



Barley Mow Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Barley Mow Wood
Location:	Knaphill
Grid reference:	SU966592, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 186
Area:	10.40 hectares (25.70 acres)
Designations:	Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This woodland is an important green space in a large residential area, boasting 48 different species of trees. A good network of paths, although they can become waterlogged at times due to the clay soils, making walking difficult.

2.2 Extended Description

Barley Mow Wood is situated just to the north of Knaphill, a suburban village to the town of Woking 4km to the east, in north-west Surrey, within the Thames Basin Heaths. The wood was purchased in 1992 following a successful local fundraising appeal as it was then under threat of becoming a site for travelling people. The wood is now under a Tree Preservation Order designated by Woking Borough Council.

Between 1870 and 1896 the Waterer Family of Knaphill Nurseries, laid out the farmland as a nursery within the ring bounded by the lanes of Barley Mow and Barrs. In Barley Mow a grid-work of paths was laid out especially on the western side, some of which respected the original field boundaries, some of which go back to 1790's, but other paths cut a cross them. Groups of trees such as yews and redwoods in the south-west corner of the site follow the lines of some of the paths. These feature trees add to the character of the wood, which is otherwise dominated by oak and beech high forest with a diverse understorey dominated, in patches, by holly, sycamore and hornbeam. There are two meadows within the wood, covering approximately 10% of the total site, which support a relatively common neutral (MG1) grassland community. Barley Mow Wood is a secondary woodland on Bagshot formation bedrock - a series of sand and clay, with slightly acidic, clayey soils which impedes drainage.

Barley Mow Wood is surrounded by housing and development to the south and west, with grazed pasture to the north and a nursery to the east. The wood acts as an important corridor connecting wildlife to larger local nature reserves of White Rose Lane and Mayford Meadows and Horsell Common. Important local wildlife includes little owl, meadow pipit and reed bunting. Within the wood, ground flora includes bluebells, dogs mercury, garlic mustard, lords and ladies and the occasional patch of bracken.

The wood is well-used by the local community - schools, youth groups, dog walkers, parents waiting for their children to finish sport activities at Waterers Park. There is a network of paths throughout the wood which do get muddy in the winter months. Car parking is available in the public car park of Waterers Park and there is space of one vehicle in a layby along Chobham road.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General location:

Barley Mow Wood is situated just to the north of Knaphill, a suburban village to the town of Woking 4km to the east, in north-west Surrey. Barley Mow Wood is surrounded by housing and development to the south and west, with grazed pasture to the north and a nursery to the east.

Public Transport:

The nearest bus-stop is close by and at the Royal Oak pub on Anchor Hill. From the stop it is a short walk across Waterers Park playing fields to the wood. For further information on public transport please contact Traveline www.traveline.org.uk

Nearest facilities:

The nearest public toilets are at Waterers Park, but there is no disabled facility. If these toilets are closed for maintenance then there are public toilets on the High Street, Knaphill.

3.2 Access / Walks

General overview of paths and entrances:

The wood is well served with many criss-crossing paths, all unsurfaced and occasionally muddy in winter. Four public rights of way also transect the wood and there are many entrance points into the wood from the adjacent Waterers Park recreational ground and from Barley Mow Lane to the west of the wood.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Barley Mow Wood will be maintained as a high forest, consisting of predominately native broadleaf species, dominated by oak and beech, with a diverse understorey. Exotic trees will be retained as feature trees for visual and historic interest. Active management of the semi-natural grassland will prevent scrub establishing but will maintain a graded woodland edge. The wood will be free from the damaging effects of invasive non-native species such as bamboo, laurel and rhododendron.

Barley Mow Wood will continue to be free and open for public access and the Trust will ensure that safety risks to the public are minimised as far as possible. The wood will continue to be a welcoming place for visitors and will offer a variety of short local walks.

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 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Barley Mow is mixed secondary woodland, mostly composed of native broadleaves. The structure of the woodland is quite varied which is partly owed to storms in the 1980s bringing over large beeches and creating gaps for younger trees. In consequence the deadwood habitat is very healthy. Two meadows, covering approximately 10% of the site, in the north-west of the wood support a MG1 semi-natural neutral coarse grassland.

Barley Mow was part of a plant nursery, covering parts of the surrounding landscape. The nursery was world-renowned for growing rhododendrons and azaleas. It was a later addition to the nursery, appearing in the late 19th century, and then fell out of nursery management following the end of the Second World War. Before this date the land was open fields. Remnants of the formal layout of the nursery and its planting can still be discerned, such as clumps of single species like the yew in the eastern corner and there are still scattered specimen trees like Wellingtonia and exotics like bamboo still present. Other understorey species includes hornbeam, holly, sycamore, yew, willow, silver birch, ash, horse chestnut, elm, white poplar, red oak, field maple, Norway maple, cherry and lime. Holly has the potential to become dominant and invasive. Woodland ground flora is sparse with pockets of bluebells, dog's mercury and garlic mustard and patches of bramble and nettle in areas of past disturbance.

Older historical features are also present with an old bank and ditch running north-south across the wood and old boundary banks around parts of the perimeter. All these are thought to be medieval in origin and mark old field boundaries.

Significance

Barley Mow Wood is a refuge for wildlife on the edge of the busy conurbation of Woking.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: wet conditions in the winter restrict access

Opportunities: to work with local volunteers to open up selective paths in order to improve the structural diversity of the wood and potentially dry out the paths. This must only be undertaken if path creep and deer damage is controlled.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive species (bamboo and laurel)

Increased deer and squirrel damage preventing the establishment of regenerating species

Encroachment of scrub into open grassland areas

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Barley Mow will be composed of mainly native broadleaved species, but will contain a selection of non-native specimen trees which will not be a threat to biodiversity, such as Wellingtonia. Its structure will largely be two-storied high forest with natural processes being allowed to shape the wood. This approach should encourage the development of old trees, standing and fallen deadwood and patches of natural regeneration in windblown canopy gaps. These qualities will drive the wood towards a semi-natural state. An element of semi-natural grassland will continue to be present but this will be reduced over time, accounting for a minimum of 8% of total site, with a view to creating 2 small glades with thick scrubby margins grading into the surrounding mature woodland.

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

During the plan period management will be undertaken to control and monitor invasive species and maintain the semi-natural grassland.

- Bamboo and laurel scattered throughout the wood but with concentrations in the north corner (laurel 0.05ha), southern boundary (bamboo 0.1ha) and west boundary of the site will be eradicated by cutting, uprooting (with volunteers) or chemical spraying (with contractors) repeatedly starting in March 2019. Holly becoming increasingly dominant throughout the wood and will be cut back along selected paths (total length approximately 600m) with brash being used to manage path creep.

- The grassland will continue to be managed on an annual basis by mowing at the end of summer to maintain the habitat and associated common plant species. However, scrub and young trees will be allowed to develop via natural means around the edges of the existing meadows. This will be achieved by reducing the scale of annual cutting on the grassland to leave unmown margins of approximately 15 metres and this margin will be cut back every 5 years on alternate sides to ensure there is a graded woodland edge. Scrub must not be allowed to encroach more than 2% of total open area and scrub and grassland combined must continue to account for 8% minimum of the site (0.8ha).

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Barley Mow Wood has an access category B (moderate usage site where paths are maintained). The wood is within walking distance of Knaphill (population of 8,635), on the edge of Woking (population of 92,400). It is well served with many criss-crossing paths through the wood offering a variety of walking routes for visitors. Four public rights of way also transect the wood and there are many entrance points into the wood from the adjacent Waterers Park recreational ground and from Barley Mow Lane to the west of the wood. The wood also benefits from the public car-park at Waterers Park.

Significance

Barley Mow Wood is important because it provides an accessible 'wild space' on the doorstep of a local population in Knaphill. The site is a regular destination for local dog walkers and those associated with activities in Waterers Park. Local schools and youth groups frequently use the wood.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Wet areas and lack of undergrowth along paths are resulting in path-creep. There is some antisocial behaviour such as motorbikes occasionally using the wood and camp fires.

Opportunity: The wood is well used by local walkers and there could be potential for greater community involvement in the care of the wood clearing invasive bamboo, laurel and holly, and potentially opening up footpaths.

Factors Causing Change

Increase in visitor numbers
Anti-social behaviour

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a network of paths through the whole site. The site will continue to have regular daily visitors with appropriate infrastructure at entrances and benches maintained as required.

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

Low key public access will be maintained over the plan period by regular maintenance and safety inspections, appropriate for the numbers of visitors.

- Approx 2.8km of paths and 7 entrances will be maintained annually to allow continued access across the

whole site. This will include strimming path edges and entrances, and appropriate tree safety work, identified by Zone B safety inspections every 2 years.

- Infrastructure will be refreshed. 7 squeeze gaps and associated post and rail fencing will be replaced, steps will be added to 3 access point with steep inclines, 2 wooden "welcome" signs will be installed at main access points and small "welcome" plaques installed at the remaining 5. These, along with the site's bench will be inspected annually and maintained or replaced as necessary.

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	10.41	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Natural Secondary Woodland	Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order

The compartment is a stand of secondary mixed broadleaf dominated by oak and beech towards the north, with two open grassland areas in the north. The understorey consists mainly of holly, hornbeam and sycamore, along with field maple, yew, silver birch, hazel, willow, elm, Norway maple, lime, cherry, horse chestnut, ash, elder and occasional specimen trees such as Wellingtonia, Atlas cedar, white poplar, and red oak remnant of when the site was a nursery. Ground flora is very limited and lacking in specialist woodland plants although there are pockets of bluebells, dog's mercury and garlic mustard and patches where bramble is common. Fallen deadwood is abundant throughout the site, standing less common.

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.