

# Foxley Wood

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

## 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](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.

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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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 Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Foxley Wood

Location:	Linton, Swadlincote Grid reference: SK280167 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 128
Area:	28.40 hectares (70.18 acres)
External Designations:	National Forest
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Foxley Wood was purchased by the Woodland Trust on 17th November 1995. It extends to some 28.7ha and was previously two large arable fields in a five year agricultural set-aside agreement. It falls within the National Forest and funding for its creation came largely from this source, being one of the first Tender Scheme winners. This part of the National Forest has lots of woodland cover, so Foxley Wood is part of a patchwork of woodland creation sites, all of a similar age that make up a high proportion of the local landscape.

A public footpath runs along the northern side of what was a newly planted dividing hedgerow in a generally east - west direction. A public bridleway also runs within the site, in the NE corner and a gas pipeline generally NW to SE. The name originates from the local name 'Foxley Fields' given to the fields now planted. Because of the set-aside agreement, the site was planted over two seasons. The northern part was planted in the autumn of 1996 and the remainder a year later. Local people were involved in the sites design and large numbers turned out to plant the first trees at a public event. Local interest in the site remains very high and liaison with Linton Parish Council is both regular and positive.

The site is generally constitutes a mix of single age, native broadleaf trees but the wide rides and glades give the site a distinct feel. There are also some large, older trees dotted around the boundaries and one or two within the site as well. A deep ditch, surrounded by dense vegetation runs along the north eastern boundary of the site and provides added interest. 1ha in the far SW corner was retained for the exclusive design by Linton Primary School. They elected to have a surfaced path, restore the pond, and build a mound with spoil later known as 'Linton Knob' and interestingly, plant quite a high proportion of mixed conifer trees. These they later planted when every child in the school came out to a dedicated tree planting day.

A permissive bridleway was included along the eastern boundary and a car park built at the Linton Heath end.

The key features of this site are informal public access and Secondary Woodland

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

The wood will be allowed to reach maturity and will develop the characteristics of more naturally occurring woodland, as opposed to a plantation of single aged trees. As the woodland was planted with a predominantly ash and oak mix and ADB has vastly reduced the long term survival and potential co-dominance of ash on site, the woodland is likely to evolve into an oak dominated wood, however cherry, birch, willow and other species will always be retained. For this reason silvicultural intervention will be considered as the wood develops to ensure the wood is diverse in tree species and structure, to promote a good mixture of both young and mature trees. This will enable the wood to be more resilient to change in the future, and will ensure it supports the greatest range of wildlife.

Open habitats will also remain and be managed within the woodland matrix, including the meadow areas but also sunny rides.

A good standard of access provision will be maintained at Foxley Wood. The entrances will be accessible and clearly signed as per WT Spec 1.1 It shall be clearly visible from approach routes, attractive and inviting, easy and safe to use. The existing path network will be kept open for use and any new desire line paths that are created and are sensible will become official paths and be maintained. The information board on site will be maintained for as long as it is deemed attractive and usable. If funding becomes available for new interpretation on the site then this will be pursued.

The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections as per Woodland Trust Internal Guidance and best practice.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

<b>Description</b>
The whole of the 28.7ha is open for informal public access. There are 2700m of grass footpaths regularly mown during the summer months, 800m of horse / cycle route and a further 300m of surfaced pathway suitable for the less able. A car park is available at the eastern end of the site and there are welcome signs at all of the entrances.
<b>Significance</b>
Foxley Wood lies immediately adjacent to Linton and Linton Heath. It therefore attracts large numbers of local visitors daily. Many of these are dog walkers. It is strategically placed relative to other new woodlands and the heart of the National Forest
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
There is the opportunity to further promote the woodland in the National Forest to increase visitor use and further raise the Woodland Trusts profile.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
Ash die back may make some paths unsafe but tree safety monitoring will inform decisions on future management.
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
Open access will be retained throughout the whole of the site. The 3500m of grass paths and entrances will be cut during the summer months to keep them clear and well defined. Signage will be maintained for visitors use at the entrances. Litter will be collected regularly. Regular inspections will be made to check the visitor facilities and site safety.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
Mow paths in May, June, July, August and September to a width of 2.5m including a strip around entrances, signs and benches. Entrance maintenance will take place in May and July. Monitoring will take place once every 2 years to check on the standard and quality of access provision and the safety of the trees along the path network.

### 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

<b>Description</b>
The site is a predominantly single aged mixture of native broad leaved species, with a small area of conifers in the south west. One area of the site has had a silvicultural intervention, allowing more light to stimulate natural regeneration.
<b>Significance</b>



The woodland forms part of an ever expanding forest and lies in an important strategic location relative to other woodlands. This is important as a link for wildlife and is also important in providing a wooded landscape feature.

#### **Opportunities & Constraints**

The gas pipeline is a constraint. However, the line provides for a view over the Trent Valley to the north.

#### **Factors Causing Change**

Ash die back has hit the woodland and there will be a significant change to the ash component. Light levels in the ash areas will also increase affecting the ground flora. Squirrel damage here is not as notable as in other National Forest woodlands, however the grey squirrel could still pose a serious threat to the health of the tree stock and safety of visitors should their levels increase.

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

To allow the woodland to develop into native high-forest with trees and shrubs of varying age classes and species types. The woodland will be subject to occasional interventions, as informed by periodic WCA's, but allowing natural processes to shape the wood as much as possible. Woodland Condition Assessments will inform management going into the future, interventions only taking place if highlighted as necessary by these assessments; the aim being to ensure the long term resilience of the woodland in perpetuity.

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

Monitor the woodland through Woodland Condition Observations once every 5 years to ensure its continued health and development. As the site now has a closed canopy and light levels hitting the woodland floor have fallen, a first thinning operation will be required to re-space the trees, increase light levels and subsequently improve biodiversity across the site. Continue to work with community woodfuel group to achieve this objective.

Open areas to be managed in a cyclical cutting rota, maintaining areas of scrub within the site.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2022	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Works that have to be undertaken by Woodland Trust as part of with legal agreements made with third parties such as erection of boundary fencing, surfacing of joint access tracks, maintenance of drainage ditches. Also works associated with safeguarding the Woodland Trust legal position – such as erection of boundary markers on open boundaries, removal of illegal third party structures/vehicles/campsites	September
2022	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	October
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2024	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	March
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	28.7	Ash	1997	High forest		National Forest

The whole site is regarded as one compartment and is fully stocked. Trees were planted at 2.1m spacing with 2250 stems / ha. The main species are oak and ash (50%) with birch and cherry with willow and alder in damper areas. Shrubs (10%) are located on ride sides. The trees in the southern sector are one season younger and this is noticeable on the ground, the canopy being less closed than those to the north. This difference will become less obvious during the course of this plan. Wide open rides allow for the views to the north and a wayleave over a gas pipeline.

### **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.**

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.