

Castle Camps Millennium 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

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Informal Public Access
 - 4.2 f2 New Native Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Castle Camps Millennium Wood

Location:	Castle Camps, Haverhill Grid reference: TL626430 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 154
Area:	5.09 hectares (12.58 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Castle Camps is one of 200 Woods On Your Doorstep sites, planted for the turn of the Millennium and makes up just over 5 Ha of new native woodland south of the Village of Castle Camps

Planted with the help of the community in November 1999, this previously arable field continues to develop into an established native broadleaved woodland at the heart of the community. The wood is well used by the local community and the local primary school use the wood for Forest School activities.

Oak, Ash and Beech were the main species of tree planted. Ash Dieback is present within Castle Camps Wood and has resulted with much of the ash succumbing to the disease. An old boundary hedge with mature trees also provides ecological diversity at the northern edge of the site .

The site slopes gently towards the South West, catching the sun and offering fantastic views over the gently rolling arable landscape of southern Cambridgeshire. The River Granta flows through the southern boundary of the woodland, and a small pond was created within the woodland to add further ecological interest within the wood. The earthwork remains of a motte and bailey castle can be viewed to the south.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention for the wood is to be managed as high forest consisting of primarily native broadleaved tree and shrub species, with developing standing and fallen deadwood habitat.

The woods future tree species composition will be primarily of Oak and Beech supported by developing Lime trees. Ash will still be a feature of the site, and with the prevalence of Ash Dieback within the wood , the Ash will help to provide a deadwood element to the site. The wood will be managed through a combination of natural regeneration and good forestry management practices, as well as some restocking of key species to further improve the species and structural diversity of the wood.

Shrub species will continue to develop across the wood and include species such as Hawthorn and Blackthorn, within the understorey which will provide structural and ecological diversity to the site

The River Granta that runs through the site will be a key feature and will be managed with an open grassland ride adjacent.

Castle Camps Wood will be open to the public in perpetuity . Low key public access will be maintained to the site and the paths, signs, and other furniture that allows safe access for the public are to be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Castle Camps village and the surrounding parishes. The wood will continue to maintain its links to other public rights of way within the vicinity. A continued relationship with the local primary school in Castle Camps and their Forest School will provide opportunities for local young people to visit the wood.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
Around 1km of well-defined footpaths, most of which are permissive, however are linked to the Public RoW system via the Public Footpath which intersects the North Western corner of the site. Four short circular walks are possible, and the site is only a few hundred meters from the centre of Castle Camps village, with some limited parking off Church lane (Quiet single track road with passing places).
Significance
Well used by local people who enjoy the quiet seclusion in an area where accessible woodland is otherwise scarce. The site effectively links public footpaths to make interesting circular walks available from the nearby villages.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: -Strong community interest and willingness to be involved. (As exhibited by the initial creation of the site) -Strong ties with Parish council - links to Castle Camps Primary school Constraints: -Relatively small local population -Site of limited size
Factors Causing Change
-encroachment of Woody vegetation.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Castle Camps Wood will be open to the public in perpetuity. Low key public access will be maintained to the site and the paths, signs, and other furniture that allows safe access for the public are to be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Castle Camps village and the surrounding parishes. The wood will continue to maintain its links to other public rights of way within the vicinity. A continued relationship with the local primary school in Castle Camps and their Forest School will provide opportunities for local young people to visit the wood.

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

The 1000m of paths and rides are to be maintained annually with a ride system cut 3 times annually to a minimum of 2m to allow unhindered access for the public, as detailed in EMC Spec 2.01

Site safety to be maintained through regular inspections:

Associated signage (Site name/welcome signs) to be kept in good condition at all times and maintained as detailed in EMC Spec 1.01, with a five yearly review of access facilities by the Site Manager

-Access monitoring inspection- 2026.

-Zone A Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 24 months

-Zone B Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 36 months

4.2 f2 New Native Woodland

Description

4.0 ha of trees were planted at 2250 / ha. The main species are oak 50%; ash 20%; beech 5% and lime 5%. All were individually protected with sleeves and shrubs are in shelters. No planting has taken place within 6m of wayleave lines and a 3m margin has been retained around the boundaries for maintenance. 10m has been retained for the River Granta. A pond has been constructed towards the northern edge of the site. As a result of this, 1.16 ha of the site remains unplanted. Some restocking has previously occurred in areas where there has been significant levels of ash Dieback.

The old boundary hedge forming the northern boundary is species rich and includes hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, oak, privet, field maple, elder, elm and bramble. It also has toadflax, bush vetch and primrose growing in its base making it unusually rich, possibly due to a former land use as an orchard.

Significance

Local Woodland is in small and highly fragmented parcels and so any native woodland planting is of benefit. This particular site links, protects and is enhancing the last vestiges of semi-natural habitat that existed within this site, including the river, old hedgerows, and a developing pond. The proportion of open space, woodland edge and sunny aspect of the site will make excellent butterfly habitat when the wood becomes more established and offers better shelter.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

- Sunny aspect and open space offers potential to offer species rich rides and woodland edge habitat.
- replanting options with native non-Ash species

Constraints:

-The power lines crossing the site are a consideration, especially as the trees mature in future years
Factors Causing Change
-Deer - Ash Dieback - Limited growth rates in certain areas of the site
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>The long term intention for the wood is to be managed as high forest consisting of primarily native broadleaved tree and shrub species, with developing standing and fallen deadwood habitat.</p> <p>The woods future tree species composition will be primarily of Oak and Beech supported by developing Lime trees. Ash will still be a feature of the site, and with the prevalence of Ash Dieback within the wood , the Ash will help to provide a deadwood element to the site. The wood will be managed through a combination of natural regeneration and good forestry management practices to further improve the species and structural diversity of the wood.</p> <p>Shrub species will continue to develop across the wood and include species such as Hawthorn and Blackthorn, within the understorey which will provide structural and ecological diversity to the site</p> <p>The River Granta that runs through the site will be a key feature and will be managed with an open grassland ride adjacent.</p>
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>The desired objectives within the plan period will be for the secondary woodland to continue to see a development towards a high forest structure with developing deadwood habitat and developing natural regeneration through natural processes.</p> <p>Work Programme</p> <p>Survey to monitor growth success of previous small scale restocking in low growth areas ,and create plan for future small scale restocking, if required by survey. Biodegradable guards to be used on any replacement trees.</p> <p>Survey- September 2023 Restock- November 2024 (if required) Survey - September 2026 (if required)</p> <p>Restocked Tree Maintenance</p> <p>Strim around restocked trees (protected with eco-friendly tree tubes) to suppress woody and invasive weeds.</p> <p>Strim round restock trees -June 2024</p>

June 2025
June 2026

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	July
2024	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	December
2025	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	July
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	July

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5.16	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	Min-intervention		
<p>Beech ash and oak were the main species of tree planted, with shrubs including hawthorn and blackthorn. The site comprises of a single field gently facing to the south-west in what is generally, a slightly undulating, arable landscape. A tall old hedge belonging to the site forms the northern boundary and is ecologically important as well as being a landscape feature. . A small water course - the upper reaches of the River Granta cuts through the SW corner of the site and is bridged in two places for access. An overhead power line crosses the site at the eastern end and a sewer runs through the centre in a generally east - west direction. A public footpath crosses the site at the northern end. . A pond has been created at the northern end and serves as the Millennium Feature</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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