



# John's Wood

# Management Plan 2019-2024

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## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

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## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk). Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	John's Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Coveney
<b>Grid reference:</b>	TL491823, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 143
<b>Area:</b>	0.76 hectares (1.88 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Area of Special Control, Cambridgeshire Woodland Fund

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

The wood was planted entirely by the local community in 1995 in a secluded position on a grass field. A single grass path loops around the site ending at a small grass glade on the eastern edge of the wood where views of Ely cathedral can be enjoyed.

### 2.2 Extended Description

A small broadleaved woodland next to the Cambridgeshire village of Coveney. The dominant trees species are ash and oak, with a minor component of field maple, willow, elm, hazel and hawthorn. The wood was planted entirely by the local community in January of 1995 on a grass field. The design is simple yet has used the existing local landscape to good effect to provide the nearby village of Coveney with a place to walk and experience a woodland habitat, in a heavily managed arable landscape. A single grass path loops around the site approximately 10m in from the boundary taking the visitor from the single entrance point in the west to a small grass glade on the eastern edge of the wood where views of Ely cathedral can be enjoyed.

The village and the wood are situated on a small rise of chalk and glacially derived clay in the generally flat modern fenland landscape.

The wood is named after John Fyfe Chairman of the Coveney Parish Council for many years

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Access is via a green lane between numbers 16 and 18 Main St in Coveney to the wood and entering the property through a signed pedestrian gate. The site is level and the path, although unsurfaced, is in good condition

Parking available in the main street of Coveney

A limited bus service passing through Coveney is available. For times and routes contact Travel Line on 0871 2002233 or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

There are no public toilets in the vicinity

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The wood will be managed with to a High forest structure incorporating a range of native species, of varying age classifications. Some infrequent intervention will be necessary to preserve these conditions and to ensure the wood remains resilient to external changes. Over time ash dieback is likely to severely reduce the percentage of ash in the wood, making oak the dominant forest tree. Some early intervention of the ash will be required for safety reasons and to ensure the development of other tree species, before a major loss of ash occurs.

Public access will be maintained in perpetuity. Access facilities will be low key for this small local site, but the entrances will be welcoming and there will be a managed path network. In the future, management of the wood could pass to a local community organisation should the opportunity arise.

## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

### 5.1 Informal Public Access

#### Description

John's wood was planted as part of the Cambridgeshire Woodland Fund project. Local people were involved in the fundraising, design, planting and maintenance. There was a great deal of community involvement at the inception of the wood. Within easy walking distance of the village of Coveney it is accessible from the village main street via an old drove road. There are 250m of paths throughout the site and a small open glade near the eastern boundary. The wood is well used for quite enjoyment and is close enough to be accessible to most people in the village.

#### Significance

The wood was very much a product of the local community's interest in creating woodland resource. There is very little woodland of any kind in the locality, the nearest being approximately 4 miles away in Ely. There is no woodland open for free public access within 10km's other than a neighbouring Woodland Trust site at Haddenham.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

##### Constraints

- a very small wood which limits the wood's interest to those living in the immediate vicinity
- No public rights of way linking the wood to the wider countryside

##### Opportunities

-Community support for the wood could be developed and in the future this could enable the wood to be self managed by a local community group

#### Factors Causing Change

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain safe and informal public access in perpetuity. The site will be welcoming with a managed path network, but facilities will be low key for this small local wood.

#### Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

The short objective this plan period is to ensure the site remains welcoming, safe and accessible. This will be achieved through an annual maintenance programme to ensure the following:

1. The main entrance is open, welcoming and adequately signed
2. The 250m path network is managed and accessible
3. Carrying out routine safety checks, especially of trees in high risk zone (falling distance of the paths).
4. The viewpoint to Ely Cathedral will be re-established and maintained.



## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

A young native woodland planted in 1995. It is composed of mixed broadleaved woodland and dominated by oak and ash with a variety of shrubs and other trees including willow, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, and some elm which was once common place in Cambridgeshire. The design also compliments the existing hedge and scrub areas adjacent to the site and includes a grassy paths and an open glade. Planted at a wide spacing on good soils the wood has developed very well in spite of its small size. There are well-established hedges of hawthorn around much of the perimeter of the wood with a few mature trees in the southern boundary hedge. There has been some natural colonisation of the wood by the bramble and hawthorn from the surrounding hedges and some natural regeneration of ash. The trees within the planting have mostly thrived within the protection of the surrounding hedge. The wood slopes gently down to the east and is on a calcareous clay soil.

### Significance

Cambridgeshire is one of the least wooded counties in England and this part of Cambridgeshire is one of the least wooded districts. The wood therefore makes a valuable semi-natural contribution to this intensively managed landscape.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Constraints

The small size of the wood and difficult management access limit the opportunities for silvicultural management and sale of timber resulting from this.

Deer browsing could become a threat to the wood in the future.

#### Opportunities

Natural colonisation of trees and shrubs from the adjacent hedge.

### Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback will affect the species composition of this wood, significantly lowering the percentage of ash.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The overall objective is to maintain a broadleaved woodland with a variety of tree species and age classes, including old and over mature, as well as young seedlings, making the wood as resilient as possible to changes such as tree diseases. The woodland will be regenerating with a variety of species also.

Its likely that in the next 10 years the percentage of ash will heavily decline due to ash dieback. Some early intervention and felling of the ash will be required for safety reasons and to ensure the development of other tree species, before a major loss of ash occurs. However, an ash component will be retained in the wood and some regeneration of ash will be favoured along with other species.

### Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

The objective during this plan period is to introduce more variety of tree species within ash dominated parts of the wood and to lessen the safety risk posed by ash dieback. An operation will be carried out in 2019 initially to thin established ash within falling distance of the paths and to open up the canopy for natural regeneration to occur. It is likely that the small scale of felling carried out will negate any timber extraction and revenue but this will be explored with the contractor. Subsequent monitoring will be carried out to assess the response of natural regeneration to the thinning, and assess whether any more thinning is required to encourage this.

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## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.74	Ash	1995	High forest	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

This compartment comprises the whole wood. The wood was planted in January 1995 and is composed of approx 35% ash and 35% oak with smaller proportions of willow, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, and dog rose as well as some experimental disease resistant elm.

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**Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)**

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Selective Fell	1.00	5	5
2022	1a	Selective Fell	1.00	5	5

## GLOSSARY

### **Ancient Woodland**

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

### **Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland**

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

### **Ancient Woodland Site**

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

### **Beating Up**

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

### **Broadleaf**

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

### **Canopy**

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

### **Clearfell**

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### **Compartment**

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

### **Conifer**

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

### **Continuous Cover forestry**

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

### **Coppice**

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

### **Exotic (non-native) Species**

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

### **Field Layer**

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

### **Group Fell**

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

### **Long Term Retention**

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

### **Minimum Intervention**

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

### **Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

### **National vegetation classification (NVC)**

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

### **Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

### **Natural Regeneration**

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

## **Origin & Provenance**

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

## **Re-Stocking**

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

## **Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

## **Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

## **Stand**

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

## **Sub-Compartment**

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

## **Thinning**

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

## **Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes**

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

## **Weeding**

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

## **Windblow/Windthrow**

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.