



Eoves Wood

Management Plan 2013-2018

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Eoves Wood
Location:	Hampton
Grid reference:	SP023439, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 150
Area:	7.61 hectares (18.80 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Planted for the millennium, this young woodland has its main access point from a bridle path called Red Lane and up a few steps to a squeeze stile. Visitors can explore the wood via a circular route which provides access to a wildflower meadow and there are fine views of Bredon Hill and historic Evesham. Paths are flat and dry for most of the year and parking is available in the nearby village of Hampton. There is a bus stop 0.25 miles south of the wood and a railway station in Evesham.

2.2 Extended Description

Eoves Wood forms part of the Woodland Trust's "Woods on Your Doorstep" project, which is supported by the Millennium Commission, and which has created 200 new community woods within easy walking distances of towns and villages. This woodland site was made possible by the support of the local community and through initial fundraising to acquire the site to the contribution of ideas, aspirations and information to the design process that established the new wood and was planted with their help in the winter of 1998.

The site lies at the edge of the village of Hampton on the western fringes of Evesham and is bounded by a combination of arable and pasture land on rotation on three sides, and a roughly surfaced track which is also a Public Bridle path known as Red Lane, on its eastern boundary. The site prior to planting consisted of an open arable field extending to 7.6 ha. An old hedge along the southern boundary and a double line of former fruit tree in the north west portion of the site provided some internal landscape interest that has been incorporated into the design of the new wood. Externally, the site affords excellent views to the west of Bredon Hill and to east the historic town of Evesham.

Three quarters of the site is planted with a mixture a native broadleaved trees with shrubs concentrated along the ride and glade edges. Vegetation already present at the site or visible nearby, determined the species mixture chosen for planting. The remainder of the site has been set aside for open space and the development of a wildflower meadow and natural regeneration which is establishing gently in from the edges of the planted area. Wildflower plugs were planted into a dozen 'swathes' within this open area (Spring 2002) as a local firm was very keen to sponsor this activity. However, the soil sadly turned out to be too rich to support these species over the long term. This area has been managed through a mixture of mowing and horse grazing. This helps encourage the planted wildflower species in favour of the less diverse competitive grasses and brassicas which grew here previously. However, the natural regeneration is so extensive here it very successfully taking over the open area (compt 1d).

The site is within a short walking distance of Hampton and Evesham. There is no formal parking available at the wood, although a wide verge along Red Lane would facilitate a small number of vehicles. The most popular route to the wood however, appears to be on foot, and through a squeeze-post public access point off Red Lane (which is also a public Bridlepath). There are also two further squeeze post entrance points on the north and western boundary.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Situated on the edge of the village of Hampton on the outskirts of Evesham. The main access point is available direct from a stoned track/bridlepath called Red Lane and up a few steps and through a squeeze post. There is a circular route through the site (approx 300 metres) which links to a large open wildflower area in the western portion of the site. The paths are quite flat and normally well drained and quite dry underfoot for most of the year. There is no parking available nearby (Red Lane is too narrow). A better option is to park in the nearby village and walk to the site from there.

Nearest bus stop - Along school road approximately ¼ miles south of Eoves Wood

Nearest Railway station - Just off the High Street, Evesham Town Centre.

Nearest Toilet - Oat Street, Evesham approx 2.5 miles away.

** Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The wood will be allowed to develop naturally into native broadleaved high forest. This will encourage the establishment of a woodland rich in conservation and visitor interest.

The opportunity will be taken where appropriate, to develop a graded woodland edge at the sides of the paths and rides through ride-edge coppicing to further enhance visitor interest and enjoyment. This will help maintain both the internal and external views, the latter of which are particularly special to local people as they permit a wonderful panoramic view of Bredon Hill, a National Nature Reserve on high ground overlooking the Vale of Evesham.

Natural native regeneration in the open area to the west of the site will be allowed to gradually establish as is currently taking place very successfully. A minimum of 10% open ground will be retained to facilitate easy passage for visitors along existing rides through this area and to retain the beautiful external views to Bredon Hill.

Public access will be maintained by keeping paths clear through the implementation of an annual mowing programme, which will include the inspection of all public entrance points to ensure they are all in good order and are welcoming to visitors.

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 location of this wood on the edge of the village of Hampton, together with the various access links, make the site an important local resource for public use. The wood has a Public Bridlepath running just outside the eastern boundary along Red Lane which is used frequently by visitors to access the site on foot, although there are two other public points available in addition to this along the north and western boundaries. Inside the wood there are a number of paths, each of which lead into the open meadow area, where fine views of the surrounding countryside and Bredon Hill, a National Nature Reserve can be enjoyed.

Significance

The site lies close to the village of Hampton and is clearly well used by local people. This is an area of low woodland cover and as such, tree planting here is of great benefit both in terms of social and environmental aspects.

Opportunities & Constraints

The ride network will require regular mowing and the entrance points regular inspection and maintenance.

Factors Causing Change

change in level of use at the site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An easily accessible and interesting network of rides and paths of varying widths with welcoming entrance points into the site. A site which contains an interesting mix of native broadleaved and open ground/meadow habitats to enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of this area.

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

To maintain the entrance points and ride network in line with site access demand through the continuation of the annual maintenance programme. This will include a minimum of two ride cuts and an additional two entrance inspections visits each year.

The ride cuts themselves will be varied in terms of width such that the earlier cut will be to a maximum width of 2-3 meters, and the later cut to the full width of the ride. This will allow a greater number of grasses and flowering plants to set seed before the final cut takes place.

Selected lengths of the ridge edges may be coppiced to enhance visit enjoyment as these are becoming much darker and narrower in areas as the trees mature and their canopies spread out further across the paths. The location of these will be informed through condition and key feature assessments over the next plan period.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

An native broadleaved woodland planted as part of the "Woods on Your Doorstep" initiative.

Significance

A local and easily accessible area of woodland available for free informal public access and for visitors to enjoy as well as an area of increasing conservation interest in terms of wildlife over the passage of time .

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

Unfortunately, some misuse/vandalism from local permanent traveller site to the south of the site. This has taken the form of both tipping and illegal grazing at the site.

Opportunities

The wood will provide a valuable informal recreation resource for people within the local community to enjoy, as well as an increasingly important area for wildlife as the site matures.

Factors Causing Change

Illegal grazing.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure the successful establishment of native, broadleaved woodland.

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

Maintain planted areas as woodland cover and ensure grazing stock are excluded from the site which are present in adjacent fields and which have broken through the boundary fence or have been let into the site on a few occasions. The Removal of tree and shrub shelters to be incorporated with the annual programme of work as necessary where these are now redundant.

Monitor levels of Ragwort on site and carry out control in line with Woodland Trust 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	3.25	Ash	1998	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
New planting of native mixed broadleaved species at a density of 2500 stems/ha comprising:-Ash (40%), Oak (40%), Silver Birch (5%), Field Maple (5%), Hazel (5%), Gulder Rose (3%), Holly (2%), Crab Apple (1%).							
1b	1.09	Oak (sessile)	1998	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
New planting of native mixed broadleaved species at a density of 2500 ha comprising :- 30% Ash, 40% Oak, 10% Alder, 10% Silver Birch and 10% shrubs.							
1c	1.27	Oak (pedunculate)	1998	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
New planting of native broadleaved species at a density of 2500 per ha comprising :- 30% Ash, 40% Oak, 10% Alder, 10% Silver Birch, 10% Shrubs. The Alder and Birch is concentrated around the remains of the former farm buildings which will be allowed to continue to scrub over naturally. There are two rows of former fruit trees which have been absorbed into the planting.							
1d	1.99	Other	1998	Wood establishment	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
An open, meadow area set aside for the establishment of meadow species, flowers and herbs. Wildflower plugs have been planted in 10m drifts throughout this compartment in the spring of 2002. Species planted were chosen to complement the soil type and ground conditions as far as possible (although the soils were too rich to support successful establishment in the end) and included the following. Birds Foot Trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Greater Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), Meadow Cranesbill (<i>Geranium pratense</i>), Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>), Musk Mallow (<i>Malva moschata</i>), Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanemum vulgare</i>), Ragged Robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>) and Tufted Vetch (<i>Vicia cracca</i>). The meadow is now gradually being covered in natural generation very successfully!							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.05	5	0.25

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.