



Church Plantation

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Church Plantation
Location:	Ingleby Greenhow
Grid reference:	NZ579063, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 93
Area:	1.56 hectares (3.85 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Woodland Site, National Park, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This small woodland runs along the side of Ingleby Beck and is part of a larger, replanted woodland. It is an important feature in the landscape and is well used by local people. The paths along the bottom of the valley can get muddy in winter but it stays drier as you move up the valley sides.

Some limited parking is available in the Village Hall car park (subject to use by other events) which lies adjacent to the woodland.

There appears to be no bus route passing through the village, the nearest stop is at the village green in Great Broughton, some 4km to the west, from where the walk follows a single track lane with no pavement. Information from the Traveline website as of May 2007. Further information about public transport is available from [Traveline](#) - or phone 0870 608 2608.

The nearest public toilets are located on the High Street in Stokesley, the main local town some 5km to the north west.

2.2 Extended Description

Small, rural, semi-mature woodland occupying a small streamside valley site. Forming part of a larger replanted woodland following the course of Ingleby Beck down to Ingleby Manor, it has a ground flora that does indicate ancient origins. It is classed as Replanted Ancient Woodland in the 1987 Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Nature Conservancy Council).

Having been replanted it does contain a large proportion of non-native species including hornbeam, beech and sycamore. A stand of poplar on the flat land of sub-compartment 1a, was clear felled in 1989, allowing the other broadleaves to dominate. Other species include alder, willow, bird cherry, hawthorn and hazel. The woodland has two sub compartments, separated by a distinct break of slope - the steep often dry slopes of the valley sides and the flat wet ground adjacent to the stream, both of which make provision for access - whether vehicular or pedestrian very difficult. Bounded to the south west by improved grassland pasture/grazing land and to the north and north east by the C class road running through Ingleby Greenhow, and by the unclassified Church Lane to the south east. The village hall and St Andrews Church also have boundaries with the woodland off the same road. The wood forms a very important landscape feature in the local landscape and particularly within the village itself, and is well used by locals. The village itself being 3 miles east of Great Broughton and some 10 miles from Teeside to the north.

Management access is available from Church Lane, and is also available directly from the main road to the north of the road bridge crossing Ingleby Beck. A single narrow permissive path runs from the south-east, from Church Lane (accessible by ford crossing or pedestrian bridge - not wheelchair accessible); following the boundary of the woodland, along the top of the slope, through to the north-west where it emerges close to the road bridge over Ingleby Beck. The path is narrow, un-surfaced and muddy in places. Numerous steep sections have steps.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

A single narrow permissive path runs from the south-east, from Church Lane (accessible by ford crossing or pedestrian bridge - not wheelchair accessible), following the boundary of the woodland, along the top of the slope, through to the north-west where it emerges close to the road bridge over Ingleby Beck. The path is narrow, un-surfaced and muddy in places. Numerous steep sections have steps.

Some limited parking is available in the Village Hall car park (subject to use by other events) which lies adjacent to the woodland.

There appears to be no bus route passing through the village, the nearest stop is at the village green in Great Broughton, some 4km to the west, from where the walk follows a single track lane with no pavement. Information from the traveline website as of May 2007, Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2608

The nearest public toilets are located on the High Street in Stokesley, the main local town some 5km to the north west

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Minimum intervention woodland allowing the remaining tree species to form the main canopy - dominated by oak, ash, beech, hornbeam and sycamore, creating a mature broadleaved woodland. In time it is envisaged that the wood will regenerate naturally with oak and ash as the more dominant species, as can be seen from observation of the current regeneration. Public access is likely to be maintained at the current levels reflecting the size of the woodland and local nature of use.

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

A single narrow permissive path runs from the south-east. From Church Lane, following the boundary of the woodland, along the top of the slope, through to the north-west where it emerges onto Marsh Lane close to the road bridge over Ingleby Beck. The path is unsurfaced, occasionally steep and muddy and contains a number of short sections of steps.

Significance

The woodland is a key feature of this small North Yorkshire village, being sited in the heart of the village and adjacent to both the village hall and the church. It also provides important landscape feature locally. Very well used by local people for informal recreation - dog walking etc along the narrow permissive path.

Opportunities & Constraints

Very small woodland, with both steep slopes and wet ground which means the woodland cannot take increased access provision, without considerable expense and damage to the woodland, which is accepted in the village. The single path takes in all the features - stream, woodland, ground flora and views south west to the edge of the North York Moors.

Factors Causing Change

As there is only a single track and it is extremely well used, the path is becoming heavily poached and alternative routes are starting to be used.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the current level of access provision, as it is envisaged that visitor numbers will remain relatively constant. A single narrow permissive path from the south-east, running from Church Lane, following the boundary of the woodland, along the top of the slope, through to the north-west where it emerges close to the road bridge over Ingleby Beck.

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

Maintain the current level of access provision, maintaining the path, steps and signs as required. This is likely to require one visit per year.

5.2 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Current designation from Nature Conservancy Council Inventory of Ancient Woodland 1987. Predominantly oak, beech, hornbeam, lime, ash and sycamore. Little understory with a sparse ground flora of garlic, bluebells and dogs mercury.

Significance

Important as mature woodland forming part of a longer chain of Ancient Woodland following the course of Ingleby Beck. Certainly of ancient origins, but more valuable in its maintenance as a landscape feature and accessible woodland for the local community.

Opportunities & Constraints

Potential for further thinning of the woodland as it matures, favouring the native broadleaves against the sycamore, hornbeam and beech, where possible - particularly to encourage ground flora rather than creating native woodland. Topography, difficult access and extraction routes would limit extent of machinery use. Disturbance to the flora which is recovering well after previous thinnings is a concern for the timing of future operations.

Factors Causing Change

Heavy shading causing loss of ground flora. Pest and diseases, particularly *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (ash dieback).

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain a mature broadleaved woodland through a process of natural succession, maintaining this small woodland as an important feature in the local landscape.

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

Monitoring of the woodland and particularly the ground flora on at least a 5 yearly basis to assess the development of regeneration and ground flora. Re-assess the requirement for intervention should ash become infected with As disease.

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	0.60	Hornbeam	1960	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, National Park
<p>1a is a low lying relatively flat area of woodland, separated by Ingleby Beck from compartment 1b to the south-west. Composed predominantly of hornbeam, this sub compartment also contains ash, oak, willows, alder and hawthorn. Being low lying adjacent to the beck it seasonally very wet if not waterlogged, and the soils are soft and clayey, making winter access with machinery difficult. A poplar crop planted here in 1956 was felled completely during 1987. There are several conifers to the south east, close to St Andrews Church. These were apparently planted in remembrance and should be left in place.</p>							
1b	1.00	Oak (sessile)	1960	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, National Park

1b is a steeply sloping river side bank, very well drained and dry, dominated by hornbeam and oak, with occasional beech, sycamore and large lime coppice. Thinned in 1997, extracted by horses, favouring the hornbeam and oak over the sycamore. Sycamore stumps were treated, others allowed to coppice to create further uneven age distribution in the understorey. The ground flora is now recovering extremely well, and is a composition typical of an ancient woodland site. A permissive path runs along the south-western boundary, the compartment being bounded by Ingleby Beck and sub compartment 1a to the north east and by improved grassland pasture/ grazing land to the south-west.

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.