



Midford Millennium Wood

Management Plan

2012-2017

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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) 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:	Midford Millennium Wood
Location:	Midford
Grid reference:	ST752605, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 172
Area:	0.79 hectares (1.95 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Midford Millennium Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It lies between the villages of Midford and South Stoke near Bath, and offers spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

2.2 Extended Description

Midford Millennium Wood is situated between the villages of Midford and South Stoke near Bath near the southern edge of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The site is a small field planted with mixed native broadleaves in December 2000 as part of the Woodland Trust's Woods on your Doorstep project. Although small far reaching views are obtained from the southern half of the site. The soils are shallow lying over Cotswold limestone. The new wood adjoins a small country lane and is surrounded by a mixture of pasture, arable and newly planted woodland.

Public and management access is available directly from the public highway.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location

The wood lays 3km south of Bath

Overview

Public access is available direct from the adjoining public road via the existing field gate. The gate itself is slightly set back from the road across a narrow hardcore area and verge.

A small entrance links in with the public footpath to South Stoke the other side of the public road. The wood is also adjacent to the 'Limestone Link' a long distance trail.

Parking

Space is available for 2 cars at the verge adjacent to the entrance

Public Transport

The nearest bus stop is in Midford, which is 400m away down a road without pavements.

Facilities

No public toilets are known of in the vicinity.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term vision at Midford Millenium Wood is for attractive and mature predominantly native broadleaf woodland of a high forest structure with a healthy canopy of trees and an understorey of woodland shrubs. A small degree of light thinning may be required within the next 15-20 years to help the new trees develop. Otherwise however no interventions are planned for this plan period other than shelter removal. This development and establishment continues to contribute to the Woodland Trust's corporate objectives of increasing new native woodland.

Located in a rural area, a short distance from South Stoke and Midford, the locals continue to take a keen interest in the development of the wood. As such it will continue to be managed as an important open access area where the public are welcome. The signs, information board, & well-kept path will all encourage public interest and participation in the woodland, as will the continuing opportunity to enjoy views out of the site over the surrounding countryside fulfilling the Trust's corporate objective of increasing people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland.

The path and glade will be kept open and mowed as necessary to provide appropriate access and valuable rideside habitats. There will be many wood edge habitats, important for nesting birds, invertebrates and woodland / grassland flora. As the developing canopy closes, rough grass in the planted areas will gradually diminish as shade loving plants more typical of recent secondary woodland take over.

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

Public access is available direct from the public highway with a path circulating the site. There is an information board to provide visitors with a map and features of interest.

Significance

Created as part of the Woods on your Doorstep project, the local community has been involved in the fundraising and design and planting of the site. Public access increases peoples enjoyment of woodland and the wood provides diversity of access provision in the immediate area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site is c 0.5 mile from surrounding villages, however the local community were very supportive of the scheme and planted most of the trees. There is a small layby adjacent to the entrance.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A woodland that contains well-maintained & attractive paths & entrances that will form part of the wider network of rights of way. The wood will remain open to the public for quiet informal recreation predominantly by locals from surrounding villages. Existing viewpoints across the surrounding landscape will be retained.

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

Easily accessible, attractive, well maintained and safe woodland that the public frequently enjoy. Entrances and path network are appropriate to the level of use and type of demand from the local population, currently access category C.

Cut path and glade twice a year to maintain at least 2m width.

Signs, entrances and car park checked at least once a year and maintained as necessary. Litter clearance as necessary.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

A mixed native broadleaf wood woodland planted in 2000 with oak, ash and other native species, with a mixed mature hedge along roadside boundary and a leggy hawthorn hedge along western boundary.

Significance

Creating new native woodland is one of the Trust's corporate objectives. As a Woods on your Doorstep site the project has been funded on the understanding that a woodland will be established and maintained for future generations. The site provides a small degree of diversity of habitat in a generally open landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

An area of c 2ha was planted on adjoining land c 1995.
The trees have been slow to establish on the thin poor soils.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Healthy, mature and attractive predominantly native broadleaf woodland of varying structure and habitats. A mixture of trees, shrubs, open glade and developing ground flora.

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

Ensure new woodland planting is healthy, maturing well and is fully stocked to the desired 1100 trees / ha at the end of the plan period. All tree shelters removed by end of plan period.
Control of remaining noxious weeds to maintain rides and for neighbour benefit reviewed annually as to whether it is required.

Monitor tree health/stability to ensure they continue to thrive -ie no extensive disease, or pest damage after shelter removal, which would threaten establishment of the wood.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2012	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance management	30/06/12
2012	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance management, cut paths and glade to full width.	31/08/12
2012	SL - Legal Obligation Work	trim back roadside hedge	31/12/12
2013	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut back blackthorn suckers along inside of north and west boundaries to line of hedge	31/03/13
2013	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	30/05/13
2013	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	31/07/13
2013	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	08/11/13
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	30/05/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	31/07/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	30/09/14
2015	SL - Legal Obligation Work	trim back roadside hedge every second year to benefit wildlife.	28/02/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	30/05/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	31/07/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	30/09/15
2016	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Trim back roadside hedge	28/02/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances and benches. Pick litter as required, clean and or sand signage.	30/05/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances and benches. Pick litter as required, clean and or sand signage.	31/07/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances and benches. Pick litter as required, clean and or sand signage.	30/09/16

2017	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	<p>Move the existing bench on map to location of dilapidated bench - we only need one bench on such a small site and the one with the 'view' is now dangerous with no seat. Do you think you can move a fixed in bench?</p> <p>Replace barb wire either side of squeeze gap with 1/1.5m of post and rail (3 rail).</p> <p>Remove metal post and wooden post from management access gap and replace with new square posts.</p> <p>Cost to supply required posts and rails etc and install, move and replace £300 plus vat</p>	31/01/17
2017	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Trim back roadside hedge	28/02/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut full route of all paths and around both entrances. Pick litter as required	30/05/17

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.92	Woody shrubs	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Planted with mixed native broadleaves including oak, ash, field maple, wild cherry and mixed shrubs in 2000/01. Predominantly hawthorn hedges on two sides. There is woodland planted c 1995 adjacent to the southern boundary.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	0.92	20	18.4

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.