



WOODLAND
TRUST

Gaywood & The Rookery

Management Plan

2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Gaywood & The Rookery
Location:	King's Lynn
Grid reference:	TF639195, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 132
Area:	4.68 hectares (11.56 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A small woodland next to a residential area. There are large mature oaks with a hazel coppice and two ponds in the north western corner. There is a main ride running east - west through the wood and many other paths that cross it. It is well used by dog walkers, young people and for access to the nearby houses. The Rookery, to the west of Gaywood, is a plantation of mature oaks over grass.

2.2 Extended Description

Gaywood Plantation is small woodland, adjacent to a residential area, on the outskirts of King's Lynn. The wood is characterised by large mature oaks with a hazel coppice under storey. There are two ponds in the north western corner of the wood and several open ditches running through it. There is a main ride running east - west through the wood and many other paths that cross it. It is well used by dog walkers, young people and for access to the adjacent housing estate.

The Rookery, to the west of Gaywood, is a plantation of mature, even-aged oaks over grass. The Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk maintain the street lighting and tarmac paths that cross the area.

Gaywood Plantation and The Rookery have open boundaries that are largely surrounded by tarmac paths. The boundary of the woodland is 2 metres from the edge of these paths. Garden fences form the boundary along the northern edge of The Rookery. To the north and east there is a large housing estate, to the west there is a school with metal railings and the open land over the large drain to the south may be developed in the future. There is both an electricity sub-station and an Anglian Water plant to the south east of the site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Gaywood and Rookery is situated between the Fairstead and Gaywood estates in South King's Lynn the site has hard surface paths surrounding the boundary and running through the Rookery. Within The woodland areas of the site, simple un-surfaced paths dissect it. During the winter these can become very muddy. Access is from either from Parkway road or Swallowfield road.

The closest train station is King's Lynn main station (1 Mile from site)

Link to train time tables: www.onerailway.com

There are no known public toilets near site. Closest public toilets at Centre Point on the Fairstead estate.

Bus services
www.firstgroup.com

42: Kings Lynn - Fairstead Via Gaywood
42A: Kings Lynn - Fairstead
Via Gaywood & Queen Elizabeth Hospital

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The desired condition for Gaywood is for the woodland to retain a robust multi-structured and multi-aged broadleaved high forest woodland, with a dominant native ground flora and a rich and abundant deadwood component.

The Rookery being an area of wooded amenity parkland will have a desired long term structure of mature trees over rough grassland. The trees will be left to reach veteran status in the future and a valued source of deadwood habitat.

In accordance with the Trust's objective of increasing public enjoyment of woodland, Gaywood wood and the Rookery will be managed primarily for its amenity value.

The woodland trust will support community partnership(s) and development within Gaywood and the Rookery. The long term intention will be to allow the local community of Fairstead and Gaywood estates to have a greater role in the overall management and development of the site.

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

Gaywood and the Rookery is situated on the urban fringe of King's Lynn and is situated adjacent to a large housing estate, on the outskirts of King's Lynn. There is a main surfaced ride running east - west through the wood and many other paths that cross it. Around the boundary of the Woodland and also running through the Rookery are tarmac paths that are also used as cycle ways. All Tarmac paths and lighting are maintained by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council.

Significance

Gaywood is a small but significant local amenity woodland. It is very important to maintain open public access and good communications with local residents if problems of vandalism, misuse and fly tipping are to be prevented in the future. If this can be achieved, more people will enjoy the wood and feel safe in it.

Opportunities & Constraints

Management options are considerably constrained by the amount of vandalism and fly tipping that currently takes place in the wood. There is significant interest by local residents and local user groups to use the site for educational purposes.

Factors Causing Change

Fly Tipping and Vandalism

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the wood as an area of public access that is safe and inviting for people who live within the local area and visitors to the wood.

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

To maintain the site as an area of public open access, with ride system maintained to a minimum of 2m, allowing unhindered access for the public. Maintain all internal structures in a safe usable condition.

Work Programme.

May - Cut grass Throughout the Rookery and remove any litter and rubbish. Strim new orchard area and around new orchard trees and around new woodland log seating. Strim all entrances to main woodland area and along edges of main paths within main woodland.

July - Cut grass Throughout the Rookery and remove any litter and rubbish. Strim new orchard area and around new orchard trees and around new woodland log seating. Strim all entrances to main woodland area and along edges of main paths within main woodland.

August - Cut grass Throughout the Rookery and remove any litter and rubbish. Strim new orchard area and around new orchard trees and around new woodland log seating. Strim all entrances to main woodland area and along edges of main paths within main woodland.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The wood is thought to be of secondary nature; however the wood contains many ancient woodland characteristics. Gaywood has a good diverse age and deadwood structure. Gaywood contains a chain of ponds that have been heavily modified and affected by the creation of the Fairstead estate, and a lot of rubbish and soil was deposited within corner of the wood creating a large mound. In the north-western edge of the site. The main tree species within the wood are as follows: Penduculate oak, Turkey oak, Common ash, field maple and wych elm. The Understorey is dominated by common hazel with some common hawthorn and blackthorn. The ground flora is quite diverse with Wild Garlic, wood anemone, bluebell and dog violet. Around the north edge of the wood there is a high amount of nettle found partly due to the past disturbance and dumping on site.

The Rookery has a wooded parkland appearance, consisting of mature even aged Penduculate oaks over rough grassland and is of little ecological interest but has great amenity value.

Significance

In the context of the locality this Mature woodland is an important feature because it brings the natural environment into the urban landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Management options are considerably constrained by the amount of vandalism that currently takes place in the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping, Vandalism and tree disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain mature secondary woodland structure maintaining current levels of deadwood habitat throughout the wood.

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

The woodland will be left to undertake a natural process where intervention will be left to a minimum, apart from any health and safety issues that could pose a threat to public safety.

5.3 Community Woodland Group

Description

There is currently a vibrant Woodland Trust affiliated volunteer community group that oversees the wardening and community liaison with the local community within site. The Community group was created initially in partnership with the Woodland Trust to aid the development of community activity within the site and to improve people's knowledge and use of the site, with the long term goal of reducing of fly tipping and antisocial behaviour. With the Community continuing to use Gaywood and the Rookery (Plantation wood) as a developing community hub regular community events are held on site to raise the sites profile and a place for the community to use and enjoy.

Significance

Gaywood and the Rookery is a significant local amenity woodland that is being used by the local community for recreation and play. The site has become an important resource for local schools to use as an outdoor educational area, and has seen a reduction in antisocial behaviour and fly tipping. It is very important to maintain the community element of the site and develop further links with local residents to continue to reduce the issues of vandalism, misuse and fly tipping.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is a vibrant Woodland Trust volunteer community group within the site who are undertaking regular events, and there are further opportunities to develop the group and the site to help the local environment and community.

Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping, Vandalism, or the loss of the community group.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To form strong links with the local community and continue to engage their support in managing the woodland as an area of education and informal recreation and play. There is long term opportunity for the local community to take on self management of Gaywood and The Rookery, should enough local support and funding be available to achieve this.

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

Continue to develop and build the community group and links with the local area. Promote the site as an educational resource and an area of informal recreation and play within the plan period.

Work Programme

January, July - Twice yearly meeting with the volunteer group to discuss progress and any potential issues that may arise, and any potential improvements to the management of the wood.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

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

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.30	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention		Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
<p>The Rookery, to the west of Gaywood, is best described as Wooded parkland consisting of a plantation of mature, even-aged oaks of around 100 years of age with no understorey and a rough grass sward as the only ground flora. The grass is regularly mown by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk who also maintain the street lighting and tarmac paths that cross the wooded parkland area.</p>							
2a	3.60	Oak (pedunculate)	1800	Min-intervention		Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Gaywood is characterised by large mature oaks with a hazel coppice understorey. Ash and field maple are also present along with a few hawthorn in the understorey and elm and blackthorn along the edges. In the north western corner of the wood there are two ponds and several open ditches inter-connecting them; originally there was a third but this was filled in many years ago with building rubble, which is still visible today. There is a main path running east - west through the wood and many other paths that cross it. In order to make the wood less threatening and boggy, the main ride has been opened up with coppicing.</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.