



Harnser Wood

Management Plan 2014-2019

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 or contact the Woodland Trust (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.

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. 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.

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

Site name:	Harnser Wood
Location:	Elsing
Grid reference:	TG047167, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 133
Area:	4.33 hectares (10.70 acres)
Designations:	Woods on your Doorstep

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Harnser Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It was named to commemorate the partnership between the Woodland Trust and the Norfolk Women's institute - its logo is a heron, also known as a harnser.

2.2 Extended Description

The land at Elsing was purchased as one of the Woodland Trusts, Woods on your doorstep projects to create a new community woodland in Norfolk. Harnser wood lies on the western edge of Elsing village to provide a valuable area for Public recreation, local wildlife, and become an important feature in the landscape. The surrounding area is predominantly arable, with small isolated patches of woodland scattered throughout the local landscape.

Harnser wood was planted with a mixture of native broadleaf trees that are common in the local landscape. The species include Oak, ash, field maple, silver birch, cherry and Hornbeam.

The site was named to commemorate the partnership between the Woodland Trust and the Norfolk Women's institute, who were heavily involved in the site through fundraising. The Harnser being another name for the Heron which is the logo for the Norfolk Women's Institute. The site has wooden sculpture situated in the glade that has the Norfolk Women's Institute logo etched into it.

The Key Features for this site are:

Informal Public Access - Harnser wood is open to the public.

Secondary woodland - Planted native secondary woodland.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Harnser wood is situated on the edge of the Norfolk village of Elsing the sites topography is flat and the paths are all mud/grass tracks. There are three entrances all being Kissing gates. There is no on site parking but you are allowed to park at the village hall which is 250 yards from the site.

56: Norwich - Fakenham Via Taverham 56A: Norwich - Fakenham Via Thorpe Marriott

56B: Norwich - Elsing Via Taverham

Link to buses time tables: www.firstgroup.com

There is no train station within the near area.

Link to train time tables: www.onerailway.com

There are no public Toilets within the village of but the Mermaid Inn at Elsing have the closest Toilets

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision of Harnser wood in 50 years will be a mature broadleaved secondary woodland that has a diverse age structure, developing natural regeneration and deadwood habitat. Once the trees have become established Harnser wood will be allowed to develop naturally and become high forest through minimal intervention.

Public access

The long-term intention is to maintain a sustainable level of access provision by maintaining the access features and internal infrastructure appropriate to the site's use. The long-term management will not create new paths, but will concentrate on maintaining the high standard of paths currently present.

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 Informal Public Access

Description

Harnser wood serves predominantly the local population of the village of Elsing. Free public access is provided across the whole site at all times. Access facilities include wide access for all kissing gates at the entrances, wide grass paths across the site. Seats within the wood.

Significance

Harnser wood received a significant amount of support, and given limited open public access area in the locality, provides an important resource for the village and local area.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is an opportunity to maintain Harnser wood as an area of public open space for the local residents of the village of Elsing.

Factors Causing Change

Vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To keep public access infrastructure at a level where visitors to Harnser wood will be able to utilise a well maintained path network.

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

To maintain site as an area of public open access, with ride system cut 3 times annually to a minimum of 2m to allow unhindered access for the public. Maintain all public access structures such as benches in a safe and usable condition

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The woodland was planted in February 2000 with a native broadleaved species mix at 3m spacing. Although trees have become established woodland has not reached canopy closure due to very poor soil conditions and drought. The woodland is now slowly developing at different rates, which has created an interesting young woodland structure and does not look like a typical planted woodland.

Significance

Establishing Harnser Wood will help to increase the area of new native woodland in Norfolk. On a local level it is a significant new habitat for wildlife in the context of the surrounding landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

Ash Dieback - one of the main species planted was Common ash. There will be potentially a slow decline in the health of this species on site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An established new native woodland which links into the surrounding landscape, that has reached canopy closure and has a good understorey and developing deadwood habitat.

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

The desired condition of the secondary woodland will be to continue to see a development towards a high forest structure with developing deadwood habitat and developing natural regeneration.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2018	AW - Management Access Maintenance	1st Path cut - mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	28/04/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	<p>Access infrastructure improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deer fence removal from perimeter. Do not remove fence where it is inaccessible/cannot be seen due to well developed scrub habitat. Remove from site and dispose off appropriately. There is 845 metres of deer fence in total but not all of this will have to be removed. - Replace existing kissing gate at northern entrance with a new kissing gate (for pushchair and wheelchair users) + 5m approx. of post and rail either side to prevent access. Install approx. 10m stock-proof fencing running along the roadside boundary from the new post and rail fence to the tree/hedge line. This stretch is mainly bramble, which will have to be removed to extract the deer fence, leaving this part of the perimeter exposed. - Replace existing kissing gate and management gate at eastern entrance with new management gate and kissing gate (for pushchair and wheelchair users) + stock-proof fence either side to run up to hedge/tree line and thereby prevent access. Approx. 30-40m of fence in total. - Replace existing kissing gate at southern entrance with a new kissing gate (for pushchair and wheelchair users) + approx. 3.6m of post and rail either side to prevent access. 	30/04/18
2018	AW - Management Access Maintenance	2nd Path cut - mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	26/06/18
2018	AW - Management Access Maintenance	3rd Path cut - mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	31/08/18

2018	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Cut hedge along boundary adjacent to the road	31/10/18
2018	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Cutting of ragwort on site before seeding	30/11/18
2019	AW - Management Access Maintenance	1st Path cut - mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	28/04/19
2019	AW - Management Access Maintenance	2nd Path cut - mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	26/06/19
2019	AW - Management Access Maintenance	3rd Path cut - mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	31/08/19
2019	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Cut hedge along boundary adjacent to the road	31/10/19

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	4.44	Ash	2000	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Woods on your Doorstep

Compartment 1a covers the entire site, which is flat on Sandy light soil, and surrounded on all boundaries by mature hedges. The compartment was planted in November 2000 allowing approximately 20% as open space. The planting consists of oak, hornbeam, ash and birch. Minor species to include Crab apple, Beech, Rowan, Field Maple, Wild cherry. Shrubs will include Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Guelder rose.

Wide grassy paths were incorporated into the initial design of the wood, with a glade and sculpture situated at the southern end of the site. The whole site is surrounded by a deer fence.

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.