

Telford Way

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

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

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Telford Way

Location:	Kettering	Grid	reference:	SP851797	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	141
Area:	1.03 hectares (2.55 acres)								
External Designations:	N/A								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Telford Way Woodland Spinney is a 2.45-acre (1.03ha) woodland spinney situated on the western outskirts of Kettering, slotted between the cutting formed by the A43 and the Kingsthorpe distribution park access road (Henson Way).. The center of the site is crossed by the boundary of a sunken lane which was first recorded in 1887 & is believed to be the remnants of an old ironstone quarry. The neighbouring land has been developed considerably and includes the A43, as well as the creation of a large four lane roundabout that links the town of Kettering to the A43, A14 and A4300.

Woodland composition is mature mixed broadleaves with the occasional Scots pine. The greater part of this site (0.6 in all) is an oddly shaped area comprising a strip of older trees and scrub along the top of the embankment which grades to the south into a rank unmanaged grassland/tall herb habitat and well-established scrub thickets located between the industrial estate access road and the A43. The trees are mainly Ash, Oak, and Scots Pine; in places the site is less than 2m wide. The rest of the wood to the east is a small rectangular native broadleaved planting (250 trees) in a corner of an improved grassland field. These trees were planted in December 1996 with the help of Kettering Borough Council. The dominant tree species is ash and it is noted that 'Chalara' ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxinea*) is present on the site.

At the time of acquisition, it was hoped that this wood would be the first section in a much larger holding associated with the A43, however this never came about, although there are still undeveloped areas of land along the A43 corridor and on the south side of Henson Way.

Although a tiny area, the trees and associated mix of habitats, along with lack of public access, is desirable for many common bird, mammal and insect species.

At present the only management that has occurred in recent years is some small-scale safety operations to the mature trees, maintenance works on the 1996 planted trees and the clearing of ash regeneration and bramble which was obscuring the leased hoarding. There is no public access provision and management access is difficult to most of the site.

Key feature for the site secondary woodland habitat, as briefly outlined above and further information for which can be found in section 5.0: Key Features.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Telford Way has some local wildlife value and does act as a screen for the trading estate from the noise of the A43 and in turn has the purpose in the landscape of screening out views of the trading estate. However it has no public access and due to the lay out of the site, its close proximity to the steep A43 cutting and impacts from the effects of 'Chalara' ash dieback, there are numerous constraints to management in the long term.

The main management objectives will be focused on tree safety due to the proximity of the site to nearby roads and the neighbouring industrial buildings. The site is also prone to fly tipping from the southern boundary where a bus stop lay-by is located. Periodic removal of fly tipped material will also be undertaken regularly. Due to the presence of ash dieback, if significant levels of ash are removed or have died then underplanting with a variety of native broadleaves could be deemed appropriate.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

Description
The woodland is made up of a wide array of both native and long naturalized tree species in a variety of age classes providing an area rich in biodiversity. Habitats include blackthorn scrub, standing & fallen deadwood, mixed ground flora.
Significance
The mixture of habitat types provides homes and refuge for local wildlife and forms a natural barrier screening the town of Kettering from the A43 dual Carriageway.
Opportunities & Constraints
Constraints: Small area of habitat. The site is sandwiched between two busy roads and a developing business park. Access within the site is difficult. No nearby residential community to take an interest No public access Fly-tipping Opportunities: Site is relatively diverse in its habitats There is semi natural habitat nearby to the south and north The rate of succession which will see the mosaic disappear is likely to be slow
Factors Causing Change
Succession within open areas to scrub and high forest. Pests and disease: 'Chalara' ash dieback has the potential to negatively impact the sites potential for wildlife habitat in the long term. Development of adjacent land could result in increased public pressure on the woodland.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Establishment of a mixed native woodland with varied habitat types, including mature woodland with a range of age classes, areas of scrub and open space. The planted area to the west is to be allowed to develop in a natural way now the trees are established.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Annual checks to ensure there are no hazardous trees within striking distance of surrounding public areas. Regular removal of litter and fly tipped rubbish from roadside areas in the wood. Monitor levels of ash loss and, if significant, assess the benefits for underplanting with a wider range of mixed native broadleaves.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	February

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.04	Mixed broadleaves	1960	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	
Compartment 1a covers the whole of the site which is based on an old ironstone quarry site. The wood is an irregular strip of mostly scrub woodland with some new planting and a small amount of rough open grassland adjacent to the south of the A43 road cutting which is also wooded. The wooded area is along the northern boundary on top of the road embankment with scrub fronts advancing out from this line. The majority of the tree species are native broad leaved other than the occasional conifer. There is a young mixed broadleaved plantation in the far east of the site planted in 1996 and separated from the rest of the site by a substantial fence. Part of the wood lies under an overhead power line. The site was cut off from a larger area of grassland to the south by the construction of the industrial estate access road in the 1980's. Previous to this the land is likely to have been grazed farmland with hedges and occasional hedgerow trees. The site is very flat apart from a sunken strip to the west of the planted strip. Here there is a long-established thorn scrub thicket which is approximately 4m wide and 1-2m deep below the surround field level. In this feature there is extensive evidence of badger and rabbit activity with little ground flora other than sparse nettles. Access within the site is difficult even on foot there is a gate into the most westerly grassland and a right of access into the planted area. Litter accumulates in the narrowest part of the site, which is next to a small lay-by.						

Ancient Woodland

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

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

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

Ancient Woodland Site

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

Beating Up

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

Broadleaf

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

Canopy

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

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

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

Conifer

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

Continuous Cover forestry

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

Coppice

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

Exotic (non-native) Species

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

Field Layer

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

Group Fell

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

Long Term Retention

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

Minimum Intervention

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

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

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

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

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

Origin & Provenance

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

Re-Stocking

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

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

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

Sub-Compartment

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

Thinning

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

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

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

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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