



Pipe Hall Farm

Management Plan 2016-2021

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 Open Ground Habitat	
5.2 Informal Public Access	
5.3 Ancient Woodland Site	
5.4 Secondary Woodland	
5.5 Connecting People with woods & trees	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Pipe Hall Farm
Location:	Lichfield
Grid reference:	SK086093, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 128
Area:	48.30 hectares (119.35 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Great Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Enjoy a gentle stroll through ancient and young woodland and mature plantations along one of the extensive networks of paths, or through open wildflower meadows sown with a colourful mix of native grasses and flowers, and take in stunning views of Lichfield Cathedral and Maple Hays Hall.

2.2 Extended Description

Pipe Hall Farm lies within the Forest of Mercia Community Forest (FOMCF) midway between the communities of Burntwood and Lichfield within a predominantly arable landscape. It is one of 12 Community Forests in the FOMCF and covers almost 62 hectares. It's a diverse and interesting site containing 37 hectares of predominantly native secondary woodland planted from 1994-96 and a further 8.7 hectares of native broadleaves planted in 2010/11. There are also three smaller blocks of more mature broadleaved and coniferous trees (Parkers Plantation, The Roundabout and Jubilee Wood). Specimens in these areas range from approximately 60-100 years of age. Wide rides and open spaces were an important feature of the planting design and these have developed beautifully alongside the maturing tree planting and plantations and are thoroughly appreciated by visitors. As well as the extensive ride network, visitors can also enjoy fine views of the surrounding area views from the large open-meadow in the north-east corner of the site which also makes a fabulous location for picnics.

The wood was acquired by the Trust in three stages. The first and largest of these forms the majority of Compartment 1, and all of 2 and 3 and contains the majority of the woodland creation activity undertaken here. The second area lies to the north-east of the site, a welcome addition providing improved access and the space to construct a car park for approximately 25 vehicles. The final area was acquired in 2010 (compartments 4 and 5) and incorporates both a further substantial area of native broadleaved planting and a small area of Planted Ancient Woodland (Jubilee Wood). On the western edge of Jubilee wood lies a Grade 2 Listed structure called a 'Conduit Head'. This structure dates back to the 13th Century in the period Norman to Medieval 1200AD to 1299AD. It's positioned at the head of two natural springs which were tapped and channelled to feed the nearby town of Lichfield and its Cathedral occupants for many centuries and until as recently as 1969. The building, which resembles a very small stone cottage was beautifully restored and renovated in 2010 by local stone masons.

Pipe Hall Farm is predominantly flat but rises slightly as one heads east. There are excellent views of Lichfield Cathedral through the surrounding historic parkland landscape and land surrounding Maple Hays Hall and its estate of which Pipe Hall Farm also once formed part.

Most of Pipe Hall Farm is situated on reddish loamy soils of the Bromsgrove Association. The soil is therefore prone to drought and has a high risk of soil erosion. The pH values for the site vary from pH 4.5 - 6.5.

The Key Features for this site are:

- KF1 Open Ground Habitat
- KF2 Informal Public Access
- KF3 Ancient Woodland Site
- KF4 Secondary Woodland

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By bus:

Buses are operated by Arriva, with route 860-1-2 leaving Lichfield Bus Station (opposite the railway station) every 15 minutes and travelling along the A5190.

The nearest bus stop is at the end of Woodhouses Lane off the A5190 between Lichfield and Burntwood. Visitors will then need to walk about 1km along Woodhouses Road and St Matthews Road.

The Green Bus number 15 also travels towards the wood, leaving Lichfield bus station three times a day. It travels along Woodhouses Lane, turns left where that lane joins St Matthews Road, and passes within 400 metres of Pipe Hall Farm.

For further information, including timetables, visit www.traveline.org.uk

By train:

The nearest railway station is Lichfield City, which is operated by London Midland. From here it is possible to catch a bus to within 400 metres of the site, as the bus station is opposite the railway station.

For further information visit www.traveline.org.uk

By car:

The site lies close to the A5190 and can be accessed via St Matthews Road. There is a car park just off St Matthews Road with spaces for 24 cars and two specially designated disabled bays.

3.2 Access / Walks

Park up in the recently extended car park off St Matthews Road (SK083096), where there are spaces for 24 cars and two specially designated disabled bays. From here, you can enter the wood through two kissing gates, both of which can be fully opened to allow the passage of large mobility vehicles using a RADAR key. They are linked by 700 metres of specially surfaced all-abilities path for easy access.

You can pick up one of the site's wide paths and trails from the car park too, and a public footpath runs alongside the north-east boundary, providing additional access.

The paths are generally flat and made up of mown grass, though as they are quite narrow in parts, they aren't always suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Despite this, Pipe Hall Farm was included in a recent Guardian article about accessible woods and forests, so much of it can be enjoyed by everyone.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In 50 years' time, Pipe Hall Farm will continue to be an interesting mosaic of predominately native broadleaved woodland and open ground habitats. The areas of predominantly new native woodland planting will be well established with a diverse range of species supported by a well-developed shrub layer and native natural regeneration.

The open ground habitat, primarily sub compartment 3a, will be maintained as an important area for visitor enjoyment and conservation interest. There are excellent views from many of the open ground areas here and in summer, particularly the meadow in 3a. Maintaining this open area and its existing floristic interest will require a meadow cut once a year, preferably with cuttings removed and timed so flowers and grasses in the sward can seed successfully.

The site offers excellent public access opportunities. There's a wonderful choice of paths of varying lengths from which there are impressive internal and external views making the site hugely popular to visitors, particularly dog walkers. In accordance with the Trusts Woodland Management Approach, free public access will continue to be provided for quiet, informal recreation and rides and access points managed to ensure facilities are accessible, welcoming and safe. Paths will be kept open and potential surface management/upgrading work undertaken where appropriate. Ride edge work in the form of coppiced and scalloped bays will be undertaken providing both visitor and conservation interest as part of the young plantations development. Regular tree inspections will be undertaken by competent people and tree safety works will be implemented in accordance with recommendations from inspection reports and in line with current best practice.

In accordance with the Trust Management Approach, non-native conifer plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) within Pipe Hall Farm will be restored to a predominantly semi-natural composition and structure. Ancient Woodland is our most valuable wildlife habitat and the restoration of PAWS represents the only opportunity to increase the area of ancient woodland with semi-natural characteristics. The Trust's gradual approach towards PAWS restoration will involve maintaining and enhancing remnant ancient-woodland features e.g. ancient ground flora and ancient woodland specialist species by reducing threats to their survival, primarily from dense shade. This process will take some decades but long-term, will serve to greatly improve the general ecological value of PAWS through gradual conversion of the canopy towards one of predominately semi-natural species composition and structure.

Secondary woodland areas planted in the 1960s and 60s will be maintained and where necessary, intervention undertaken to promote a more diverse, predominantly native, mixed broadleaved range of species to support the development of a more resilient and robust native broadleaved 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 Open Ground Habitat

Description

8.09 hectares of meadow land, 5.1 hectares created in 1995 under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme using native seed mixes made up of 40% creeping red and chewing fescue, 40% crested dogstail, 10% common bent, 5% meadow foxtail, 3% meadow barley 2% common quaking grass.

Significance

It is important to have open space within the context of a woodland creation site in order to increase its biodiversity and for public enjoyment. Areas of open ground act as important habitats for many species. It's important to restore protect and maintain these habitats within our sites where practical and sustainable, particularly where they are part of a wider landscape scale habitat network.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity to maintain a valuable resource that delivers both recreational and conservation benefits as it links into the wider landscape scale habitat.

To enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

A major constraint is the meadows management and finding contractors to cut and remove the grass sward.

Factors Causing Change

Noxious weeds, scrub development.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the meadow and other open space/glade areas as an important recreational and conservation feature/habitat within the larger woodland matrix.

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

Continue to cut the meadow and other open/glade areas on site at least once a year. The meadow in 3a to be cut towards the end of July to early August to maximise the opportunity for grasses and flowers to seed. Cutting height should be in the region of 25-50mm.

Annual control and removal of ragwort by physical means as required.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Public access is available on foot throughout the site with an extensive network of permissive rides large areas of open space. There is also a short surfaced circular route leading from the car park which is suitable for pushchair and wheel chair access. The two public entrance points into the wood from the car park are wheelchair 'radar' kissing gates. There is a short section of Public Footpath which passes through the site and Compartment 4.

The wood is reasonably flat with just a gentle incline to the east as you head towards compartments 4 and 5.

Car Parking facilities are available at the main entrance off St Matthews Road. The opening and closure of the car park is managed by a local group of volunteers. Posters are displayed at the various entrance points around the car park and on site to advise users of the opening and closing times of the car park.

Significance

In line with corporate objectives to increase visitor access and enjoyment, the area is an important amenity for visitors and dog walkers in the area and is heavily used with an estimated 70 cars using the car park daily.

Opportunities & Constraints

Pipe Hall farm has a generally flat aspect making walking easy and enjoyable throughout the whole site. The possible introduction of way-marked routes for dog walkers, thus reducing the danger to health, especially to children, from the vast amount of dog fouling experienced periodically may be a future consideration

Factors Causing Change

An increase or changes in the spectrum of users. Vandalism, dog fouling.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To provide a welcome and enjoyable destination site whether the network of paths are well maintained and improvements undertaken where possible an appropriate. To provide an appropriate level of on-site information and interpretation of historical and wildlife interest. To provide and maintain view points within the woodland and seating areas.

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

Cut permissive and public routes three times annually to Woodland Trust Specification 2.1.

Cut the meadow area once annually in late summer.

Maintain/repair all gates, stiles, information board, and welcome signs in good condition throughout the period of this plan.

Undertake tree safety surveys and carry out any remedial work as required.

5.3 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

The area of PAWS at Pipe Hall Farm is known locally as Jubilee Wood (sub compartment 5a). Approximately 90% of the area has been planted with conifers (hybrid Larch, Scots and Corsican Pine and Leyland Cypress). However, some pockets of remnant ancient woodland species still remain and appear quite strong and vibrant.

Despite the dense conifer shading, there's a notable retention of ancient woodland ground flora species and deadwood, particularly around the wood's margin and the stream edges. These are very promising starting points in terms of extending and developing ancient woodland features throughout the compartment through future thinning and restoration work. There is a well-used permissive path that passes through this compartment and over the brook via a footbridge installed by the Trust.

Significance

It is a key corporate aim of the Woodland Trust to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future.

The long term intention for all PAWS owned by the Woodland Trust is to restore to locally typical native broadleaved species. Restoration will improve the biodiversity of the site as a whole. Remnant ancient woodland communities throughout the PAWS are currently at levels that can be maintained and increased through sensitive management.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

If forestry operations are carried out later summer/drier times of the year, disturbance to the soil and ancient woodland features can be minimised.

Constraints:

This area of the site is more difficult to access being the furthest point away from the management access point of the site from the main road.

Relatively long extraction route

Heavily used site by the general public and dog walkers.

Factors Causing Change

Wind damage, deer damage and natural regeneration of conifers.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A predominantly (>80%) native mixed broadleaved Woodland where ancient woodland characteristics of deadwood and ground flora have been secured.

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

2019 - Thinning of Subcompt 5a, approx. 20-25% canopy removal of conifers throughout stand.

Felling selection will prioritise tree stem removal of those specimens best placed to conserve and enhance remnant ancient-woodland features present. This will be based on the level of threat with urgent and careful attention being directed to those areas most at risk in this first instance.

The thinning work is to be carried out in the drier months in late summer to help to protect the rest of the site infrastructure. To ensure the compliance with WT polices environmental and EPS assessments will be carried out on the thinning areas before work commences

5.4 Secondary Woodland

Description

Secondary woodland (planted). Pipe Hall Farm has a mix of secondary woodland planting. The oldest of these are in the areas known as Parkers Plantation (2a), a mixture of mature broadleaf and conifer species and the roundabout (2b) approximately p1960, a mixture of native broadleaves (predominantly) and some larch.

Compartment 1a forms the largest single block of similar age planting carried out between 1994-1996 and is particularly noteworthy due to much of this having been undertaken by volunteers. Species planted are predominantly a mixture of native broadleaves but there are also small areas of Scots pine. Whilst the latter are non-native, they greatly add to the internal and external appearance of the site which directed much of the original planting design.

Finally, the most recent area of planting is that in compartment 4. This is entirely of native broadleaves and was planted over the winter of 2010/2011.

Significance

While much of the site is of plantation/woodland creation origin, tree establishment has been very successful and there are also a number of mature pre-plantation specimens which add to the interest on site. The mixture of ages and species here enhances visitor enjoyment and provides a net biodiversity gain across the site in terms of woodland habitat age, structure and resulting conservation interest.

The spectrum of tree age on site also provides a much older and richer woodland feel at this point in time than one might otherwise expect. The mixture of conifers and broadleaved species complements the area in terms of its visual appeal both internally and externally, providing an important landscape feature as well as increasingly the value and diversity of habitat available for wildlife.

Increasing native woodlands cover is a corporate objective of the Woodland Trust.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

the site is largely flat and drainage good with exception of the north eastern areas of the site where conditions become much wetter with the clay content in the soil steadily increasing as one heads in this direction.

Factors Causing Change

Deer browsing, pest and diseases, vandalism by visitors.

Japanese Knotweed (20 stems noted by neighbour on western boundary July 2018 and thought to have spread from previous owners garden). Treated through stem injection. Species no longer present in neighbours garden.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A structurally and species diverse predominantly native mixed broadleaved woodland.

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

2019 - 2a (Parker's Plantation) - very light thinning approximately 15-20% canopy removal as this area has been thinned already (2004) and coarse vegetation has already responded vigorously in some areas.

2019 - 2b - (The Roundabout) - thinning approximately 20-25% canopy removal.

Both 2a and 2b thinning will involve selection of stems to favour enhancement of existing and development of future regeneration areas and favour release of any existing native broadleaved tree development throughout those stands.

4a,b and c - remaining tree shelter removal

5.5 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Access/Infrastructure

Pipe Hall Farm wood has its origins in the Medieval period, when the Manor of Pipe was situated on the land, and owned by the Pipe family. It is sandwiched halfway between Burntwood and Lichfield in the SE corner of Cannock Chase, in the Forest of Mercia Community Forest (FOMCF). The site was acquired by the Woodland Trust in the early 1990's, with an extension acquired under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 1995. In 2010, a further area was acquired which incorporates a substantial area of native broadleaved planting and a small area of Planted Ancient Woodland known as Jubilee Wood. The site is 48 hectares (118 acres), the areas of woodland are interspersed with areas of created meadowland. The entrance point to the wood is from St Matthews Road, and there is a newly-extended car park with tarmacked parking for 24 cars and 2 designated disabled bays. From the car park there are 2 kissing gates which give access to the wood. In total there are 3 entrance points into the wood, 2 from the car park and one in via a public footpath which runs alongside the north-east boundary and which links it to the A1590 and the village of Pipehill. The paths are generally flat and made up of mown grass, although they are quite narrow in parts, they aren't always suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. However, the site was included in a recent Guardian article about accessible woods and forests, and so much of it can be enjoyed by everyone.

The entrance to the car park is clearly marked with 2 large green Woodland Trust 'asda' signs. Inside the wood there are Woodland Trust ladder boards with white text at each entrance which are in good condition and reasonably new. At the 2 entrances from the car park there are orientation boards with maps and site information. These are in reasonably good condition, although they could do with cleaning, and replacing in due course with 'unframed' versions which would not trap the water along the bottom edge. Signage for the car park opening hours is currently temporary laminate signage, and this needs to be replaced with permanent plaques which detail the seasonal opening times.

General Communication Drivers

Pipe Hall Farm is located on the outskirts of the cathedral city of Lichfield, close to the A5190, and there are public footpaths which link it with nearby roads and areas of habitation. It is possible to catch a bus from Lichfield Bus Station to within 400 metres of the site, which means that it would be possible to increase usage by inhabitants of Lichfield, as well as the nearby villages of Pipehall, Hammerwich, Farewell and the neighbouring town of Burntwood. It is one of 12 Community Forests in the FOMCF. Forest Of Mercia CIC www.forestofmercia.com Anecdotally we know that the site is very well used by dog walkers, with the car park often being full to capacity and people parking on the grass verge. Detailed information on the visitor base and numbers is not available. However, it is useful to consider the composition of the surrounding communities that could feasibly be existing or potential sources of visitors.

The features of the site that provide interest are as follows:

- Planted Ancient Woodland area, with ancient trees in the Jubilee wood area
- Maturing meadowland with wildflower planting
- Views of the cathedral city of Lichfield and the gothic cathedral
- Long history associated with the site, including 2 historically significant conduit heads, one Medieval which is Grade II listed, and one dating from the late 18th Century.

The current visitor offer at Pipe Hall Farm is a low key one, and reflects the Trust's original intention of creating places for quiet, informal recreation. The wood is a quiet, peaceful place with an open and inviting feeling, with a network of paths which allow people to explore with minimal guidance. There is scope to develop the visitor offer at Pipe Hall because of the proximity to local urban areas and the newly-created car park. The wood also contains some areas of open space within it that might be possible to use for small local events or engagement activities. Being located within the Forest of Mercia Community Forest could be a good opportunity to forge partnerships with this organisation, and tap into the community who already utilise their sites. The Community Forest Trust is a charity which supports community forest creation at 6 key sites across the country and have planted 36 million trees with community groups over 5,000 hectares.

Local organisations which might hold partnership opportunities are the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas (<http://www.thenma.org.uk/>), Fradley Junction Canal (<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/fradley-junction>), Castle Ring Iron Age Fort at Cannock Chase (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_Ring). The Forestry Commission run Cannock Chase Forest nearby (<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/birchesvalley>) and Staffordshire County Council run Chasewater Country Park. <http://www.enjoychasewater.co.uk/> Projects to expand on the history of the site could possibly be done in partnership with Lichfield Museum. Competition for visitors may come from Minster Pool which is an outdoor space within the centre of Lichfield, affording city dwellers access to outdoor recreational space on their doorstep.

Events

There is currently no active programme of events at Pipe Hall Farm. There have been some Legacy events held here in the past which were very popular. The main constraints around holding events in the future is the size of the car park, which would restrict attendance, and also cause frustration amongst the regular users of the site, who park there daily. Although there is a car park, it is not large enough to accommodate all the usage of the site and there are already tensions around parking space, so any event which would increase site-usage and require parking would need to be carefully managed.

Volunteering

There is currently 1 volunteer at the site, a Woodland Warden. There is potential for more volunteer involvement in the site, subject to capacity and availability of suitable projects.

Schools

There are currently no forest schools at the site, or schools which use the site in a formal capacity. There is potential to develop this in the future, as the site would be suitable, if local schools were interested in this.

There are several local schools which could make use of the site, in particular the Maple Hayes Hall School, which is a 10 minute walk from the wood. Christchurch Church of England County Primary School and Queen's Croft High School are also both close to the site, and there are many other schools in Litchfield that could be encouraged to use the site. There are also a number of nurseries and playgroups in Litchfield.

Wider Community Engagement

There are currently no formal wider community groups engaged with the wood, but there is potential for this to be developed, within capacity. Any community involvement would have to be part of a specific project with identified beneficial outcomes and funding to facilitate. There is a very active

informal user-group who are keen to see the wood maintained and improved and their interest could potentially be harnessed to form a formal community group if that was desirable.

Significance

Pipe Hall Farm provides an important free accessible woodland close to the city of Litchfield, and within a significantly urban landscape. It is very well used by locals, particularly for dog-walking, and informal recreational use. It provides a valuable public amenity for which local alternatives are limited. The history of the site, and the links with local waterworks via the springs and conduits onsite, are of local historical importance, and add another dimension to the visitor offer which the site provides. One of the conduit heads is Grade II listed, and both are historically significant and should be preserved. The medieval land-use of the site is another story which could be told to attract a different audience to the site.

The varied habitat provided by the different areas of the site are a valuable home to many different species of wildflowers, birds and insects. The site supports a rich biodiversity which is significant in creating resilience in the local wildlife and providing much-needed habitat in a largely urban landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Access/Infrastructure

Close to urban populations, good transport links. Well maintained and accessible hard-surfaced car park

General Comms Drivers

There is a greater potential audience that could be engaged with at Pipe Hall Farm, and also a number of partner organisations which we could potentially work with

Events

Small-scale events such as guided walks and nature detective sessions. Open meadow areas allow for small group gatherings. Local urban populations to draw on, including the cathedral city of Litchfield.

Volunteering

Possible opportunity to recruit further Woodland Warden type roles. Potential to tap into Forest of Mercia Community group to source volunteers?

Schools

Many local schools in nearby Litchfield, including Maple Hayes Hall School which is within walking distance

Wider Community Engagement

Possible potential to tap into the Forest of Mercia Community Group to source community involvement? There is an active user-community around the wood who are keen to see it improve and maintained

Constraints:

Access/Infrastructure

Lack of space in the car park. Narrow single file country roads to access the site. No direct footpath from Lichfield or local schools directly to the site, walkers must navigate the A5190 to access the footpath.

General Comms Drivers

The site is only small and by increasing usage we risk swamping the visitor offer there, and making it feel overcrowded, thus putting off visitors who are seeking escape. There is competition locally with several other publicly accessible 'green spaces' such as the National Memorial Arboretum, Minster Pool, Chasewater Country Park and Cannock Chase Forest.

Events

Small amount of parking which is already at full capacity much of the time. Tiny single-track roads to access the wood, which are unsuitable for large amounts of traffic.

Volunteering

Staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement

Schools

Staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement, and lack of current interest by schools. Capacity and receptiveness of school staff.

Wider Community Engagement

Lack of staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement.

Factors Causing Change

Sense of ownership by active local community and regular users are driving improvements to the visitor offer, as their expectation of the facilities on-site increase.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Pipe Hall Farm Wood will be treasured and well-used by the local community, and will be a wood through which we successfully connect people to woods and trees and our wider cause messaging, as well as enabling us to have a strong brand presence in the Forest of Mercia.

Potential opportunities to recruit volunteers and utilise these to improve the visitor offer onsite, by small-scale guided walks and events for example, will be investigated. Local schools will use the site regularly for self-led engagement. Links with other local attractions will be strengthened and opportunities for partnership working pursued where appropriate. The local community will be encouraged to use the wood, opportunities to utilise existing community links will be maximised, and the informal community of users may develop into a more formal 'friends' group in time. The wood will continue to offer excellent public access opportunities, and free public access will continue to be provided for quiet, informal recreation, and rides, paths, car parks and access points will continue to be maintained to ensure the site is accessible, welcoming and safe. Ways to improve or expand the car parking facilities to enable better access will be investigated.

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

Refresh entrance points in line with Welcome Site Survey action list:

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	36.66	Mixed native broadleaves	1995	High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access	Community Forest
<p>This area is new plantation, planted predominantly by local volunteers between 1994-1996. Major species include sessile oak, ash, silver birch and field maple. Lesser species are hazel, hawthorn, crab apple, blackthorn, alder and holly. Some smaller areas have also been planted within the open meadow areas, species include beech, lime and scots pine. The planting blocks are separated by rides, approximately 20 metres in width.</p>							
2a	2.30	Mixed broadleaves	1960	High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This is an area of mature secondary woodland known as Parkers Plantation near the centre of the site. Scots pine is the predominant species towards the northern part of the block and is of reasonable quality. Pedunculate oak and other mixed broadleaves including sycamore are less abundant and of poorer quality. Hazel was under planted in the southern part of the area in 1995.</p>							
2b	1.50	NULL		High forest		Informal Public Access	
<p>The Roundabouts is an area of mixed broadleaves of poor quality and European larch planted approx 1960. The understorey is generally poor with rabbits being a severe problem here. Dead wood is minimal.</p>							
3a	8.10	NULL		Min-intervention	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access	Community Forest
<p>A 8.09 hectare block of improved pasture, 5.1 hectares created in 1995 under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme using native seed mixes made up of 40% creeping red and chewing fescue, 40% crested dogstail, 10% common bent, 5% meadow foxtail, 3% meadow barley 2% common quaking grass. The meadow area is situated on rising ground affording views of Lichfield Cathedral through the historic parkland landscape surrounding Maple Hays Hall.</p>							
4a	2.78	Mixed native broadleaves		High forest		Informal Public Access	Community Forest

Area of woodland planting (p2010) with a mixture of native broadleaves including Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Hazel, Sessile Oak, Wild cherry, Hawthorn, Spindle, Holly and Guelder Rose.							
4b	3.14	Mixed native broadleaves		High forest		Informal Public Access	Community Forest
Area of woodland planting (p2010) with a mixture of native broadleaves including Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Hazel, Sessile Oak, Wild cherry, Hawthorn, Spindle, Holly and Guelder Rose.							
4c	2.79	Mixed native broadleaves		High forest		Informal Public Access	Community Forest
Area of woodland planting to be planted early 2011 with a mixture of native broadleaves including Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Hazel, Sessile Oak, Wild cherry, Hawthorn, Spindle, Holly and Guelder Rose. Ground preparation here is a little different from 4a and 4b in that a forest of flowers wildflower seed mix was used instead of a grass sward to plant into. The wildflower seed mix species include Birdsfoot trefoil 10%Red Campion 25%Ox-eye Daisy 10%Devilsbit scabious 1%Musk mallow 5%Meadowsweet 6%Field Scabious 3%Foxglove 4%Hedge Bedstraw 10%Lady's bedstraw 2%Meadow Buttercup15%Cowslip 1%Vipers bugloss 1%Wild carrot 7% With a companion annual mix of Corncockle 25%Corn Marigold10%Corn Poppy 5%Corn chamomile40%Cornflower20%							
5a	4.43	NULL		PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Informal Public Access	
A mixture of native broadleaves with a proportion (approximately 20%) of planted conifers including Larch, Cedar and Scots Pine.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	2a	Thin	2.30	43	100
2019	5a	Thin	3.40	78	266.1000061035 16
2021	2b	Thin	1.50	50	75

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.