



Crossley Park Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Secondary Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
MAPS	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Crossley Park Wood
Location:	Wetherby
Grid reference:	SE399483, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 104
Area:	0.19 hectares (0.47 acres)
Designations:	Conservation Area, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This small wood is a five minute walk from the centre of Wetherby and occupies a steep slope between the road and the river. It provides excellent views to the municipal park on the opposite bank and up the river towards the hills but is not generally used heavily.

2.2 Extended Description

The wood is available through a 199 tenure-ship, signed over on 30th December 1995 for a peppercorn rent. The property is being leased by the trustees of George Henry Crossley a charity to which the local Town Council are trustees.

The site's northern boundary (110m) fronts onto the residential Linton Road, leading from the A661 Harrogate to Wetherby, West Gate Road in the Witham suburb of Wetherby. It is a 5-minute walk from the town centre, and occupies a steep (400) south-facing slope between the road and the River Wharfe. It immediately overlooks a large open municipal park on the opposite side of the river, which is popular with dog walkers and offers excellent views further up the river's floodplain to Linton Ings, with the Wharfedale Hills beyond. The site is a prominent feature in the local landscape, situated within Wetherby Town Conservation Area. The ground is well drained and following the ecological site classification system it has a rich to very rich and moist soil.

Due to the steep access, and little opportunity for access within the woodland, this very small woodland site is not heavily used. A short path leads down to a bench and continues along the river frontage to the western boundary where it terminates. A car park is usefully placed for visiting the wood, a few hundred metres to the West along Linton Road.

Few mature trees are present on the site although several mature beeches (p1930's) together with ash and sycamore (p1940's) dominate the road frontage. Several more sycamore and alder occupy the river frontage (p1940's). The centre of the site is dominated by tightly spaced sycamore regeneration (p1980's) with occasional representatives of other species such as hawthorn, elder, wych elm and a wayfaring tree. Open hawthorn thicket dominates the east and west ends of the site. Several hazel, hawthorn, ash and dogrose have been planted besides the descending path and several more alder along the waterfront. The ground flora is unremarkable comprising mainly grasses, bramble, stinging nettles, cleavers, rank grass hogweed, fat hen, ground ivy, creeping bent and daisies.

Little management other than tree safety and litter clearance has so far been required on this site. All boundaries except the one fronting onto the road, which is the responsibility of the Highways department, are owned by and are the responsibility of the Trust. This northern boundary fronting onto the road is in good condition and consists of a low dry stonewall which steps down to the top of the site's embankment two metres (six feet) below. A short section of post and rail fencing leads from this wall to the kissing gate in the north east corner of the site. The eastern boundary has been adopted by the neighbouring housing development. The western boundary has similarly been adopted by the private residence to the west and a simple stock proof fence separating the site from the woodland beyond has been installed by the. The southern boundary fronts directly onto the River Wharfe.

Toilets are available in the town centre and a regular bus route runs past the entrance to the woodland.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

Crossley Park is situated in the town of Wetherby. Access to the site is direct from the public highway, through the pedestrian access gate.

The site fronts onto the residential Linton Road in the Witham suburb of Wetherby. Linton Road is a off from West Gate Road, which is the main A661 Harrogate to Wetherby road. The site is located a five-minute walk from the town centre.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

Access to the site is direct from the public highway, through the pedestrian access gate.

This provides access to a flight of steps to a short path (100m) to the river frontage.

PARKING

Parking is unavailable immediately next to the site. A council car park is situated 150metres away and also in the centre of the town.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Public toilets in the town centre

BUS STOPS

The site is on a regular bus route, the nearest stop is not known

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The site will be managed as minimum intervention unless tree safety dictates otherwise. Maintaining a broadleaved high forest of mixed species and uneven age structure. Public access to be maintained by one short 80m unsurfaced path to the edge of the river.

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

This small pocket of mixed broadleaved woodland occupies the steep northern bank of the River Wharfe on the outside of a river bend and in a prominent position above the municipal park. It is a visible feature in a landscape dotted with similar sized woodland blocks. A short path (80m), incorporating a flight of steps, leads from the roadside entrance kissing gate in the north east corner of the site, down to the river. From here the path continues along the river frontage to the western boundary where it terminates.

Significance

The wood is just a short distance from the town centre and provides a small accessible woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Parking is unavailable immediately next to the site, however a car park 150m away, signposted for the Harland and Ebor Way has been provided by the council. Most visitors however will arrive on foot. The site's small size together with its lack of any through route precludes walkers as users who are more likely to use the large parks and local footpath network available in the locality to which the site is unconnected. It only really provides a small opportunity for woodland access.

Factors Causing Change

Litter, vandalism and antisocial activities

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access from the highway to the river edge to be maintained by the existing path, steps and access gate.

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

The path, access gate, Woodland Trust sign and steps to be maintained on at least one occasion during the year. Litter is to be cleared on one occasion, but may require additional visits, due to littering/ dumping from the road above or antisocial gatherings.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

This small pocket of lowland mixed broadleaved woodland, contains a few mature trees, several mature beech ash and sycamore (P1930 - 1940) dominate the road frontage at the top of the bank with, several more mature sycamore and alder along river frontage (p1945) at the bottom of the slope. The centre of the site is dominated by sycamore regeneration p1980 with occasional representatives of other species, hawthorn, elder, ash etc. Open hawthorn thickets dominate the east and west ends of the site. Canopy composition is summarised as sycamore (40%), beech (15%), hawthorn (20%) alder (10%) woody shrubs (5%) open ground (5%) and will probably climax as a national vegetation classification, woodland type eight community. The ground flora is unremarkable and comprises mainly grasses, bramble, stinging nettles, cleavers, rank grass hogweed, fat hen, ground ivy, ivy, creeping bent and daisies..

Significance

The wood is important in a local landscape context and although its currently considered to be of minimal conservation status it serves as a accessible woodland in a built up area, therefore going some small way to meeting biodiversity and recreation objectives. The site occupies a prominent position in the landscape, at the head of Wetherby's main municipal park. It occupies the steep northern bank of the River Wharfe on the outside of the river bend.

Opportunities & Constraints

The wood fronts onto a busy residential road and tree safety along the northern boundary is of paramount importance. Management access is restricted to pedestrians, with no vehicular access.

Factors Causing Change

Regeneration establishing along the easement.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain as broadleaved high forest of mixed species and uneven age structure. Visual disturbance should be kept to a minimum on this site which occupies a prominent position in the landscape.

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

Monitor and review the success of natural regeneration in relation to areas of open canopy within the woodland once during each plan period, to ensure future woodland cover will be retained. Undertake annual tree safety inspections concentrating on trees adjacent to and within falling distance of the road.

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	0.19	Sycamore	1980	High forest	Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Tree Preservation Order

Few mature trees are present in this small pocket of lowland mixed broadleaved woodland. Several mature beech (p1930's) with ash and sycamore (p1940's), dominant the road frontage at the top of the bank. Several mature sycamore and alder occupy the river frontage (p1940's). The centre of the site is dominated by sycamore regeneration p1980 with occasional representatives of other species, hawthorn, elder, ash. Open hawthorn thickets dominate the east and west ends of the site. Canopy composition is summarised as sycamore 40%, beech 15%, hawthorn 20%, alder 10% woody shrubs 5% and open ground 5% and will probably climax as a National Vegetation Classification, woodland type eight community. The ground flora is unremarkable and comprises mainly grasses, bramble, stinging nettles, cleavers, rank grass hogweed, fat hen, ground ivy, ivy, creeping bent and daisies. The ground is well drained and following the ecological site classification system it has a rich to very rich and moist soil.

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.