



Everdon Stubbs

Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Everdon Stubbs
Location:	Daventry
Grid reference:	SP606566, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 152
Area:	28.91 hectares (71.44 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Ancient woodland with a mix of common and sessile oak, lowland birch, sweet chestnut and sycamore. Bluebells and rare wild daffodils provide colour in Spring. It is believed part of a prehistoric Saxon burial site remains on the site's northern boundary along with a host of other archaeological features found across the woodland.

2.2 Extended Description

Everdon Stubbs is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) comprising of four distinct of woodland communities. Such variation is uncommon in the East Midlands (NVC type W10, W10b, W10d and W8b) It is also one of the few remaining examples of ASNW in this part of Northamptonshire and due to this the whole wood is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).It is in fact two separate woods Everdon Stubbs to the east and Everdon Wood to the west. The site is also covered by a Tree Preservation Order, administered by Daventry District Council.

The varied vegetation of the wood is explained by the complex nature of the underlying soil and drainage as well as past woodland management. The eastern part of the wood lies across a flat topped ridge with sandy acidic soils on the upper slopes (Northampton Sand-part of the Inferior Oolite series of the Jurassic period) and richer damper soils on the lower western flanks (Upper and middle Lias clays). The wood contains both sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) and pedunculate oak

(*Quercus robur*) this mixture of oak species is unusual in the County. The driest and most acid soils on top of the ridge give rise to lowland birch - sessile oakwood, containing silver birch and rowan (W10 community), whilst the richer damper soils at the foot of the slope give rise to ash, oak, field maple woodland (W8 community). The whole SSSI displays remnants of previous coppice management and there are a number of very large coppice stools in Everdon Stubbs. Both woods have been considerably modified by the introduction of sweet chestnut and sycamore in the last century, the latter is quite dominant over some areas of the wood. The wood displays attractive and diverse ground flora, bracken dominated on the top of the ridge running into areas of bramble with a large tract of bluebell, which becomes extremely dense on the lower slopes. In addition there are areas of lesser celandine, yellow archangel, heath bedstraw, ivy and woodland grasses. The rare wild daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) is thought to be one of the largest populations in the County.

There is little other woodland cover in the surrounding area with land predominantly made up of agricultural grassland.

Other ecological features within the wood, which are of significance, include:

- The number of old trees- sweet chestnut, rowan, field maple and wild cherry
- Presence of hornbeam with small areas of the woodland
- Significant amount of standing and fallen dead wood
- Large semi-permanent gaps and glades
- Locally rare plants such as moschatel, broom, gorse and wild raspberry.

Archaeological importance:

The wood has been documented since the 10th Century and has considerable cultural significance. - What might be part of a prehistoric burial site is on the northern boundary of the wood. Everdon Wood in the north western part of the site (cpt 1) and Everdon Stubbs in the south eastern portion (cpt 2) are separated by a major woodbank which runs roughly north-south through the centre of the wood. This is also the parish boundary and was once an important track way. Thus Everdon Wood was in Everdon Parish whilst Everdon Stubbs was in Farthingstone Parish. The presence of ridge and furrow within Everdon Wood to the west of the parish boundary suggests that parts of Everdon Wood are actually ancient secondary woodland. Other earthworks in the wood consists of two internal woodbanks running roughly north-south within Everdon Stubbs, and a hollow way bounded by banks running east-west close to the northern boundary. This way is marked as Weedon Road on a 1758 map. A series of banks defining internal enclosures remain in the north east corner of Everdon Stubbs, there are also a number of small ironstone quarries.

There is much documentary evidence which details the intensive nature of woodland management- large volumes of coppice products being produced, some timber harvesting and areas under a wood pasture system.

A relatively small pull-in car park on the road which separates the two areas of woodland affords approximately 6-8 vehicle spaces. From here you can access both sides of the wood on foot thorough entrances with bollards/squeeze gap in place. Other boundary entrances are made up of squeeze gaps with additional small pull-in areas along the south-eastern road boundary. A PROW enters and exits the site at the most north-eastern corner, before running west through adjacent fields where it re-establishes itself in the woodland via a stile leading to an unsurfaced path heading west for a short distance before exiting the woodland at the most northerly point. Paths are unsurfaced so can become muddy in wetter weather, although dry and stable for the most part.

The key features for this site are:
KF1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
KF2 Archaeological Feature
KF3 Connecting People With Woods & Trees

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The site is accessed at several points from the nearby road network and from public footpaths that abut the site. The paths are generally dry, level and with few obstructions, but unsurfaced and may become muddy in wet weather. A small car park on site located off the road which accommodates 6-8 vehicles with further informal roadside parking to be found along the southern boundary. Entrances are made up of squeeze gaps for the most part with a stile and kissing gate making up entrances on the public right of way route. The Public right of way runs along the northern boundary of the wood and a public road divides the wood into two. There are no public toilets in vicinity. A bus stop can be found in Great Everdon with limited service. For times visit www.traveline.info or ring Traveline on 08712002233.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

After balanced consideration of the Trust's Woodland Management Approach (WMA) the overall objective is to sustain the various plants, animals and habitats that make Everdon Stubbs and Everdon Wood a Site of Special Interest and to retain the rich cultural heritage and archaeology that has survived on this ancient site.

We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient and robust woods. To achieve this corporate objective we will:

- Manage the woodland as predominantly broadleaved high forest, along with areas of coppice and a maximum of 20% open space. Oak within high forest to be managed as the dominant species but maintaining the present diversity of other species in the canopy and enhancing structural diversity ensuring a resilient and robust woodland for the future. This will be achieved through re-coppicing of mature sycamore stools which will provide age and structural diversity. Thinning of mature sycamore from within mixed broadleaf high forest areas will also take place increasing light penetrating the canopy down to the woodland floor, encouraging greater species diversity and quantity of native broadleaved regeneration. In the long-term, look to pollard/re-coppice mature sweet chestnut stools with the purpose of securing them as a continuing character feature of the woodland.
- Ensure that the woods are stocked with a proportion of over mature, dying and dead trees (both standing and fallen) providing valuable habitat where safe to do so within the constraints of tree safety.
- Maintain and enhance the open glades and edge niches through removal of encroaching vegetation. Management of bracken which can suppress other native ground flora and spread further into the woodland will also be carried out through biannual rolling/bruising.
- Care for features of archaeological interest while carrying out woodland management operations through consultation with the County Archaeologist and local archaeological groups.
- Preserve open pedestrian public access and rationalise where possible the permissive access routes to minimise damage to the woodland ground flora. Assessment of ground flora and any damage will take place annually through the key feature monitoring.

The site is well used by a variety of user groups from dog walkers to outdoor education providers, and as such the Trusts corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland will be achieved by maintaining the path system, ensuring and where required enhancing safe access, providing on site interpretation and maintaining a tree safety zone along the road edges and designated major paths. This may include silvicultural operations in light of any tree health risks such as *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (Chalara/Ash Dieback) where trees within safety zones pose a significant hazard.

Everdon Stubbs is a site of heritage and cultural value and as such our management will aim to conserve the many historic features found within the site. This will be achieved through providing information on features of interest to site users and undertaking appropriate management. Interpretation will be installed at key points and any planned woodland management operations will only be undertaken after consultation with relevant statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups.

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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

A complex mosaic of ash, oak, sycamore, field maple stand types as well as sessile oak, birch, sweet chestnut, rowan and wild cherry. With sycamore dominant in large areas. Very varied in structure and diverse in species, derived from a historic coppice with standards management system. Understory dominated by hazel, holly, hawthorn with large areas of bramble, bracken and bluebell. Good amount of dead wood on the ground and within the stand and several large old examples of rowan, wild cherry, Sweet chestnut, Beech, Field maple. Presence of hornbeam is uncharacteristic for the area. Large areas of open habitat in the form of bracken glades.

Significance

Northamptonshire is one of the least wooded counties in England, with 5.2% of total area woodland; most of this is in the Rockingham forest area to the north. Everdon Stubbs is one of few SNAW in Daventry district. The mix of community types is unusual in the county. The wood contains a number of locally rare species such as moshatel and wild daffodil and hornbeam. The wood is famed for its blue bell display in the spring and is a significant feature in the local cultural landscape. It has a lot of very detailed historical records which document the activities in the wood over many centuries.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Designated SSSI. Consent for works required from Natural England.
 Tree Preservation Order - woodland area.
 Archaeology within the woodland.
 Active badger setts within woodland.
 Not near centre of population

Opportunities:

Some areas of the woodland have been managed in the last 40 years so not long out of coppice management
 Existing road access directly into cpt 1a,b,c.
 Good areas of hazel within the understory.
 Well recorded in the past.
 The extensive path network provides the public with an experience of a broad variety of woodland types.
 Use of traditional management techniques due to archaeological constraints - potential for using horses for bracken control.

Factors Causing Change

Hymenoscyphus fraxineus (Chalara/Ash Dieback).
Increase in deer browsing/damage.
Further spread of sycamore.
Shading affecting natural tree regeneration and native ground flora

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Retain the mix of vegetation community types, structure and species that presently exist in the wood. This includes the open glades and variety of woodland structure from coppice woodland to high forest. Sycamore regeneration to be monitored in the light of canopy disturbance but ideally to be reduced or restricted to existing areas.
A substantial amount of veteran trees and dead wood both standing and fallen to be retained in the woodland.
To manage at least 80% of the wood as broadleaved high forest, with oak as the dominant species but maintaining the present diversity of other species in the canopy and structural diversity ensuring a resilient and robust woodland for the future. Diversity of structure and species for woodland resilience will be primarily achieved through favouring native broadleaf species such as oak through thinning/coppicing of sycamore and promoting other native broadleaf specimens.
Look to manage the mature sweet chestnut coppice stools through coppicing/pollarding over the long-term.
To maintain and enhance the open glades and edge niches. To be achieved through cutting back encroaching vegetation and management of woody and coarse vegetation in existing open areas. This is to include management of bracken.
Manage tree safety through annual inspection of Zone A trees and biennial inspection of Zone B trees.
Additionally, within the constraints of tree safety, increasing amounts of dead wood and old trees will be retained in situ where they do not present a safety hazard to visitors.

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

Two zone ride-side management of designated major paths (Annually)..

Potential factors causing change will be monitored as part of 5 yearly Woodland Condition Assessments

Management of bracken within open areas in compartments 2a and 2b through rolling (Biannually).

Cut hedges and road margins (Annually)

Continue to monitor ash dieback through periodic tree safety inspections, scheduling silvicultural intervention (selective fell) where deemed necessary to reduce risk for road/site users (Annually).

2020 - 2a Cut back encroaching vegetation/trees along boundary of open space/compartment 2a

2020 - 2a/2c and 2b Clear vegetation from Holloway running east to west between compartments 2a/2c and 2b, retaining semi-mature/mature broadleaf

2020 - 1a, 1b, 1c, 2b, 2c. Install deer exclusion plots (x10 in total) within work areas to provide continuing evidence of deer impact.

2022 - 1b Coppice young sycamore from understory in compartment 1b, while retaining hazel layer and any other natural broadleaf regeneration found, allowing better conditions for natural regeneration.

2022 - 2c Coppice areas of mature sycamore in compartment 2c (approx. 0.5 acre plot), retaining other broadleaf species as standards where present, in order to provide continued structural diversity within the woodland and possible conditions for natural regeneration of broadleaf species to grow on where appropriately managed .

2023 - Thinning out selected mature sycamore coppice stools from within mature oak, ash and sweet chestnut in compartment 1a with the aim of breaking up the canopy allowing increased light to reach the woodland floor and encourage natural regeneration, as well as allowing retained broadleaves to develop in created space.

Care will be taken when carryout woodland operations to ensure archaeological features are protected in-line with recommendations provided the 2002 commissioned archaeological report and through continual assessment and advice from the County Archaeologist/local archaeologist groups and Natural England.

5.2 Archaeological Feature

Description

A number of earthworks cross and bound the site, including the earth bank denoting the boundary between Everdon and Farthingstone parishes. Ancient roadway/holloway Weedon Road crosses the northern part of Everdon Stubbs. Ridge and furrow can be found in cpt 1a, 1c, 2b and 2c. "The Haga" a possible Saxon enclosure/burial site is located at cpt 2a. Several significant earthworks of varying age cover the wood in a complex arrangement of banks and ditches.

Significance

The wood displays much evidence of its historic past which is backed up by detailed documentary evidence. Some of the earthworks are very evident in the landscape and may date back to the Anglo-Saxon period.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Density of archaeological features can restrict management options

Opportunities:

Features of historical value/significance exist in almost all wood compartments

Site is very well visited

Some of the features are large and unmistakable in extent which allows visitors to engage with the history of the site.

Potential for further investigation through local archaeological groups/charities.

Additional interpretation on site.

Factors Causing Change

Erosion damage from paths crossing banks.

Scrub encroachment into features, cpt 2a for example.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To preserve archaeological features for the future.

Information on features will be readily available to site users.

All features present will still be visible and available for more detailed study where appropriate consents are in place.

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

Protect archaeological features from erosion by restricting crossing points to those existing already. To be assessed through key feature monitoring annually.

Cut back all scrub encroachment on the 'Haga'/Compartment 2a (2020) .

Clear vegetation from Holloway running east to west between compartments 2a/2c and 2b, retaining semi-mature/mature broadleaf trees (2020).

Woodland operations due to be carried out are to following guidance detailed with the commissioned 2002 archaeological report for Everdon Stubbs, with additional guidance sought through management plan consultation with local archaeological groups. (Ongoing).

Install interpretation relating to site feature, including archaeology, at key points (2019).

Investigate possible partnership working with local archaeological group with the intension of further assessment of the Anglo-Saxon enclosure/burial site and other features of interest (2019/2020).

5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Everdon Stubbs is an Ancient Semi Natural Woodland in Northamptonshire, and is now part of the Woodland Trust's Welcoming Sites Programme; aiming to deliver a consistent level of visitor experience across an extensive suite of our woodland estate.

Historically the wood would have been managed as coppice with standards, and has been documented since the 10th century. Tree species found here include ash, oak, sycamore, field maple, birch, sweet chestnut, rowan and wild cherry

'Its position in the landscape'

Everdon Stubbs is located in rural Northamptonshire, 6 miles south-east of Daventry, and surrounded by a number of villages, including Little Everdon, Farthingstone, Upper Stowe and Preston Capes.

The large town of Northampton is approximately 12 miles to the east.

The wood is 6 miles from the M1 motorway, and is also within fairly close proximity to the A5 and the A45, meaning it can be easily accessed from all areas of the county and beyond.

Due to the topography of the landscape in which Everdon Stubbs sits, there are some good views of surrounding countryside from certain points around the edge of the wood.

'General description of the access'

Everdon Stubbs has 11 entrance points, the majority of which are from the surrounding minor roads. There is a small car parking area, with capacity for a small number of cars, and more informal parking is available in a number of road laybys that border the wood.

The paths through the wood are unsurfaced and as such can be uneven, and muddy after rainfall. Numerous desire lines exist throughout the woodland, in addition to the formal path network.

A public footpath passes through the northern tip of the site, and subsequently runs just outside much of the northern boundary edge of the wood. Otherwise Everdon Stubbs is not overly well linked to the surrounding landscape via PROW but it's possible to walk to Everdon village and Farthingstone if minor roads are used.

The nearest public toilets are in Daventry, on Welton Road (8am - 4.30pm). The nearby villages of Everdon and Farthingstone both have pubs serving refreshments.

Access by public transport is extremely limited, and most visitors arrive by car.

'Specific furniture/ access point description'

At present the majority of entrance points into the wood require updating to ensure that appropriate entrance/exit messaging is in place. In addition, a number of entrances also need other infrastructure work undertaking (fence replacement, boundary demarcation with bollards etc), as per the entrance audit. There are a number of benches present throughout the wood; these are due to be audited in 2019.

'The visitor profile'

There is no formal data regarding visitors to Everdon Stubbs, but anecdotally we know that it is a popular wood with both dog walkers and families. The site has much higher footfall in spring, when many people travel to see the bluebell displays.

Visitors to the wood come from the immediate local area, as well as the towns of Daventry and Northampton.

Subsequently the visitor base is likely to be made up of local people who make frequent, repeat visits, and those from further afield who visit more occasionally, such as in school holidays and during bluebell season.

There are over 15,500 households within the immediate postcode area (which includes Daventry), and a population of around 215,000 people 12 miles away in Northampton (figures taken from latest census info)

The site has the benefit of being easily accessible for these large urban populations via the good road network nearby, as described previously.

The visitor offer currently present at Everdon Stubbs reflects the Trust's original intention of creating places for quiet, informal recreation. It provides a spring spectacle through its bluebell displays, which links well with our 'wonder' visitor proposition.

'Nearby Woodland Trust sites/sites of significance'

There are no other Woodland Trust woods in the nearby area.

However, Everdon Stubbs is close to a number of other, smaller, areas of woodland including High Wood and Meadow (Wildlife Trust), Ramsden Corner (Wildlife Trust), Mantles Heath (?) and Badby Woods (private ownership).

Other significant sites/attractions nearby include Fawsley Hall, Canons Ashby, The Old Dairy Farm Craft Centre at Upper Stowe, and the Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre.

In addition a wedding venue, Wood Farm, has recently opened adjacent to Everdon Stubbs.

'Events and Activities'

There are currently no events held at Everdon Stubbs. Capacity for event delivery here is limited due to limited parking provision, but activities such as guided bluebell walks, linking to our protection message, or dawn chorus walks, could work well. There may also be scope to have an MDO presence onsite during weekends in bluebell season, to engage with visitors about the work of the Woodland Trust and to encourage membership sign-ups.

'Schools'

Local schools include Badby Primary School, Newnham Primary School and Weedon Bec Primary School. None are within walking distance of the wood, which may limit their ability to use the wood as a learning resource.

Everdon Stubbs is used by the Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre as a base for Forest School activities. There may be scope to engage with this organisation more, to encourage them to use our Nature Detectives resources and raise awareness of the Woodland Trust among the children/families/schools that they work with.

‘Volunteering’

There are currently no volunteers for this site. Should there be interest, there may be scope for a volunteer warden role onsite, to act as an extra pair of eyes and ears for the wood. This role could also incorporate a meet and greet function during busy weekends in spring.

Significance

Everdon Stubbs is a great example of a classic English bluebell wood, but is of interest to visitors all year round, not just in spring. Its position within the landscape means its opportunities for quiet, informal recreation can be accessed by a significant population who can subsequently benefit from spending time outdoors connecting with woods and trees. It is already well known locally, demonstrated through footfall numbers during peak season (observed anecdotally), and a wealth of positive online feedback (4.5 rating on Google from 45 reviews; 4.5 rating on TripAdvisor from 10 reviews; 4.6 rating on Facebook from 16 reviews).

Everdon Stubbs is one of few ASNW sites in this area of Northamptonshire (Northamptonshire itself is one of England’s least wooded counties) and the whole woodland is designated as a SSSI; a reflection of its ecological importance within the wider, predominantly agricultural landscape.

It is also a wood with many historical stories that sit alongside and are interwoven with its importance for wildlife, and offers great potential for engaging with visitors by bringing these to life. Features present on site include an ancient roadway and a possible Saxon burial site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

Limited parking for visitors

Topography of the wood means it is not accessible for those who may have limited mobility

Presence and number of historical features on site may limit what is possible in terms of interpretation installation / visitor engagement activities.

Opportunities

Easily accessed by car from the surrounding area due to proximity to major road networks

Everdon has lots of wildlife and historical interest, meaning there is great scope to further interpret this for visitors and add value to their visit to the wood.

Other attractions nearby may provide opportunities for local promotion of the wood

There may be scope to explore trialling some guided walks during key times of year, linking to our propositions and generating unrestricted income.

Potential for further interpretation features within woodland

Factors Causing Change

Woodland operations may restrict access and parking at certain times. This will need to be appropriately communicated to visitors in a timely fashion.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Everdon Stubbs is one of the Trust's key woods within Northamptonshire and the surrounding counties, and provides an excellent visitor experience throughout the year. This is supplemented during peak seasons (bluebell flowering season and summer holidays) by the presence of Membership Development Officers and a small number of committed and enthusiastic volunteer wardens who have a visible presence onsite and provide a welcome and information service to visitors. Volunteer-led guided walks occur at select times throughout the year and provide opportunities to engage and inspire audiences with Everdon Stubbs and the work of the Woodland Trust. The historical stories and wildlife importance of the wood are shared with visitors via appropriate and inspirational interpretation at strategic points throughout Everdon Stubbs, and access and orientation points are well managed and maintained, giving visitors the confidence to explore the wood, while ensuring that habitats and associated species are protected. The wood is regularly used as an outdoor learning setting by local educational establishments, including the Everdon Outdoor Education Centre

To preserve open pedestrian public access and rationalise where possible the permissive access routes to minimise damage to the woodland ground flora.

The site is well used by a variety of user groups from dog walkers to outdoor education providers, and as such the Trusts corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland will be achieved by:

- maintaining the path system, ensuring and where required enhancing safe access, providing on site interpretation and maintaining a tree safety zone along the road edges and designated major paths.

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

Maintain access provision as per WT access guidelines. Achieved by ensuring that:
- entrances & signage are welcoming to visitors and well cared for (annually). Repair and enhance as needed.

- the site is kept safe and welcoming by: repair of vandalism (when needed); clearing of fallen trees where access is obstructed (as needed); and regular site safety surveys (as per risk assessment)

Ensure all access points into wood have up-to-date and appropriate entrance and exit signage, as per WT signage suite, along with relevant associated infrastructure (fencing etc) as per entrance audit (2019).

Install an appropriate welcome/orientation point at the main entrance from the car park, including a map and basic site information (2019)

Explore and capture the stories, themes and messages associated with Everdon Stubbs through and interpretation planning process, leading to the creation of an interpretation plan for the site (Q1 2019)

Undertake audit of benches throughout site and phase any repair/replacement work accordingly (2019)

Delivery of initial onsite interpretation elements as per above plan, to add value to visitor experience at the site (Q3 2019)

Make new site map available on Everdon Stubbs webpage on WT website as downloadable PDF. Review online content at same time - comms and engagement team (Q4 2019)

Contact MDO team at WT to explore possibility of trialling onsite MDO presence during bluebell season (contact in 2019 for trial in 2020)

Monitor rope swings on site and instruct removal where hazardous (annually)

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2019	CS - General Consultancy	Thermal imaging and DIA for Everdon Stubbs.	31/03/19
2019	CS - General Consultancy	Licensed bat ecologist to carry a climb inspection of potential bat roost feature following tree safety inspection.	24/04/19
2019	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	To complete all work as set out in the Zone B tree safety survey by woodland trust. Including the removal of storm damage and standing deadwood.	26/04/19
2019	CS - General Consultancy	Payment to CLASP for survey report on archaeological features in relation to WSP proposals and watching brief over operations	28/06/19
2019	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Carry out tree safety works due to storm damage	29/06/19
2019	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Interpretation (WSP) - design and production of 2/3 interpretation panels and frames	31/07/19
2019	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Interpretation (WSP) installation	31/07/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintenance of entrances including cleaning and replacing signs where necessary as per spec 1.1 and the EMC map.	31/07/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches on site.	31/07/19
2019	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area as per EMC map	31/07/19
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths to full width as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches on site.	30/09/19
2019	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area as per EMC map	30/09/19

2019	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Cut hedges and road margins as per spec 3.2 and EMC map	30/09/19
2019	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Installation of additional welcome signage.	30/09/19
2020	WMM - General Site Management	Rolling of bracken in compartments 2a and 2b. Areas to be clearly defined by site manager.	30/06/20
2020	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area	31/07/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches and interpretation on site.	31/07/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintenance of entrances including cleaning and replacing signs where necessary as per spec 1.1 and the EMC map.	31/07/20
2020	WMM - General Site Management	Rolling of bracken in compartments 2a and 2b. Areas to be clearly defined by site manager.	30/08/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths to full width as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches and interpretation on site.	30/09/20
2020	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Cut hedges and road margins as per spec 3.2 and EMC map	30/09/20
2020	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area	30/09/20
2020	WMI - NR Protection / Promotion	Deer enclosure plots in compartments 1a, 1b, 1c, 2b, 2c. 10 in total. Minimum dimensions of 1.8m high by 4m by 4m as per FC guidance. Locations to be provided by site manager.	30/11/20
2020	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Fell ash trees within tree safety zones that are considered to be a hazard to site/road users. Primarily in compartment 1b. Structural and physiological factors to be considered, taking note of ash dieback symptoms and WT policy.	30/11/20

2020	WMM - AWS silviculture	Coppice/cut back encroaching vegetation in compartment 2a. Clear/coppice vegetation, retaining semi-mature/mature trees, along Holloway between 2a, 2b and 2c.	30/11/20
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Rolling of bracken in compartments 2a and 2b. Areas to be clearly defined by site manager.	30/06/21
2021	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area	31/07/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintenance of entrances including cleaning and replacing signs where necessary as per spec 1.1 and the EMC map.	31/07/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches and interpretation on site.	31/07/21
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Rolling of bracken in compartments 2a and 2b. Areas to be clearly defined by site manager.	30/08/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths to full width as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches and interpretation on site.	30/09/21
2021	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Cut hedges and road margins as per spec 3.2 and EMC map	30/09/21
2021	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area	30/09/21
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Rolling of bracken in compartments 2a and 2b. Areas to be clearly defined by site manager.	30/06/22
2022	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area	31/07/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches and interpretation on site.	31/07/22

2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintenance of entrances including cleaning and replacing signs where necessary as per spec 1.1 and the EMC map.	31/07/22
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Rolling of bracken in compartments 2a and 2b. Areas to be clearly defined by site manager.	30/08/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths to full width as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches and interpretation on site.	30/09/22
2022	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area	30/09/22
2022	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Cut hedges and road margins as per spec 3.2 and EMC map	30/09/22
2022	WMM - Coppice Management	Coppice mature sycamore in Compartment 2c (0.5 acres). Coppice sycamore understory in compartment 1b.	30/11/22
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Rolling of bracken in compartments 2a and 2b. Areas to be clearly defined by site manager.	30/06/23
2023	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area	31/07/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintenance of entrances including cleaning and replacing signs where necessary as per spec 1.1 and the EMC map.	31/07/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches and interpretation on site.	31/07/23
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Rolling of bracken in compartments 2a and 2b. Areas to be clearly defined by site manager.	30/08/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Cut major paths to full width as per spec 2.1 and EMC map. To include the cut back of overhanging side vegetation and clearance of any obstacles (fallen branches etc.), also strimming around benches and interpretation on site.	30/09/23

2023	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Cut hedges and road margins as per spec 3.2 and EMC map	30/09/23
2023	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Removal of litter and flytipping from car park area	30/09/23
2023	WMM - AWS silviculture	Thinning out selected mature sycamore coppice stools from within mature oak, ash and sweet chestnut in compartment 1a with the aim of breaking up the canopy allowing increased light to reach the woodland floor and encourage natural regeneration, as well as allowing retained broadleaves to develop in created space	30/11/23

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	4.00	other oak spp	1900	High forest	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Everdon Wood on the western side of the road. An area of more acidic vegetation arising from the underlying sandy soils. Dominated by NVC W10 and W10d type woodland, characterised by oak and sweet chestnut, with smaller amounts of sycamore, ash and hornbeam in the canopy. Three very large beech trees (200 years old) are situated towards the southern end of the sub compartment along the roadside, as well as several large larch. The understorey is well defined towards the edges of the compartment but absent from the centre it consists of abundant sycamore, occasional hazel, hawthorn, elder and sweet chestnut with rare holly and elder. Ground flora is made up of patchy bramble with large areas of blue bell and some wood anemone. Sub compartment 1a has a relatively steep north westerly aspect, and contains significant dead wood material. There is a large active badger sett in the compartment badger activity is obvious throughout the compartment. Few paths crisscross the compartment The edge of the wood is denoted by a long established mainly blackthorn/hawthorn hedge and a large wood bank to the west and south.</p> <p>The Key Features within this compartment are: KF1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland KF2 Archaeological Feature KF3 Connecting People With Woods & Trees</p>							
1b	1.90	other oak spp	1900	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order

Extreme north end of Everdon Wood west of the road, it is an area of ash /oak field maple with hazel understorey with a few larger oak standards established in the late 19th century. A small number of early 18th century oaks remain along the roadside boundary. NVC type W8b in the north blending into W10 towards the south. Understorey species include abundant ash, sycamore, hazel, elm, field maple, blackthorn, all last cut in the early 1980s, as well as a slightly older ash crop, which becomes the prominent coppice species in places, last cut in the mid 1970s. The nearby badger population uses the compartment. Ground flora is dominated by bluebell, dog's mercury, bramble with some bracken and wood anemone. There is a ditched spring running towards the wood boundary from the centre of the compartment. Old wood bank with boundary hedge has previously been laid on the east edge of the compartment.

The Key Features within this compartment are:

KF1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

KF2 Archaeological Feature

KF3 Connecting People With Woods & Trees

1c	5.40	Sycamore	1930	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
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The eastern half of Everdon Wood - the sub compartment boundary is the road on the west side and the large parish ditch and bank on the south side. Is an area characterised by over mature coppice with standards; the canopy is dominated mainly by oak. Other species making up a percentage of the canopy include coppiced sycamore, ash; birch and large multi stemmed sweet chestnut. Wild cherry stems are also located within the stand although these are rare as is the hornbeam element, which is significant as it is thought to be naturally occurring at the very northern edge of its range here. The understorey is well defined throughout the sub compartment tailing off towards the south-eastern boundary. It is made up of frequent hazel, hawthorn, sycamore, blackthorn and elder with small area of hornbeam.. Ground flora is primarily patchy bramble and very abundant blue bell with wood anemone and yellow archangel. The main track from the car park has given rise to a wide stripe of bare earth. There is a significant amount of dead wood. The sub compartment has a steep north westerly aspect with an area near the car park of small steep sided quarries , in addition there are numerous traces of ancient hollow ways snaking up the slope interspersed with well defined ridge and furrow earthworks running NW to SE. The main site car park is located in the southern corner; there are many paths and trampled areas of ground leading from the car park into other parts of the wood. The southeastern compartment boundary defined by the large ditch and bank is the ancient Anglo Saxon parish boundary also marks an important historic track.

The Key Features within this compartment are:

KF1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

KF2 Archaeological Feature

KF3 Connecting People With Woods & Trees

2a	0.90	Sycamore		Non-wood habitat		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>The Haga or enclosure of Saxon origin. An open bracken dominated glade. Mixed scrub cover on the edges comprising of elm, hazel, crab apple with sycamore, field maple, ash, birch and rowan masks the extensive internal earth banks which demarks the boundaries all round. Ground flora dominated by bracken with bramble to the east and western ends and small areas of bluebell to the south. The feature is of some historical note as it forms a rectangular tongue of Everdon parish which juts out into Farthingstone Parish and is mentioned in the Kings charter of AD 944 there is some debate as to the origins of this unusual feature as the charter which describes the parish boundary is not too clear, but whether it is the site of a pre-christian burial area or something else it has been of some significance in the past to have been retained as the parish boundary. There is great potential for future investigation in this location.</p> <p>The Key Features within this compartment are: KF1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland KF2 Archaeological Feature KF3 Connecting People With Woods & Trees</p>							
2b	4.50	other oak spp		High forest	Archaeological features	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order

Central bracken/oak zone (NVC type W10b)- is an area characterized by very widely spaced open grown low canopy trees mainly sessile oak but with some sycamore, birch and rowan. The understorey is limited to regenerating rowan and holly. The ground layer dominated by bracken with bramble on the outer fringes with scattered bluebell and woodland grasses patches throughout. There are several large open glades which provide structural diversity to the wood. This compartment covers the flat top of the ridge and is underlain by sandy acidic soils. The compartment has few earthworks associated with it other than boundary woodbanks. The compartments boundaries are to the north- the ancient Weedon Road earthworks. To the south the main footpath and to the east the ridge and furrow of the pre-enclosure farmland.

The Key Features within this compartment are:

KF1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

KF2 Archaeological Feature

KF3 Connecting People With Woods & Trees

2c	12.46	other oak spp		High forest	Archaeological features	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
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Is an area of mature coppice with some widely spaced pedunculate and sessile oak standards. Other species making up the canopy include ash, sycamore and sweet chestnut. Sycamore is dominant over much of the sub compartment much of it from multi stemmed coppice. A smaller proportion of beech and birch maidens also remain throughout the stand, although the birch stems remain rare. There are several very large wild cherry on the extreme eastern wood edge, and small clonal group of wild cherry situated in the north eastern corner of sub compartment. A number of rowan are scattered throughout the compartment some of which are very large and have collapsed. A few other species are present including scots pine and holly. The under-storey is made up of occasional hazel, hawthorn and regenerating sycamore with black thorn on the outer edges of the sub compartment. The ground flora consists mainly of large areas of bramble, which becomes dominant in patches. Well defined areas of bracken occupy the more open areas. A significant area is dominated by bluebell and to a lesser extent Wood Anemone and Wood sorrel. Wild Daffodil population is recorded towards the eastern and northern wood boundaries.

The Key Features within this compartment are:

KF1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

KF2 Archaeological Feature

KF3 Connecting People With Woods & Trees

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	2a	Coppice	0.93	16	15
2022	1b	Coppice	1.00	15	15
2022	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75
2023	1a	Thin	4.19	24	100
2024	2c	Coppice	2.00	20	40
2025	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75
2027	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75
2028	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75
2030	1c	Thin	5.48	18	100
2034	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75
2035	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75
2036	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75
2037	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75
2038	2c	Coppice	0.20	375	75

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.