

Woodland Trust Management Plan

Hoggs Kiss Wood

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



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

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Hoggs Kiss Wood

Location:	Debenham, Winston Grid reference: TM177634 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 156
Area:	3.17 hectares (7.83 acres)
External Designations:	Archeological Site
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Hoggs Kiss Wood is situated on the eastern side of Debenham in Mid Suffolk. It was planted by the local community in 1998 as part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' initiative to commemorate the Millennium. It is easily accessible from the village and links with Hoppit wood. Hoppit wood was created in 2004 by the local community on land to the north of, and bordering Hoggs Kiss Wood, where there is a lake, woodland, orchards and open grassland. Together, these woodlands have contributed to the biodiversity of the area and created a valuable recreational green space for the local community. The village and surrounding areas nestle in the upper reaches of the River Deben with the associated geologies comprised of underlying chalk with overlying clays and gravels.

In an arable dominated landscape, Hogg's Kiss Wood provides an area of young native woodland which increases the habitat and ecological diversity of the area. The site is sloping and was planted as a native broadleaf woodland with a 50% mix of oak and ash, along with cherry, small leaved lime, field maple, hornbeam and a mix of shrubs. The Millennium feature, a wildflower meadow, was created in the south of the site where the land has some archaeological interest. In the centre of the site, an area of hazel coppice was planted.

The name Hoggs Kiss was an old name for Priory Lane which leads up to the wood. The remains of the old Priory are thought to be under the allotments to the west of the site, with associated archaeological interest potentially under the area of wildflower meadow.

Key Features:-

- Secondary woodland
- Informal public access
- Wildflower meadow

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Hoggs Kiss Wood will be allowed to develop naturally into a well-structured and resilient native broadleaved woodland with a canopy dominated by oaks and cherry, with a understorey of hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn hedges. The open habitats of the central glade, meadow and sunny rides will be maintained. The woodland edge habitat will be managed to diversify the species and age structure of the wood. Some thinning and coppicing will be carried out to improve the woodland structure and encourage natural regeneration.

Public Access. The site will continue to be visited and enjoyed by local people, remaining open to the public and managed in a way that secures and enhances the positive experience visitors have of the site. The entrances, path network, benches and attractively diverse habitats will be maintained along with unrestricted access to the meadow. Access will continue to be linked into the neighbouring Hoppit Wood and ponds.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
There is a network of maintained footpaths in total approximately 1km in length and unsurfaced that run throughout Hoggs Kiss Wood. There is open access to the meadow. There are entrances from the north through Hoppit Wood, from Water Lane in the southwestern corner and a management gate along the western boundary.
Significance
Hoggs Kiss wood provides a valuable community wood in a farmland landscape with little other woodland. There is access to Hoppit wood from the site and a popular bridleway runs along the western and northern boundaries.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities – easy access from the village. The new Hoppit Wood extends the area of woodland and increases the habitat diversity of the area. Constraints - misuse of the site, increased pressure from new housing to the north west of the site beyond Hoppit Wood. The footpaths can become muddy in the winter.
Factors Causing Change
Vegetation encroaching onto footpaths
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Maintain the permissive pedestrian path system and all internal structures to a high standard so that visitors to the site continue to enjoy the positive experience they have at Hogg's Kiss wood
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
To maintain the site as an area of informal public access, with the pathways cut to a minimum of 2m and cleared of any encroaching vegetation. To open out selected areas of the pathways by coppicing, clearing or scalloping. This will increase the habitat, age and structural diversity of the site, and allowing more light into these areas will be beneficial for insects. Replace broken information board at the Water Lane entrance. Remedial work to hole in the timber of the northern access bridge – use a bespoke non slip surface suitable for outdoor bridges and boardwalks Ensure entrances and benches are kept in a presentable, clear and tidy condition. Work Programme Path cut - May undertake path cut 1.5 metre width. Path Cut – August undertake path cut 1.5 metre width.

Replace and update signage.
 Replace sleeper bridges on perimeter.
 Coppice and scalloping along ride edges (50m per year) in 2024 and 2026.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Hogg's Kiss is a native broadleaf woodland planted through the 'Woods On Your Doorstep initiative. It has developed into an interesting wood with a light, closed canopy and irregular glades. To the north of the site, there are more open areas due to ash dieback and rabbit grazing. A recent reduction in the number of rabbits has led to an increased level of regeneration throughout the wood. The fenced enclosure plots have been successful with strong and varied regeneration. The main species originally planted include pedunculate oak, common ash, field maple, wild cherry, small-leaved lime, hornbeam, common hazel, common hawthorn, guelder rose and dog rose. Compartment 1b was planted as a pure block of common hazel.

Significance

In an arable dominated landscape, Hogg's Kiss Wood provides an area of new native woodland which increases the habitat and ecological diversity of the area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities - to maintain a valuable woodland habitat close to Debenham.

Constraints - the rabbit population have in the past caused significant damage to the planting and reduced natural regeneration.

Factors Causing Change

Currently the rabbit population has reduced greatly due to rabbit viral haemorrhaging disease, but if it increases again, the rabbits could have a negative impact on the developing woodland

Ash dieback. Whilst this will reduce the number of ash trees, the small sunny glades created will be beneficial for insects and allow natural regeneration of trees and shrubs, thereby diversifying the age structure of the wood. It will also increase the deadwood habitat within the wood. Ash dieback will be monitored and may require intervention if trees become unsafe.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A resilient, attractive and structurally diverse woodland will develop through a process of natural regeneration and intervention. Where possible, the range of scrub, thicket and young woodland habitats will be allowed to develop and diversify through natural processes. Expected canopy species will include oak and lime, filtering down to cherry, hornbeam, and shrub species such as hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn. The canopy has only just achieved closure in some parts and with ash dieback has led to some gaps forming again. In the future once the canopy becomes fully closed some silvicultural interventions will be required to create variation within the structure.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
The ash dieback will be monitored with intervention where trees become unsafe. Leave as standing deadwood or stack in habitat piles. Maintain the central glade by the bench as open space and clear any encroaching scrub or regeneration. Rotational coppicing of the hazel block (twice throughout the plan period) will increase the habitat, age and structural diversity of the woods. Monitor natural regeneration both inside the regen guards and throughout the woodland for changes in rabbit grazing.
Work programme. Coppice and scalloping along ride edges (50m per year) in 2024 and 2026.

4.3 f3 Open Ground Habitat

Description
The meadow at the southern end of the site was designed as the Millennium feature and is within an area of potential archaeological interest. The grassland is not of high botanical interest as it is likely to be improved and high in nutrients due to previous land use. Notable common species include knapweed and comfrey, both good nectar sources for bees.
Significance
To increase the variety of habitats and biodiversity within the site.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities - improve biodiversity by continuing to maintain the open ground habitat with the aim of increasing the variety of flora
Factors Causing Change
Natural succession to woodland, arable weeds, misuse of site
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The meadow will be maintained as open ground, increasing the biodiversity of the site.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Cut the meadow after seeding in August and remove the arisings. Reducing the fertility of the meadow will encourage a greater variety of flora. Clear any encroaching scrub and regeneration from the meadow area. Clear litter and fly tipping from site to maintain the aesthetic appearance and reduce any potential hazards.
Operation: Cut and collect annually – August - Cut meadow and collect all arising’s. All cuttings can be placed within the existing woodland area to naturally biodegrade.



5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2024	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	October
2024	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December
2026	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	2.51	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	High forest		
Area was planted 1998. A Fescue grass mix was initially sown in what was an arable field. Species include 25% oak, 25% ash, 10% field maple, 10% wild cherry, 10% small-leaved lime, 10% hornbeam, 10% woody shrubs (hazel, hawthorn, guelder rose, dog rose).						
1b	0.25	Hazel	1998	Min-intervention		
A small hazel coppice planted at 1.5m x 1.5m spacing to mark the new millenium. Traditional coppice management of this area will serve to maintain views of the village from the centre of the site.						
1c	0.4	Open ground	1998	Non-wood habitat		Archeological Site
Wildflower meadow has been created in this area which has some archaeological interest						

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:

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