



# Eynsham Wood

## Management Plan 2014-2019

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1	
5.2	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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

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## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

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

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk). Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) through independent audit. In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

## SUMMARY

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

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Eynsham Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Eynsham
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SP425101, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 164
<b>Area:</b>	5.36 hectares (13.24 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This young, planted wood is the Woodland Trust's 200th "Woods on Your Doorstep" millennium project. Various grass rides and paths (some muddy) take you through and round the maturing woodland.

### 2.2 Extended Description

Eynsham Wood is located to the west of Oxford on the A40, and just north of the village of Eynsham, from which the wood derives its name. The wood was planted in December 2000 with the help of local people. Eynsham Wood was part of the Woodland Trust's 'woods of your doorstep' (WOYD) project. It was the 200th WOYD site to be acquired by The Trust, and sponsorship from Homebase paid for the purchase. Prior to the Trust's ownership the site was in arable cultivation.

The wood has been planted with native trees and the major tree species are oak (30%) and ash (25%), along with field maple, hazel and cherry. There are other minor species and also specimen crab apple trees. Three pure blocks of hazel have been established, each of 0.25ha in size. Most of the perimeter boundary contains a mature hedgerow, with occasional willows.

A network of wide rides throughout makes the wood accessible for the public and there is a public bridleway on the western boundary. A seat with a living willow sculpture was installed as a millennium feature in the central glade.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Getting to the site: there is a bus stop near the Evenlode public house on the A40 with buses passing to/from Oxford. The nearest railway station is Hanborough Station near Long Hanborough about 4km to the north and Oxford Station lies about 11km to the east.

There are three entrances to the site - a bridleway gate in the north-west corner, a management and bridleway gate off Freeland Road, in the south-west corner and a large kissing gate on the southern side, off the A40. The pedestrian gates are not fully accessible to all. A public bridleway runs along the western boundary from the Freeland Road entrance, up a concrete track, to the gate at the north-west corner of the site. The site gently slopes towards the south and there are no surfaced paths on site.

Car parking is difficult at the site, and access by car is best achieved by parking in the village of Eynsham and then crossing the A40 (at the pedestrian crossing) to enter the wood via the large kissing gate on the A40 road frontage.

The nearest public toilets are at Back Lane Car Park, Eynsham (not open 24 hours). See [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) for more details.

(Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0871 200 22 33 )

All distances are approximate.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The young trees are now established and the woodland will be managed with the minimum of silvicultural intervention. The deadwood habitat will increase over time, as some trees die through competition for space. A large proportion of the young ash trees will almost certainly be lost through ash dieback disease, and this will create gaps and structural diversity to the plantation. The gaps are likely to initially be filled by shrub species such as hawthorn and rose and later by oak. The wood is likely to be dominated by oak when the trees reach maturity. There is an opportunity to coppice and manage the small blocks of hazel to generate local wood products, if there is interest by the local community in the future.

Eynsham Wood has been designated as a Category C site for public access (Low usage site where we do maintain paths). Management for access will therefore be low key with paths and entrances being cut back at least once a year and small welcome signs erected at the entrances. Safety of the site will be managed through annual tree safety surveys in high risk zones, such as the A40 roadside. Monitoring will be carried out to check on threats to the wood, eg from diseases or anti-social behaviour.

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## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

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

### 5.1

Description
Significance
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

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**5.2**

**Description**

**Significance**

**Opportunities & Constraints**

**Factors Causing Change**

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

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

## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance management: 1. Mow/cut back all paths as shown to approx 3m in width ensuring overhanging branches are dealt with 2. Cut back vegetation at all marked entrances, clean signs and carry out any minor repairs 3. Remove litter from entrances and paths	30/06/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut back roadside hedge along A40 to give clearance along the footpath.	31/10/14
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance management: 1. Mow/cut back all paths as shown to approx 3m in width ensuring overhanging branches are dealt with 2. Cut back vegetation at all marked entrances, clean signs and carry out any minor repairs 3. Remove litter from entrances and paths	30/06/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut back roadside hedge/trees to allow access for pedestrians and cyclists along path.	30/09/15
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut back blackthorn along path on eastern side of the site. Aim to create 6 scallops, cutting back the blackthorn where it is encroaching the most. The blackthorn should be cut back to the fence line in the scallops and they should be at least 10m in length. Chip the arisings. Allow 4 man days plus hire of brushwood chipper.	30/06/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut back roadside hedge along A40 to give clearance along the footpath to cyclists and pedestrians.	30/06/16

2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance management: 1. Mow/cut back all paths as shown to approx 3m in width ensuring overhanging branches are dealt with 2. Cut back vegetation at all marked entrances, clean signs and carry out any minor repairs 3. Remove litter from entrances and paths	30/06/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Replacement bench to go under the willow bower in the central glade. Order a Chiddingstone-style bench with High Weald furniture. Ask EMC contractor to install. The original bench is part of a dedication. The dedications team have approached the original donors for a contribution towards the cost of a replacement. Original plaque to be placed onto the new bench.	31/07/16
2016	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Cut back roadside hedge following complaint from Oxon CC	30/09/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Install replacement bench	30/09/16
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut back all roadside hedges from management entrance on Cuckoo Lane around junction and along A40 to give clearance along the footpath to cyclists and pedestrians.	30/06/17

2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	<p>Path and entrance management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Entrances - maintenance and inspection: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cut back vegetation around all signs and entrances so signs / info boards are clearly visible and accessible</li> <li>b. Cleaning of all signage with anti-fungal wash and treatment of wooden signs with Danish oil</li> <li>c. Fixing of any immediate problems with entrance furniture such as broken fence rails etc.</li> <li>d. Reporting of any more serious problems or replacement requirements to SM.</li> <li>e. Removal of any out of date temporary signage from entrances / notice boards</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Path cutting and maintenance <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clear fallen, leaning or hung up vegetation from entrances and paths throughout</li> <li>b. Cut all marked paths to approx. 3m width, cutting back any encroaching branches</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Collect and remove litter from entrances, road frontages and paths</li> </ol>	30/06/17
2018	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Oder 1 x breadboard sign 'Eynsham Wood'	31/01/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	<p>Path and entrance management:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mow/cut back all paths as shown to approx 3m in width ensuring overhanging branches are dealt with</li> <li>2. Cut back vegetation at all marked entrances, clean signs and carry out any minor repairs</li> <li>3. Remove litter from entrances and paths</li> </ol>	30/06/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut back all roadside hedges from management entrance on Cuckoo Lane around junction and along A40 to give clearance along the footpath to cyclists and pedestrians.	30/06/18

2018	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	See map for details: Entrance P1 - install small welcome sign Entrance P2 - install 1 x breadboard sign 'Eynsham Wood' Entrance P3 - install small welcome sign	31/08/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance management: 1. Mow/cut back all paths as shown to approx 3m in width ensuring overhanging branches are dealt with 2. Cut back vegetation at all marked entrances, clean signs and carry out any minor repairs 3. Remove litter from entrances and paths	31/08/18

## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	5.39	Ash	2000	High forest			
<p>A plantation of native broadleaves planted in December 2000. The main species are oak (30%), ash (25%), hazel (15%) and field maple (15%). Other minor species include wild privet, buckthorn, crab apple and spindle and several varieties of local fruit trees. Three blocks of pure hazel (0.25ha in size) have been included in the planting design.</p>							

## GLOSSARY

### **Ancient Woodland**

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

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

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

### **Ancient Woodland Site**

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

### **Beating Up**

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

### **Broadleaf**

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

### **Canopy**

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

### **Clearfell**

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### **Compartment**

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

### **Conifer**

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

### **Continuous Cover forestry**

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

### **Coppice**

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

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

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

### **Field Layer**

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

### **Group Fell**

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

### **Long Term Retention**

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

### **Minimum Intervention**

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

### **Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

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

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

### **Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

### **Natural Regeneration**

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

## **Origin & Provenance**

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

## **Re-Stocking**

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

## **Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

## **Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

## **Stand**

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

## **Sub-Compartment**

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

## **Thinning**

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

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

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

## **Weeding**

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

## **Windblow/Windthrow**

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