



# The Shrubbery

## Management Plan 2014-2019

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
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 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](http://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.

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## 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

<b>Site name:</b>	The Shrubbery
<b>Location:</b>	Wadworth
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SK565974, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 111
<b>Area:</b>	1.00 hectares (2.47 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Conservation Area, Green Belt, Site of Scientific Interest, Site of Special Interest, Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This small narrow mature woodland was once part of the grounds of the 18th century Wadworth Hall and still contains some garden features including an old fishpond, Ha-Ha wall and the Gospel Wells. A circular path runs around the perimeter of the wood

## 2.2 Extended Description

The site was donated to the Trust on the 15th December 1994 from Wadworth Hall Trust. This small narrow mature woodland is situated on a north-facing slope to the north west of the village of Wadworth. Its elevated location makes it a prominent landscape feature in a relatively flat landscape, and is visible from the A1 (M) and M18.

The wood was formerly part of the grounds of the 18th century, Wadworth Hall, and still contains some garden features including an old fishpond and Ha-Ha wall. Also within the woodland are 4 wells known as the Gospel Wells, which were covered by metal grids for safety in 1995. The wells, Ha-Ha and fishpond are historic landscape features. They have therefore been identified as Conservation Features within the management plan and are identified on the corresponding map. These features will be maintained as far as is reasonably possible.

The site is well used by local people being within walking distance of the village. A circular path runs around the perimeter of the wood, passing the pond and offering long distant views across open countryside to the northeast.

The wood contains many ancient woodland indicator species and Doncaster MBC designated it a Site of Scientific Interest, being deciduous woodland on limestone with a species rich flora. However, some of the trees and shrubs were no doubt planted when it was part of the grounds of the hall including lime and yew with other species such as sycamore arriving through natural regeneration. Main tree species include oak, sycamore, elm, beech, yew and lime. The shrub layer is dominated by snowberry and bramble and blackthorn. Ancient woodland indicator species include, ransoms, bluebell, dogs mercury, wood melick and, yellow archangel. Daphne laureole has been seen on the site and Helleborus foetidus, the stinking hellebore.

The wood is bordered by intensive agricultural land to the north, Wadworth Hall to the east, and Wadworth Lane to the south and west. A Ha-Ha wall forms part of the northern boundary with a mixture of hedges and fences on the other boundaries.

The Shrubbery is situated immediately north west of the village of Wadworth, alongside Wadworth Hall Lane. Footpath access is available from the lane at the north and south ends of the wood along with an intermediate access point. Wadworth is situated approximately 3 miles south of Doncaster on the A60, which runs through Tickhill to Worksop. Access from Wadworth lane

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

### ACCESS TO THE SITE

The Shrubbery is situated immediately North West of the village of Wadworth, alongside Wadworth Hall Lane. Footpath access is available from the lane at the north and south ends of the wood along with an intermediate access point. Wadworth is situated approximately 3 miles south of Doncaster on the A60, which runs through Tickhill to Worksop. Access is from Wadworth lane.

### ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The wood contains a circular path of about approximately 500m in length. The wood is on a sloping hillside and the earth path has two moderately steep slopes. Access is via an open gateway at the southern end of the site. A squeeze stile permits access at the northern end of the site to Wadworth Hall Lane.

### PARKING

Limited roadside parking on Wadworth Lane.

### PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles.

### BUS STOPS

Wadworth village centre.

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0870 608 2 608

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to develop and maintain a diverse, predominantly broadleaved high forest encouraging self-sustaining woodland, with a mixed shrub layer and diverse age structure. The woods historical interest will be retained by maintenance of the garden features and any non-invasive tree species, which have been planted as part of the garden. A circular footpath to be maintained within the site and 3 points of public access from the highway ( Wadworth Hall Lane).

## 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 wood is exceptionally popular with local people, with the circular footpath around the perimeter of the site being well used throughout the year.

#### Significance

The wood with its attractive ground flora, historical features and views to the open countryside provides an attractive short walk for local residents

#### Opportunities & Constraints

This small wood does require a high level of management to maintain the paths due to encroachment by snowberry and other scrub. Litter can also be a problem, which appears to collect in areas used by groups of youths .

The site is a site of scientific interest and control of erosion by people needs to be controlled with encouragement given to keep visitors on the main circular path only.

#### Factors Causing Change

Increased public use, Damage by mountain bikes, Vandalsim and rubbish left on site deterring visitors

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a well-maintained circular footpath that enables good access all the year round and 3 access points from the highway.

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

Maintenance of the footpaths on at least one occasion annually, ensuring welcome signs are clear and including the annual removal of litter. The footpath to be maintained at a minimum width of at least 1m, with thinning of scrub alongside this area to maintain an open aspect to the paths.

## 5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

### Description

The wood is not listed in the Nature Conservancy Council's Draft Inventory of Ancient Woodland (1987) as an ancient woodland site. However, that survey only picked up sites over 2ha and given indicator species present this wood could well be a small relic of ancient woodland. It is also classed as a 'Site of Scientific Interest' by the local authority due to its botanical value. The wood is also subject to a Tree Preservation Order and within the Wadworth Conservation Area.

### Significance

The Shrubbery, whilst on its own is a very small area of Ancient Woodland, it does form part of a larger Local Concentration of Ancient Woodland, forming a scattered band of woodland over approximately 18km from Bentley in the North to Maltby in the south.

Woodland cover in the Yorkshire area is one of the lowest in the country at about 2.7% (Source NCC - provisional 1989) If the site is an ancient woodland then its rarity value is even greater with only 6% of the total woodland area being ancient woodland. Irrespective of being ancient woodland the species distribution within the wood makes the site worth of its designation as a Site of Scientific Interest

### Opportunities & Constraints

The wood has a mix of tree ages from natural regeneration through to fully mature, although the number trees in the middle age group is fairly low. Hopefully, the decline and loss of the mature trees will be gradual but the development of natural regeneration should provide ample replacements.

### Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration sycamores, People - vandalism and erosion in specific areas, Scrub encroachment, concentrating on specific species such as snowberry where it is threatening the ground flora., Tree safety works., Loss of trees through old age and windblow

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

That the existing ground flora will have been maintained and protected. That a diverse broadleaved high forest has developed through natural regeneration. The trees to be dominated by native species but other species, which reflect the history of the site, will be included.

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

The woodland canopy will be managed as minimum intervention wherever possible, being likely limited to tree safety operations (including roadside hedge/tree trimming. However, non-native understorey species such as snowberry, which is dense, invasive and has a detrimental effect on both ancient woodland ground flora and regeneration, will be eradicated from site during the current plan period (2019-2024).

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## 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	1.00	Sycamore	1900	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Conservation Area, Green Belt, Site of Special Interest, Tree Preservation Order

Compartment 1a contains approximately 50% sycamore, 10% beech, 10% lime with 30% other species including pedunculate oak, ash, wych and English elm, field maple, holly, laburnum and yew.

The woodland canopy, which is dominated by mature to over-mature trees is broken where several mature trees have been lost in recent years. In these areas dense elderberry, sycamore, ash, oak and elm regeneration has developed, although the elm suckers are dying off no doubt in response to Dutch Elm Disease. Snowberry has become rampant in sections of the wood together with bramble. Bounded to the north by intensive cereals, and to the south by Wadworth Hall Lane, to the east by Wadworth Hall.

## 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.