



Liverton Copse

Management Plan 2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Liverton Copse
Location:	Littleham, Exmouth
Grid reference:	SY025822, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 192
Area:	3.15 hectares (7.78 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Liverton Copse is secondary, high forest woodland planted with mixed broadleaves by the Woodland Trust between 1981 and 1987. The wood had previously been Norway Spruce, planted in 1922, and mostly felled by the previous owner in 1980. The exact history is unknown, but it is thought to have been woodland for some time before 1922.

Ground flora is varied and includes frequent primrose and dog's mercury, as well as bluebell, dog violet, and moschatel. The wood is generally flat with a slight northerly aspect, although a steep slope leads down towards the stream on the northern boundary.

2.2 Extended Description

Liverton Copse is secondary, high forest woodland planted with mixed broadleaves by the Woodland Trust between 1981 and 1987. The wood had previously been Norway Spruce, planted in 1922, and mostly felled by the previous owner in 1980. The exact history is unknown, but it is thought to have been woodland for some time before 1922.

Ground flora is varied and includes frequent primrose & dog's mercury, as well as bluebell, dog violet, and moschatel. The wood is generally flat with a slight northerly aspect, although a steep slope leads down towards the stream on the northern boundary.

Although no public footpaths cross the land, Liverton Copse is well placed to provide easy access for the local population from the surrounding housing estates, via a permissive circular path joining the entrances on the western and southern entrances.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Nearest bus stop - Dinan Way near to Concorde Road turning approximately 120m from the main entrance. Buses also run along Salterton Road - nearest bus stop opposite Liverton Close approximately 1/4 mile from the wood.

Nearest train station: Exmouth - approximately 2 miles.

Both bus and train stops can be reached via town roads with pavements.

For more information visit Traveline website www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33

3.2 Access / Walks

A circular permissive path runs around the wood, accessed via 3 entrances with pedestrian squeeze stiles. The main entrance, on the western boundary of the wood, leads direct from Normandy Close residents' parking area via a short stretch of grass verge. A second route goes from either side of houses no 47a and 47b to reach the north west corner of the wood. Immediately after entering there is a short wide flight of steps. The third entrance comes into the south west corner of the wood across another short piece of grass from the southern cul-de-sac of Normandy Close. Within the wood, the path is generally flat, although they rise to the south east corner. Paths have an unmodified natural surface that has some undulations, tree roots, etc. On-street parking is available in the surrounding residential streets of Dinan Way, Breton Way & Normandy Close.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To manage Liverton Copse as high forest woodland with predominantly native broadleaved species, with well-established trees & shrubs, and natural regeneration to diversify the age structure, and to conserve and enhance the existing varied ground flora. The aim is to restore and improve biodiversity by leading to an increasingly semi-natural wood, representative of the Trust's corporate objectives.

To provide an appropriate level of access provision at the site by maintenance of the paths and entrances, and by seeking ways to promote the woodland for quiet recreation to the local population, working with bodies such as East Devon District Council where possible. This will work towards the Trust's corporate objective of increasing enjoyment and understanding of woodland.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

Liverton Copse is set on the eastern edge of Exmouth (population approx. 32,000), immediately adjacent to housing on its western boundary, and with further housing to the north, and forms part of the buffer between town and countryside. Due to its size and the competing attractions of the coast and Woodbury Common, we would expect Liverton Copse to cater predominantly to the local population.

Significance

Increasing enjoyment of woodland is a corporate objective.
The wood's position immediately adjacent to housing make it readily accessible to visitors.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

- 1) To increase awareness of the wood in Exmouth.
- 2) To promote more positive use of the wood through work with the East Devon Rangers and school groups.

Constraints:

- 1) Patches of vandalism to the trees associated with dens/gathering places are potentially unsafe, and discouraging to other users
- 2) Dumping of household and garden rubbish along the western boundary with housing is unsightly, damaging to the wood, and may deter visitors to the wood

Factors Causing Change

Fly Tipping and vandalism. Canopy closure may lead to paths becoming bare and muddy

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Paths and entrances maintained to facilitate easy access to the site for as wide a range of people as possible. Promotion of the site for quiet informal recreation by the local population

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

Operational Objective:

Easily accessible, attractive, well-maintained and safe woodland that a wide range of public frequently enjoy. Entrances, path network and facilities are appropriate for level and type of use.

Work Programme:

1. Cut paths to their full width to ensure good access for visitors. In addition maintain entrances to ensure the wood is welcoming to visitors.
 2. Some coppicing will be done around areas that are muddy to allow greater light penetration.
 3. Tree safety surveys will be carried out following the programme within the site risk assessment and any work necessary to make the wood safe will be undertaken.
- Litter and fly-tipping will be dealt with as required to keep the Copse looking welcoming.

5.2 Local Woodland Habitat

Description

Liverton Copse is secondary broadleaved woodland, planted in the 1980s by the Woodland Trust, although it is thought to have been woodland for some years prior to this. Relatively varied ground flora to be found, including frequent primrose. The wood is gaining a varied structure through occasional wind blow and regeneration (although mainly of sycamore. Some coppicing has taken place on the eastern boundary and to open up some rides. Regeneration has been very good. The wood forms a feature on the very local landscape, particularly from the north and west.

Significance

The wood enhances the local landscape of the built up area, and provides an opportunity to enjoy a woodland habitat to the local inhabitants, helping to achieve local BAP targets

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: The expansion of the industrial estate on the northern boundary of the wood may further decrease the opportunities for species to move to and from the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Tree disease, Squirrel Damage, Fly Tipping and the spread of garden escapes into the wood- The development of the industrial estate behind the wood may affect that boundary area due to littering etc.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain predominantly native broadleaved woodland of uneven age distribution to ensure a stable habitat

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

The structure still shows the historical management of the wood and while much of the canopy is a bit spindly, wind-blow has opened up gaps so the wood is starting to get a varied age and size structure; therefore no major interventions are planned for this plan period. The structure should be assessed in the final year of the plan and if required thinning should be carried out in small blocks around the wood, rather than a standard thin throughout.

Work Programme:

Monitor for deer/squirrel damage during general condition visits to check for browsing of natural regeneration.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	3.20	Mixed native broadleaves	1984	High forest		Informal Public Access, Local Woodland Habitat	Area of Landscape Value

Secondary, high forest woodland planted with mixed broadleaves by the Woodland Trust between 1981 and 1987. Species planted include oak, ash, lime, cherry with some willow (goat & crack), & alder. In addition natural regeneration includes elder, gorse, hawthorn and hazel. More mature specimens of oak, ash etc are found on the wood boundaries in and near the old hedgelines. The wood had previously been Norway Spruce, planted in 1922, and mostly felled by the previous owner in 1980. The exact history is unknown, but it is thought to have been woodland for some time before 1922.

Ground flora is surprisingly good, and includes frequent primrose & dogs mercury, as well as bluebell, dog violet, moschatel and others.

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.