



Cinnamon Brow

Management Plan 2016-2021

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Cinnamon Brow
Location:	Warrington
Grid reference:	SJ627918, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 109
Area:	1.27 hectares (3.14 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Cinnamon Brow is two small woodlands approximately 200 metres apart in the Cinnamon Brow area of Warrington. Both woods have a range of broadleaf tree species including oak, ash, beech, field maple, alder, willow and horse chestnut and there are several veteran oaks and ash which are remnants from when these were old farm woodlands before the area was developed. There is a good understorey of hazel, hawthorn, elder, holly and the ground flora includes bluebells, lesser celandine, daffodil and a small wet area with flag irises. Both woods have surfaced permissive footpaths for public access.

2.2 Extended Description

Cinnamon Brow is located in Warrington in north Cheshire near the interchange of the M6 and M62 motorways. It is in the suburb of Cinnamon Brow, approximately 3 miles north east of the town centre. The site is two small woodland compartments: the western compartment is known as Cinnamon Brook Wood and the eastern compartment Spittle Brook Wood. The woods are approximately 200 metres apart separated by a river, Spittle Brook and houses. It was managed through the 1980s and early 1990s by the Warrington New Town Development Corporation and gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1995 along with several other woodlands in the area.

The surrounding landscape is mixed land use comprising residential estates, areas of open space, wooded copses, unmanaged grassland and farmland. The compartments are on flat, low lying ground alongside Spittle Brook, houses and a golf course.

It is secondary broadleaved woodland, which is a key feature of the site, and has a reasonably diverse structure with a mix of species and age classes. The main canopy species are oak and ash with some localised beech, horse chestnut, lime and sycamore. Some of the trees may be classified as veteran trees reflecting their origins as farm woodland before the development of the surrounding housing estates. Tree safety and stand stability thinning work was carried out in 2014 in both compartments resulting in a significant amount of dead wood being retained as valuable habitat, mainly lying on the ground, but also some standing poles were retained where safe to do so.

In both compartments under storey planting comprising rowan, field maple, wild cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, elder and willow was carried out by the New Town Corporation in the early 1990's. The ground layer varies in both compartments, but is generally well developed and is made up of bluebell, ivy, lesser celandine, bramble and other common woodland species. Natural regeneration is widespread throughout, predominantly of ash, oak, horse chestnut, beech and field maple.

Cinnamon Brook Wood compartment has several shallow dry ditches and depressions which fill with water in winter. As with many urban woodlands it suffers from issues such as fly tipping (particularly of garden waste), litter and occasionally vandalism.

Informal public access is a second key feature for the site with a surfaced footpath through both compartments and several public access points from the adjoining housing estates. The woods are used mainly by local people and for dog walking.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The woods are in the Cinnamon Brow area of north east Warrington just off Enfield Park Road.

There are public access points from Kinross Close and Solway Close and from St Andrews Close.

There is no parking at the wood, but limited roadside parking is available on the housing estate roads.

The nearest bus stop is on Enfield Park Road near to the entrance to Solway Close. For information on bus routes and locations of bus stops visit the Traveline website <http://www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm>

There are no public toilets in the vicinity.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term policy for Cinnamon Brow Woods is to maintain a high forest of broadleaves, predominantly of native species, with a diverse structure, under storey, shrub layer and ground flora. It will be managed primarily as a landscape feature, woodland habitat and amenity for local people to enjoy.

Guided by the Woodland Trust's woodland management approach, conservation and access policies long term management will aim to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The wood will be managed to ensure that it is as robust as possible to future threats such as climate change, pests and tree disease. Mature trees will be retained for as long as safe to do so and natural regeneration will be promoted. The woodland will be regularly monitored for long term threats from tree diseases, pests, non-native species, human impacts and the long term sustainability of the woodland.

Public access, safety and long term stand stability will be key drivers for woodland management operations. Silvicultural management will aim to maintain a diverse woodland structure and mix of species, particularly focussing on areas bordering houses, roads and footpaths. Areas along path edges and boundaries will be managed to retain a varied woodland edge structure and to maintain open sight lines.

Informal public access will be retained at the wood in perpetuity with approximately 280 metres of footpath and 6 entrances maintained for visitor access. The Trust's duty of care to neighbours and visitors will continue to be addressed through on-going tree safety and site risk assessment inspections.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

Informal public access is available to both compartments at the site. Cinnamon Brook Wood compartment has approximately 160 metres of surfaced permissive footpath with three public access points on Solway Close on the eastern side of the wood and a single access point on Kinross Close on the western side of the wood. Spittle Brook Wood has approximately 120 metres of surfaced permissive footpath with two public access points, one from the golf course on the northern boundary and the second leading from the open ground to the south of the wood which leads to Enfield Park Road and St Andrews Close. There are Woodland Trust welcome signs at all entrances.

Significance

In accordance with the Woodland Trust's general aims the site is open to the public for quiet informal recreation. Although these two woods are small and mostly surrounded by housing they serve as valuable amenity and landscape features in the local area. They provide the opportunity for people to access woodland and nature close to where they live and are regularly used by local people, mainly for dog walking.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size and fragmentation of the woods limits opportunities for increasing public access and community involvement. Management access is limited and no vehicle access is possible within both compartments. The Trust will continue to encourage neighbours to take an interest in the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Occasional anti-social problems such as fly tipping (garden and household waste) from neighbours and occasionally vandalism.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the current level of public access and maintain the permissive footpaths and public access points to encourage visitors to the wood. The safety of visitors and our neighbours will be addressed through on-going tree safety inspections and site risk assessment generating remedial works as required.

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

During this plan period the short term objectives will be to:

1. Carry out annual maintenance of the entrances, signs, cut back any vegetation encroaching on the footpaths, and remove litter/ fly tipping as necessary.
2. Undertake regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones (i.e. next to buildings, roads and footpaths) and site hazards as per the Trust's safety inspection regime to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertaking any remedial safety work identified.
3. Carry out woodland edge/ path edge coppicing to improve sight lines at entrances, along paths and to maintain a more diverse woodland.
4. Monitor public use of the site to review the current standard of access provision in 2020 and identify if there are any issues/ threats to the wood from public usage, taking appropriate action to address them if necessary.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Both these small woodlands consist of a mix of broadleaved species and have a nucleus of old farm woodland trees particularly oak and ash. Their subsequent enlargement by the New Town Development Corporation during construction of the adjacent housing estates enhanced their structure and species composition with the planting of oak, beech, alder, horse chestnut, rowan, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and elder. The woods are well structured and appear to have sufficient regeneration to ensure succession. The ground flora contains a small range of woodland species including bluebells, celandine, ivy and bramble.

Significance

These woods are somewhat isolated from other woodland in the area which makes them valuable habitats for wildlife and landscape features in this urban fringe location. Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England with less than 5% woodland cover and small woodlands such as these are important landscape features and wildlife refuges. Some of the mature trees, notably oak, ash and horse chestnut could be classed as veterans.

Opportunities & Constraints

The woods are very small and surrounded by housing developments which is a constraint on undertaking management work.

Management access is limited with no vehicle access possible in both compartments.

Tree safety work is an important factor and will provide opportunities to encourage natural regeneration of native species through creating gaps in the canopy.

Factors Causing Change

Occasional anti-social behaviour (fly tipping, vandalism and damage to trees), but it is not presently causing any significant impact in the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain a high forest canopy of mixed, broadleaved species with a varied structure in terms of species and age class distribution. The wood will be allowed to develop as naturally as possible and dead wood will be retained where safe to do so. Tree safety will be a priority and key driver for management intervention and boundary coppicing will be undertaken on a 10-15 year cycle to manage long term safety issues and create a varied structure to the woodland edges.

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

During the plan period the main short term objectives are to:

1. monitor the health and resilience of the woodland by carrying out a woodland condition assessment in 2020 to monitor levels of natural regeneration, identify any threats from tree disease, pests or non-native invasive species, and take appropriate action where necessary.
2. undertake tree safety inspections as part of the site risk assessment regime for public safety in high risk zones (i.e. by houses, footpaths and roads) and carry out any remedial work identified.
3. carry out thinning operations focusing in areas bordering houses, footpaths and roads for long term stand stability and tree safety.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.77	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest
<p>This compartment is known as Cinnamon Brook Wood and is roughly Y shaped, flat ground with several shallow dry ditches in the southern part of the compartment. It is bounded on all sides by housing apart from the north western spur of the wood which abuts Spittle Brook with a golf course on the other side. The compartment contains a mix of broadleaf species with a diverse structure, age and species composition. The main canopy species are oak and ash with some localised horse chestnut and beech. Some of the oaks, ash and horse chestnut may be classified as veteran trees reflecting their origins as farm woodland before the development of the surrounding housing estates. A number of standing poles and felled trees have been retained as deadwood. The canopy was underplanted with field maple, rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and elder. The ground layer is well developed, considering the low-light levels and is made up of bluebell, ivy, bramble and lesser celandine. There is a small seasonal pond in the mid part of the eastern limb which contains flag iris. Natural regeneration is predominantly of ash, oak, horse chestnut and field maple.</p>							
2a	0.50	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest
<p>This compartment known as Spittle Brook Wood is bounded by the golf course to the north and in the south it gradually merges with woodland and public open space owned by Warrington council. The western boundary is formed by Spittle Brook and the eastern boundary is abutted by housing. It is mainly flat ground with a slightly elevated area in the south east corner. The wood has a diverse structure, age and species composition with a canopy of mature oak, sycamore, ash with lime, beech, horse chestnut and willow species. The understorey includes field maple, rowan, wild cherry, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn and is well developed. There is good natural regeneration particularly of ash, field maple, hazel and beech. The ground layer is varied with no vegetation in places, some bluebell, lesser celandine, daffodil and bramble and near the stream the ground cover is dominated by ivy. There is extensive dead wood in the compartment, mainly lying on the ground but with a few standing poles, resulting from past tree safety and thinning work.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2018	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.25	12	3
2018	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	10	1
2020	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2022	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	20	2
2022	2a	Thin	0.50	40	20
2032	2a	Thin	0.50	20	10

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.