



Coffee Pot Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Coffee Pot Wood
Location:	Great Alne
Grid reference:	SP117592, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 150
Area:	1.35 hectares (3.34 acres)
Designations:	Conservation Area, Forest of Arden Project Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Coffee Pot Wood includes a dedicated Conservation area and the majority of the site lies on a disused railway. Broadleaf trees inhabit the site and a riverbank border supports ecological diversity. Good all-weather access provided by surfaced paths.

2.2 Extended Description

Situated within the heart of the village of Great Alne and with road frontage along the B4089, this site is a well-known landscape feature. The wood lies within a dedicated Conservation Area and was named by children in the local school. The area of secondary woodland which forms the eastern two thirds of the site, is situated on a disused railway. This portion of the site is characterised by numerous semi - mature willow pollards within a matrix of densely regenerating sycamore, Norway maple and ash. The western third of the site is a small semi-improved meadow. The southern boundary of both the wooded area and the grassed area is formed by the river Alne. This riparian zone is dominated by alder, willow, poplar and sycamore along its length. While the riverbank is steep where it is contiguous with the secondary woodland it has a more gentle profile where it borders the grass habitat of Coffee Pot Wood producing abundant marginal vegetation. While Coffee Pot Wood does not adjoin other woodland or lie within an ancient woodland concentration it is a very well used and appreciated local nature reserve.

A surfaced track (the old railway line) passes through the wood which provides a good all weather route for public access leading right down to the riverside path. This in turn is linked to a path network through the meadow which also incorporates the riverbank. The site despite its size therefore, offers visitors a variety of experiences from woodland and meadow to riverbank and includes both circular and through routes. The main and frequent users of the site are local people. While Coffee Pot Wood does not adjoin other woodland or lie within an ancient woodland concentration its location within the heart of the village means it is a very well used and appreciated, local nature reserve.

There are two public/management entrance points, one directly from the B4089 and the other leading into the south west corner of the site and the meadow area which is off a minor road, Pelham Lane.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Coffee Pot is located in the centre of Great Alne and a short distance from the town of Alcester, Warwickshire. It is easily accessed off the B4089, but unfortunately the wood is not connected to the PROW system. The paths within the site are not surfaced but are mostly flat and with an even surface, however there are a number of steps to navigate along the path as you approach the river bank from the north. The entrances only obstruct unauthorized access so permit the authorized pedestrian use without constraint. .

There is no formal parking for the site. An area used as parking has been formalized through continuation of use very nearby on Pelham Lane. This is located to the south of the site and just to the south of the road bridge over the river Alne.

A bus service is available that stops in the village of Great Alne at: Great Alne, Sernal Lane, Adj, Arden Cottage. This is part of the following service:

Service Number: 26 (stratford)

Provider: Diamond Bus

Please see www.traveline.info for further information.

There is no information on public conveniences within 5 miles of Coffee Pot wood.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To maintain the present habitat variety of robust and resilient secondary high forest woodland dominated in areas by willow pollards, wet meadow, river bank and marginal river vegetation. The existing willow pollards will be cut in a phased programme to promote stability while giving a variety of regrowth ages through the site including over maturity where this does not affect tree safety, public access.

Maintain compartment 1c as open space to maintain and enhance the internal landscape perspective. Along the banks of the river in 1b and 1c, locally typical riverbank tree species such as alder to be managed to provide a continuation of tree cover along riverbank to a density of 50-60% in the form of both coppice/pollard and mature trees. These proportions and balance will keep the access path along that section free of obstruction, while maintaining river bank stability.

Retain public access which is currently managed through the provision of pathways through both the open space and wooded environments. The current path network to be maintained through annual cuts and other routine maintenance as detailed in the estate management contract.

Key Features:

F1 - Informal Public Access

F2 - Natural Secondary 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 Informal Public Access

Description

The site is used daily by local villagers. Though the site is not crossed by any Public Right of Ways permissive access routes are in good condition providing both circular and through routes which are passable in all weather conditions. Part of the permissive access path network is formed by the old railway line running East-West through the site for a distance of circa 140m's. At the Eastern end of this railway length the main management access track joins at right angles, this track is stoned with an associated bearing capacity. There is a squeeze gap entrance at the main management access point (SP11765928) off the side of the B4089 Alcester to Wotton Wawen road. A further pedestrian access point lies on the South western boundary just off the County Council lane named Pelham Lane which enters the meadow area 1c. Steps form a safety measure for pedestrians within compartment 1b. These have been installed to enable people to more easily climb the short sharp rise that forms the old railway embankment from the river side path. These are located at GR 11755919. A post and wire fence has been installed to deny access into the partially open culvert (75cm diameter) running 25-30m under the Railway embankment and exits in to the River Alne. A separate safety fence has been erected around this culvert exit.

Significance

Local villagers use the site on a daily basis. The community were involved heavily in the funding of the purchase price for both the initial secondary woodland purchase and the follow on meadow acquisition. There is a strong sense of ownership throughout local parishioners.

The meadow area provides Coffee Pot wood with a contrasting element of open space and it is felt that this attribute should be maintained for the continued enjoyment of public access.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

Well used by local community.

Constraints

Small size of wood and location means unlikely to be expanded
Muddy areas of footpath during wetter months

Factors Causing Change

River bank erosion near footpath

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the site for quiet informal access for the benefit of the local community and other visitors. The continued provision of a well maintained permissive pathway along the former railway line (sub compt. 1a) and mowing of routes through the open area (sub compt.1c).

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

To implement the estate management contract covering both entrance, sign and footpath maintenance where all entrances and signs can be seen to be inviting to members of the public and all paths well maintained and easy to follow.

For the estate management contract to continue to cover the annual mowing of the meadow and pathways through the meadow. Paths to be mown a minimum of three times a year

To implement a phased programme of re-pollarding river and ride side willows to improve stability and the internal landscape aesthetic.

Surface stretch of footpath with compacted stone from existing surface along muddy/boggy areas near meadow.

Monitor condition and suitability of footpath diversion fencing - is the fenced off area off footpath still being used?

5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Formerly a section of railway line which has been colonised by ash and sycamore regeneration. This sub-compartment is characterised by the numerous willow pollards concentrated along the roadside boundary and the surfaced management track. The remainder of the area is dominated by dense pole stage and younger sycamore/ash regeneration with some hazel/elder understory. The ground flora is dominated by ruderals such as nettles.

Freshwater pearl mussels can be found along the watercourse within compartment 1b.

Significance

Woodland has represented the land use of this area for much of the memory of local people who expect to see a continuation of this. The wooded area of the site acts as a contrast to the open areas which is felt adds to the experience of a walk through Coffee Pot Wood.

Locally pollarding is a typical management regime for boundary trees, notably streamside specimens.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity

To create a more diverse habitat over the whole site by building on the number of current willow pollards and restoring existing ones as a characteristic of the site.

Constraint

The small size of the wood will always restrict the ultimate success of such operations.

Due to the presence of freshwater pearl mussels any work that is to be undertaken on the banks or in the river itself must be subject to an environmental assessment. Mitigation must also be in place to avoid disturbance to the river bed/bank and prevent any pollution including siltation.

Factors Causing Change

Deer and squirrel damage

Concentrations of sycamore regeneration

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To retain the secondary woodland cover over the extent of sub-compt. 1a in the form of a high forest canopy with a proportion of historical pollards.

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

Apart from the phased re-pollarding of the riverside willow (part of the public access and safety regime) the site will be managed through minimal intervention during this plan period in accordance with the Trust's Woodland Management Approach.

To monitor deer damage during site visits by Woodland Officer to provide subjective information on threat to regenerating shrub and flower communities.

Continue programme of pollarding along watercourse where appropriate.

Monitor levels of sycamore regeneration - are this conducive to a robust and resilient woodland?

Monitor levels of Himalayan balsam on site.

Monitor condition of planted tree and shrub specimens within wooded area

Monitor squirrel damage and look to carry out intervention work, if required, in line with the Woodland Trust's squirrel policy

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	0.53	Sycamore	1970	High forest		Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	Conservation Area
<p>Formerly a section of land adjoining either side of a railway line (which provides a stable all weather surfaced track). This sub-compartment is characterised by the numerous willow pollards concentrated along the roadside boundary A-B and the surfaced management track along I-A. The remainder of the area is dominated by dense pole stage and younger sycamore/ash regeneration with some hazel/elder understorey. The ground flora being dominated by ruderals such as nettles. An extensive ditch system runs along the county roadside boundary and feeds into a culvert running under the old railway embankment and into the River Alne.</p>							
1b	0.30	Sycamore	1970	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	Conservation Area
<p>1B forms the riparian zone of the river Alne. The riverbank of the Alne is steep and heavily shaded in the eastern half of the site where it is associated with the secondary woodland. A riverside path runs along this length of 1b under the canopy of the secondary woodland. The western half of 1b is associated with the meadow area where the bank is gently sloping providing conditions for abundant marginal vegetation. Here tree cover is less dominant and consists of both mature alder/willow/poplar and coppice. Again public access is available down to the rivers edge. Freshwater pearl mussels can be found along this watercourse and within this specific compartment.</p>							
1c	0.30	other poplar spp	1900	Non-wood habitat		Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	Conservation Area
<p>A small semi-improved wet meadow susceptible to occasional flooding, contains extensive areas of Meadowsweet, Meadow Buttercup and Butterbar.</p>							

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.