are discussed as well as the contribution of each of the partner groups.

If the management plan is the jewel in the crown of Duchess Wood, there are several other factors working in its favour:

- A sympathetic landowner- Luss Estates
- A long continuous period of positive management
- A plethora of designations recognising its significance
- Partnership working between a number of supportive groups
- A core path system in the wood

Should Castle Wood come under community management, there would be advantages in absorbing it into the Duchess Wood management structure although some of the practical management could be organised separately.

#### D4 Community Management

Should the local community take over the management of Castle Wood, this would ideally be through the Helensburgh Community Woodlands Group which already exists. The major issues which the wood is currently suffering from in its neglected state, would be addressed. This report identifies these issues and suggests likely management objectives for community management. These are:

1. Access- for walking and informal play
2. Biodiversity- maintaining & enhancing valuable woodland habitat
3. Education- acting as an outdoor classroom
4. Shelter- and air cleansing

## 5. Landscape- a green oasis in a residential area

In the short term, the following operations are recommended:

### **Boundary Trees**

- Carry out an arboricultural survey of the edge trees and make them safe, particularly those on the southern edge

### **Water Management**

- Pipe out the water from the waterlogged sink area and put it into a storm drain. Open up the other ditches to allow water to drain away.

### **Treatment of Invasive Species**

- Cut back laurel from the southern edge
- Fell laurel & Rhododendron ponticum elsewhere in the wood
- Remove some sycamore seedlings and saplings

### **Other Actions**

- Leave the eastern section as a sanctuary area with minimum intervention. This area has a high water table.
- Plant 100 oak, ash, gean and other species where there are gaps in the canopy, leaving most of the grassland area. Include some low stature species such as hazel, bird cherry, whitebeam, hawthorn, guelder rose, rowan and silver birch in the cleared southern areas.
- Clear fly tipping
- Organise community events in the woodland to start to change its image in the local community



## E. Conclusions

Without any positive management, of the sort currently being practised at the adjacent Duchess Wood, Castle Wood will continue its spiral of decline. There are two reasons for this, ecological and social.

Ecologically, the rhododendron and laurel will continue to expand and suppress the ground flora. The sycamore will continue to dominate, casting more shade than would be ideal. The wet ground towards the eastern end will lose some species due to shade. Dogs and cats will disturb ground nesting birds.

Socially, the wood will continue to be unloved. It will appear dark and unattractive, especially towards the southern side. The householders in Redacted will continue to have drainage problems with the excess water seeping across their gardens. A number of householders in adjacent properties will, in time, have trees fall into their gardens and in one or two cases, on their houses. Low level anti-social behaviour, fires, littering, etc. will continue to take place in the woodland.

If the wood is developed for housing along the lines of the plans which have already been drawn up, then 90+% of the nature conservation value will be lost, together with the access.

The best hope to reverse the spiral of decline is through community ownership and management.

Donald McPhillimy

12 March 2015



## Appendix 1- Critique of Previous Reports

### 1. Tree Survey and Arboricultural Constraints by Alan Motion (2008)

Since this report was completed in 2008, the following changes have taken place:

- A small number of trees (5 or 6) have blown over since the report was written. Trees in the waterlogged eastern part of the wood will tend to be unstable.
- The wood appears to have got wetter, endangering the root systems of many more trees
- The amount of holly, is small (3%) but increasing. It contributes to the amenity of the woodland.
- The identification discs have largely disappeared, making it difficult to refer to individual trees
- There has been a flush of ash regeneration since the report was compiled and ash seedlings now greatly outnumber those of sycamore.
- The principal invasive species is laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) which forms a dense screen along the southern edges and is expanding. There is a relatively small amount of *Rhododendron ponticum* towards the northern edge, although this is expanding rapidly. Both require treatment to prevent further spread.

#### Key Points

The report recommended that 15% of the trees require remedial work or felling. This would not be required should the site remain undeveloped as woodland. Only the trees next to edges and in danger of causing damage to property would need to be treated. Trees in the middle of a woodland with low visitor pressure and no formal paths can, by and large, be left to grow and die back gradually.

On the other hand, were the woodland to be developed for housing, the report recommended the felling of 170 trees plus some additional trees to accommodate the play space. This would be the bare minimum as the maps show many trees left within gardens and as close as 4 metres from buildings eg trees 34, 61, 67, 339, 250 & 273.

In a very short space of time, trees would be removed by householders and complaints would start to be made about other trees which are blocking out light, threatening buildings and shedding too many leaves. Gradually, the surrounding trees would be whittled away until the woodland ecosystem is largely lost. This is a sequence which has taken place in many other development sites, exacerbated by the fact that two of the three dominant trees- sycamore and beech are large heavily foliated forest trees.

The report also exaggerates the opportunities for replacement planting around the edges.

## 2. Ecological Impact by Central Environmental Surveys (2007)

The key issue is the Impact Magnitude and Significance of development, stated as low in the report. Castle Wood forms the southern tip of Duchess Wood, all of which is a Local Nature Conservation Site, extending its qualities right into a dense housing area. This enriches the adjacent gardens, extending the influence of the woodland ecosystem.

The wood is described as ancient and semi-natural on the SNH Register, although it has been planted up with native and introduced species. The presence of Rhu Road Upper will have little impact on the movement of mobile species such as plants with wind borne seeds, fungal spores, insects, birds and some mammals. There were signs of roe deer fraying damage in the wood.

For these reasons, it is suggested that the ecological value of the woodland should be moderate or high local value (rather than low).

The Impact Magnitude is also described as low in the report, defined as 'a minor shift away from baseline conditions resulting in the underlying character, composition or attributes remaining similar to pre-development conditions'. With up to 50% of the trees likely to be removed during and shortly after development, plus the increased disturbance due to lights, noise, dogs and cats, the impact will **not** be low. It will be significant.

## Appendix 2- Operations Plan

The following plan is recommended, assuming that the community group takes on management in 2015.

Operation	Who?	Cost	Timing
Survey boundary trees	Group	Nil	Every winter
Survey boundary trees & fell or reduce any which are dangerous	Tree surgeons	£1000 reducing to £500	Every 5 years
Improve drainage	Group	Nil	2015 summer
Improve drainage if group isn't able to do it	Drainage contractor	£1000	2015
Cut back laurel & rhododendron & treat stumps, burn arisings	Group	£100 for tools & chemical	2015, 2017 & 2019 summer
Plant 100 trees in spiral guards	Group	£200	2016 winter
Remove some sycamore seedlings and saplings	Group	Nil	2016 summer
Clear fly tipping	Group	Nil	Every month