

Frank's Wood

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website 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.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, 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. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our 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 natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities 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 encourage our woods to be used for 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. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long,

50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 F1 Connecting People with woods & trees
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5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Frank's Wood

Location:	Colerne	Grid	reference:	ST822713	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	173
Area:	1.96 hectares (4.84 acres)								
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty								
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Frank's Wood is a small woodland creation site in the attractive village of Colerne a few miles west of Chippenham and lies just within the southern tip of the Cotswolds AONB. The wood is situated on the Cotswolds Jurassic Oolitic limestone plateau, an important landscape feature, characteristic of the area found within the National Character Area 107: Cotswolds. This NCA is characterised by deep, wide valleys and tree-lined streams with a patchwork of arable and pasture land, with hedges, dry stone walls and occasional woodland blocks. A few miles to the east lies Colerne Park and Monk's Wood, a 47ha area of ancient semi natural woodland which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Other large areas of woodland lie to the north and west. Derived from the underlying limestone, soils are typically calcareous and well-aerated.

To the north east and north west of the site are pasture and farmland. Houses border the upper section of the south western side with the lower section bordering a field. A country lane and houses run along the south eastern side. Dry stone walls run along three sides of the site forming part of a network of dry stone walls in the village and beyond which provide an important habitat niche and are a valuable part of the cultural heritage of the area.

Formerly arable land the site was grassed over by a previous owner and approximately 90% of the site was planted in 2000 as part of the 'Woods on Your Doorstep' millennium project, with mixed native broadleaves, mainly ash, field maple, oak, birch and some woody shrubs. Local people were involved in the wood from the acquisition, through fundraising, design and planting. The wood was named in honour of Frank Entwistle of Colerne who along with Mary Harvey, instigated the project.

On the 18th November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of WWII, the Parish remembered the 23 soldiers from the village by planting a tree in their memory. The commemorative planting area is on the western side of the site. The site is on a gentle slope, with management and public access via a short gravel path, on a gentle gradient, from Eastrip Lane at the south western corner of the wood. There is another entrance further along Eastrip Lane which has a few steps up into the site. The site is generally well drained and has good views across the By Brook valley in the direction of the village of Box.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Frank's Wood will develop into a mature, native, broadleaved woodland with a healthy tree canopy and understory composed of woodland shrubs and flora. Management will be largely through natural processes with limited intervention undertaken as necessary to maintain light levels and enhance structural diversity or for safety reasons. There are dry stone walls on three sides of Frank's Wood. These are of local character and are an important local feature as well as a habitat for wildlife. These will be maintained/repared as necessary as part of safety/boundary responsibility/local cultural heritage & significance reasons.

The wood helps fulfil the Trust's aim of inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees as it:

- provides an excellent place for people to walk, particularly for those based in the village;
- provides opportunities for educations/outdoor opportunities and the appreciation of the countryside
- adds to the local rights of way network.

Located in an attractive village where locals take a keen interest, Frank's Wood will be managed as an important open access area where the public are welcome. The signs, information board and well-kept paths will be managed to encourage public interest and participation in the woodland.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 F1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description
A small but well used wood, easily accessible from the village of Colerne. There is an information board at the main access point which leads onto a mown path around the wood. From the NE corner there are extensive views out across the Wiltshire countryside.
Significance
Informal public access to Frank's Wood, works to achieve the Trust's aim to inspire people to value woods and trees. It also adds interest to the village of Colerne and provides an excellent place for locals to walk and enjoy quiet recreation. A well-maintained site allows people to enjoy and value the site, both local individuals as well as organised visits such as school trips.
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunity: to work with interested volunteers/community groups to undertake management works/site activities that further help to achieve Trust aim of encouraging everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.</p> <p>Constraints: Lack of formal parking at the main entrance and also of nearby parking/pavements may discourage some potential visitors, who need to walk along adjoining roads to reach the site.</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>Increase or decrease in level of use</p> <p>Damage caused by deer to natural regeneration</p> <p>Flytipping</p> <p>Misuse of the site by visitors e.g. litter/campfires</p> <p>Current tree diseases such as Chalara dieback in ash</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The wood will remain open to the public for quiet informal recreation predominantly by locals from Colerne and as the wood grows it will give improved and varied opportunities for woodland walks, views, activities and wildlife interest.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>Operational Objective:</p> <p>Accessible, well-maintained woodland used by the public. Path network and entrances remain in good condition and are appropriate for the level and type of use.</p>

Work Programme:

Public access will be managed by mowing the paths and maintaining entrance points within the Estate Management Contract. This will help offer accessible access to the site and maintain the Woodland Trust welcome.

Litter clearance from the site will be undertaken as necessary.

Any fly tipping noted during site visits by Site Manager/ Contractors/visitors to be cleared

Action any works necessary for safety reasons

4.2 F2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The woodland was planted as part of the 'Woods on Your Doorstep' Millennium project. It contains a mixture of native broadleaves and shrubs, covering approximately 90% of the whole site. The 10% open space is located around the outside edges of the wood and allows a circular walk around the site. A path through the centre of the wood further diversifies the site to the benefit of both wildlife and people. Temporary bramble clumps encroaching from the edges provide low level/scrub habitat which are important for a wide range of species, such as butterflies.

Significance

The Trust's objective of creating more native woods is adequately fulfilled in the new woodland becoming established. The Wood and the dry stone walls are key characteristics of the National Character Area profile and the Wood also provides Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) habitats of principal importance -broadleaved mixed woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity: to work with interested volunteers/community groups to undertake management works/site activities that further help to achieve Trust aim of encouraging everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. For example, the Cotswold Warden AONB Voluntary Wardens have approached the Trust about:

- A) Creating and maintaining a wildflower area on the north eastern side. This would involve cutting back some vegetation to prepare the ground for seeding. Local seeds would need to be used that match the soil conditions
- B) Planting an oak tree (would need to be UK Sourced and Grown) – most likely in the middle area where there is higher light levels
- C) Coppicing to maintain the graduated ride edge on the eastern side, aiming for 1/5th to be coppiced back to the tree line along the north eastern edge over the next 5 years.

These suggested projects will be explored in terms of their feasibility in the early stage of this management plan and implemented if all parties are in agreement, that the plans will be in line with the objectives of the Trust for the site and are achievable for all parties.

Factors Causing Change

Deer damage

Grey squirrel damage

Invasive non-native species taking hold
Storm damage altering canopy structure thus affecting light levels
Spread of diseases such as Chalara fraxinea (Ash dieback)
Fly tipping
Increase/decrease in level of use/misuse of the site

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Healthy, mature, mixed broadleaf woodland with a naturally regenerating understory with retention of approximately maximum 20% open space with graduated wood edge alongside ride edges achieved through natural processes and limited intervention.

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

Operational Objective:

A mixed native broadleaf woodland that is managed as high forest through limited intervention with a diverse understory and developing ground flora.

Work programme:

Action any necessary works resulting from tree safety inspections.

Control encroaching bramble as required through EMC or volunteers

Control ragwort when necessary

Continue with repairs for boundary walls as necessary.

Coppice woodland edges / fell trees as necessary to maintain graduated ride edge / address any tree safety issues

Manage, through licence scheme, the maintenance of the commemorative planting

Manage, e.g. through licence scheme, the maintenance of any habitat creation work projects led by volunteers

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.92	Ash	2000	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Mixed native broadleaves planted in late 2000 with 23 commemorative trees planted in 2018 for soldiers who fought in WWI</p> <p>Main species planted include ash and field maple to replicate the species typical of the area. Oak, birch and woody shrubs such as hazel and hawthorn are also present, generally concentrated around the periphery. A circular path runs around the outer edge of the wood as well as an internal path running south west to north east. Ground flora is developing with species such as meadow cranesbill, musk mallow, field scabious, bee orchids and pyramidal orchid noted.</p> <p>Stone walls form the boundary on three sides. Repairs have been undertaken in previous Management Plan periods by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, led by Russell Harding. A plaque on the roadside wall details this work and a second plaque commemorates Russell Harding for his long-standing involvement in the wood.</p> <p>The north-eastern side adjoins a horse paddock.</p>						

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.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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