

Millhampton Wood

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



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 Informal Public Access
 - 4.2 f2 Mixed Habitat Mosaic
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Millhampton Wood

Location:	Ombersley	Grid	reference:	SO830651	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	150
Area:	4.87 hectares (12.03 acres)								
External Designations:	Woods on your Doorstep								
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Millhampton Wood is located 2km north west of the village of Ombersley (Junction off the A 4133 & A 449) and lies approximately 400m west of the lane and mid-way between the hamlets of Uphampton and Batterton Green. It is a community woodland planted in the winter of 2000 / 2001 as part of the Woodland Trusts millennium project "Woods on Your Doorstep" (WOYD). The site was purchased with the help and support of the Millennium Commission, the Sainsbury Family Trust, Homebase and through donations from local residents. Local people were also involved in the design and subsequent planting of the new woodland.

The site is roughly rectangular and approximately 500m long by 100m wide. It has been planted as new native broadleaved woodland in four blocks covering 4ha interspersed with a network of rides and open ground (approximately 0.1ha). The planting mix emulates species found in National Vegetation Classification (NVC) woodland type W8, and includes English (Pedunculate) oak, ash, silver birch, wild cherry, small-leaved lime, hornbeam, crab apple, field maple, and damson with marginal plantings of woody shrubs including blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, guelder-rose, dogwood and spindle. As a botanical feature a Whitty Pear or Old Sorb Tree (the descendant of a local origin sorbus) was planted in the small block just to the north of the eastern pedestrian access.

The wood has three public access points that link the site with the local public footpath network. Within the site nine hundred metres of informal footpath are maintained, giving access to the whole site. To celebrate the passing of the Millennium the wood has a sculptured iron seat at its heart, from which visitors can enjoy a vista that encompasses the mid Severn valley from the Malvern Hills in the south to the Clee Hills in the north.

The site lies on the western facing of a broad ridge overlooking the Severn Valley. The soils are light well drained with a Sandy texture and overlay a substrate of Triassic sandstone. Prior to the Woodland Trusts ownership the site had a history of intense cultivation and soil improvement, this has seriously altered the natural soil horizon and there is little distinction between the horizons and no obvious organic horizon. Given time and a lack of cultivation it is likely that the soil horizon will revert to acid brown earth.

Surrounding land use consists of agricultural arable fields, leaving Millhampton Wood as an important local landscape and habitat feature. There are no wooded areas of significant size in the local vicinity.

Key Features:

KF f1 - Informal Public Access

KF f2 – Mixed Habitat Mosaic

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The intention of this site is that Millhampton Wood will be a structurally and species diverse native broadleaved woodland, with various open areas, rides and edge and scrub habitats. The woodland will continue to complement and enhance the local landscape and offer opportunities for informal recreation.

Now that the initial establishment period is over, the woodland will be allowed to develop naturally as far as possible, only intervening when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes in accordance with the Woodland Trusts Management Approach (such as through ride-side coppicing and silvicultural thinning). The aim is to create a diverse mature woodland with a range of native species, structures, age ranges and habitats and with deadwood, both standing and fallen, being retained where it is safe to do so. Gaps in the canopy will allow for floral colonisation and regeneration of all species.

Low-key public access will be maintained in perpetuity through a managed path network, entrances and regular safety checks. Infrastructure and facilities will be minimal and only essential signage used. Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly. Areas of scrub will be encouraged to develop (but not dominate) along woodland margins and will be maintained through a programme of ride edge coppice work, to enhance both visitor enjoyment and structural diversity. Public safety will be assessed and tree safety inspections conducted regularly.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
Public access to the wood is gained via three access points, two along the south west boundary and one on the eastern boundary. Public footpath No 54 crosses the southern section of the wood and links in with other public footpaths from Borley, Uphampton and Northhampton. The wood has 0.9ha of open rides and 900m of informal footpath delivering access to the whole site. As a millennium feature a sculptured iron seat has been erected on the slopes in a clearing near the centre of the wood from where visitors can enjoy views of the mid Severn valley from the Malvern's in the south to the Clee Hills and Wyre Forest to the north.
Significance
Millhampton Wood was created as part of the Millennium Project "Woodland Trusts Woods On Your Doorstep from the very beginning the local community have been encouraged to feel a sense of ownership towards the wood and to participate in its development. The use of nearly all Woodland Trust owned sites for quiet, informal public recreation forms a core to the Woodland Trusts vision for the future. Managed for perpetuity as part of a larger mosaic of habitats Millhampton Wood will attract (over time) a variety of permanent and transient flora and fauna making the site an ideal location for observing wildlife and gradual changes in local biodiversity.
Opportunities & Constraints
The provision of access was a Key Feature in the design of Millhampton Wood, consequently within the constraints of the Woodland Trusts aims the sites potential has been maximised. Therefore the key opportunities for the site are that the present levels of access provision be maintained, but that the level of usage be increased. To some extent this can be achieved by maintaining close links with local people and organisations, and by working with Wychavon District Council and local Parish Councils to promote recreational use of the site.
Factors Causing Change
Pests and disease (e.g. ash dieback) Development of woodland
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The long-term intention is to maintain the present access provision but increasing usage of the wood. Guided by the parameters set out in the Woodland Trusts woodland management principles and access policy, management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The Trusts duty of care to neighbours and visitors will continue to be addressed through ongoing tree safety and site risk assessment regimes, which will stimulate remedial works as required. Local residents will be encouraged to play an active part in caring for the site, particularly through close links with the Parish Council.

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

To regularly inspect and maintain the three entrances to the site, with any repairs undertaken as necessary.
To inspect and maintain the signage, benches and infrastructure on site, ensuring they are safe and welcoming.
To mow all paths (within rides, glades and open areas) to a minimum width of 2 metres (three times a year) and then on the last cut of the year to their full width, alternating ride-sides annually (and including all of the open areas).
Tree safety inspections will be regularly completed, as per Woodland Trust policy guidance.

4.2 f2 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

Description

The compartment is 80% (4ha) new native woodland, 18% (0.9ha) open ground, and approximately 2% (0.16) established trees including one mature ash and oak a collection of willows (*S. alba*, *S. cinerea* and *S. viminalis*) and scrub in the old irrigation lagoon. The planting mix comprised: 25% English (Pedunculate) oak, ash 15%, silver birch 10%, rowan 5%, small-leaved lime 2%, hornbeam 2%, crab apple 2%, field maple 2%, damson 2%. With 10% woody shrubs: hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder-rose, dogwood and spindle. The oak was planted in blocks of approximately 50 trees, and the ash and other trees in blocks of 25, the shrub/ bush species were planted along the planting block margins in groups of approximately 15. Prior to planting the site was seeded with a low vigour fescue mix this remains the dominant ground flora in the woodland blocks and open ground although greater diversity exists at the headlands and hedgerows. The boundaries comprise mixed thorn hedge with occasional mature and semi-mature oak, field maple and ash. The species composition and age of the incorporated trees suggest that the South west and western hedges are quite old and may be valuable as an existing seed bank and wildlife haven.

Significance

Surrounding land use consists of agricultural arable fields, leaving Millhampton Wood as an important local landscape and habitat feature. There are no wooded areas of significant size in the local vicinity. This juxtaposition of Millhampton Wood within a landscape regionally poor in woodland and near an area of high population means that the wood helps deliver national and regional forestry strategy goals, and the Woodland Trusts own core objectives.

Opportunities & Constraints

Can be very wet in winter.
Relatively poor access.
Sites soils and exposure coupled with the tight planting density (2500 trees/ha) suggests that as the wood approaches pole stage its more exposed sections will have a predisposition to wind-throw. An opportunity exists through integrating the tree safety programme with an opportunistic irregular selection system, to foster a predominantly natural woodland but with a safe and inviting path and ride network.

Factors Causing Change

Pests and disease such as Chalara/Ash Dieback.
Deer browsing and squirrel damage.
Density of planted broadleaf species affecting future development.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The intention of this site is that Millhampton Wood will be a structurally and species diverse native broadleaved woodland, with at least 3 canopy species and various open areas, rides and edge and scrub habitats. The woodland will continue to complement and enhance the local landscape and offer opportunities for informal recreation. The planted trees have now grown to stage where intervention is deemed necessary as evidenced through the woodland condition assessment and will be undertaken in line with the Woodland Trusts Woodland Management Approach – ‘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’. This will take the form of small scale halo thinning (less than 5 cubic metres per quarter) around natural regeneration and trees with particularly good form creating woodland that is diverse in species and has good resilience. Other work will include carrying out essential tree safety works, annual mowing of open areas and selected ride sides and working on selected areas of coppicing along ride edges to promote visitor enjoyment when required.

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

During this plan period the aim is to continue adding more diversity and structure to the plantation, improving conditions for natural regeneration to occur and to address the threat posed by ash dieback. This will be achieved by: Carrying out essential tree safety work, retaining fallen and/or standing deadwood where safe to do so. Annually carrying out ride edge coppicing where this will enhance visitor enjoyment and structural diversity and undertake small-scale halo thinning within the planted areas around good examples of mixed native broadleaf natural regeneration and individual trees, allowing increased room and light levels for continued development. Any thinning undertaken will not exceed 5 cubic metres per calendar quarter. Coppicing/Halo thinning to occur annually between September and February.

Monitoring the site to ensure that it continues to develop in line with with long term vision and is not threatened or damaged by any new or previously unknown factors, through the Woodland Condition Assessment and other specific scheduled monitoring.

Ride sides and open areas will be cut on a 2-zone schedule - alternating areas each year to further improve habitat options.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5	Ash	2000	Coppice		Woods on your Doorstep
A roughly rectangular the compartment is approximately 500m long and 100m wide with a slight gradient and western aspect a large man made seasonally wet irrigation pond occupies part of the high ground in the south west of the compartment. The compartment is 80% (4ha) new native woodland (see Appendix Two – detailed sub compartment composition), 18% (0.9ha) open ground / paths and rides, and 2% (0.16ha) existing mature trees and scrub 1 x oak & ash with willow and thorn in the area of the pond. The north west boundary is defined by post and wire stock fence, the eastern boundary by post and wire fence with sections of sweet chestnut shelterbelt to the north, and mature thorn hedge to the south. The remainder of the boundaries are defined by mature thorn and mixed hedgerow. Management access is gained via a fieldgate at the east end of the north east boundary. Two public access points along the south western boundary and one at mid point on the eastern boundary open onto the ride and internal path network. Public footpath No 54 crosses the southern section of the site.						

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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