



# Fother Royd Wood

## Management Plan 2016-2021

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
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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 New Native Woodland

5.2 Informal Public Access

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	Fother Royd Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Worsthorne, nr Burnley
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SD877315, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
<b>Area:</b>	1.03 hectares (2.55 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This small wood is more of a landscape feature than an accessible amenity, having steep slopes, no maintained paths and being some way from the nearest road or public footpath.

## 2.2 Extended Description

The site was gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1988 by Mr and Mrs Greenwood. The wood is 1.03 hectares in size and is on a steep slope in a quiet rural part of Lancashire. It consists mainly of an area of young trees, with a row of mature trees along one boundary. The site is surrounded by other pasture fields. The villages of Worsthorne and Hurtswood are nearby and within a few miles is the centre of Burnley. The wood is approximately 250m from the nearest minor road, and a public footpath runs within 50m. There are various other small woods in the area and the site forms part of a short section of an attractive wooded valley.

There is a public footpath running east-west through the field to the south, within 50m of the wood, and access can be gained into the wood over a stile at the top of the slope in the NW corner. Informal Public Access is one of the sites Key Features however in practise the wood is mainly a landscape feature. Because of its small size and location on a steep slope it is very quiet with only a few visitors actually going into it. A footpath, the Burnley Way passes within 500m of the site, and the public footpath to the south of the site links with this.

Very little is known about its history prior to acquisition, except that the land obviously formed part of a larger pasture field before it was fenced off.

In 1988 778 young trees were planted and these now form the young woodland. They were 60-90cm whips, of common oak, ash, rowan, wild cherry and bird cherry, protected by 60cm spiral rabbit guards. There are just 13 mature trees: 9 sycamores, 2 oak and 2 beeches. After acquisition and fencing a hedge of hawthorn and beech was also planted along the southern boundary along the bottom of the slope. Tree growth of the young woodland has been variable, being best on the small areas of flat ground at the bottom of the slope, wet flushes, and on the flat top of the slope. Growth on the steep, rather dry and acidic bank has been much slower, with several losses in the early years that had to be beaten up. The hedge has also grown well. A limited amount of natural regeneration is also appearing, mainly oak and beech. New Native Woodland is a Key Feature of the site.

Flora within the woodland includes small range of ex-grassland species together with common invasive species of acidic and wet grassland: various grasses, nettles, Juncus, foxglove, bramble, giant horsetail, honeysuckle and bedstraw.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

From the village of Worsthorne, head south along Ormerod Street. After about 600m this road becomes Salterford Lane and as it descends the hill there is a bridge over the River Brun. Just before crossing this bridge, a public footpath enters the field on the left (eastwards) via a stile. Follow this footpath across the pasture field for approximately 250m, and then head northwards for about 50m up the slope towards the young wood. There is an entrance stile in the corner of the wood at the top of the hill.

### 3.2 Access / Walks



## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Fother Royd will be managed as a mixed broadleaved, predominantly native high forest. Both native and non native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. The development of natural secondary woodland will be promoted through the encouragement of any further areas of natural regeneration, on areas not designated as long-term open spaces. Active thinning work will take place to help diversify the age and species structure of the site. We will retain older trees of any species across the whole site as long as safety allows.

Public access will remain low key as at present, with 1 access point and no formal paths.

The hedge on the southern boundary will develop and be managed to provide a boundary. Other traditional boundaries, such as the dry stone wall, will also maintained in their current form.



## 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 New Native Woodland

#### Description

The site consists of approximately 1 hectare of native broadleaved trees (p.1988) planted in single species groups, species include common oak, ash, bird cherry & wild cherry.

#### Significance

This is a small native broadleaved wood in an area with very little woodland at all and certainly very little native woodland, and hence this woodland is of local importance as a habitat. The wood is also an important landscape feature as this rural area has many other small woods around which break up the dominant agricultural pasture.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is very small, and does not connect with other woodland. Hence the opportunities for diversifying the flora and fauna, either artificially or naturally are limited. However, local interest and involvement started and has remained high, and the site has been well cared for.

#### Factors Causing Change

Mammal damage particularly deer and grey squirrel. Chalara may increase the area of open ground and density of trees.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Fother Royd will continue to provide a refuge for wildlife and an interesting landscape feature. Natural regeneration of oak, cherry, rowan and ash will continue in the open areas and in the gaps created as the mature trees naturally senesce. The hedge on the southern boundary will develop and be managed to provide a boundary. Other traditional boundaries, such as the drystone wall, will also be maintained in their current form.

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

Active thinning work will be undertaken to ensure a diverse mix of trees in terms of both species and age.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

The wood can be accessed via a pedestrian step stile at the top of the slope in the NW corner although it contains no formal path network and is only thought to be visited only infrequently by local people . A long distance footpath, the Burnley Way passes within 500m of the site, and the public footpath to the south of the site links with this.

### Significance

The wood provides limited informal recreational opportunities for local people and links in with public rights of way and promoted footpaths.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is very small, with only 1 access point, much of it is on a very steep slope and in a quiet rural area. Hence there opportunities for recreation within the wood are limited, and the level of use does not justify trying to create extra links.

### Factors Causing Change

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access will remain low key as at present, with 1 access point and no formal paths.

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

Access point stile and Woodland Trust welcome sign to be checked once during this plan period by Site Manager.

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## 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	1.03	Ash	1988	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order

1.03 hectares (2.5 acres) in size Fother Royd is located near the village of Worsthorpe in rural East Lancashire. It is roughly rectangular in shape and is located on a steep sided slope. It consists mainly of an area of broadleaved trees such as oak, ash, rowan, wild cherry & bird cherry planted in 1988, with a row of mature trees mainly beech and sycamore along one boundary. The wood does have a formal access point in the form of a step stile but no formal paths run through the woodland and it is not thought to be well used. The surrounding land use is predominately improved pasture land which is used for grazing.

## 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.