WOODLAND TRUST

Kitchen Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Kitchen Wood
Location:	Dronfield Woodhouse
Grid reference:	SK332779, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 119
Area:	2.59 hectares (6.40 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

An attractive woodland of mainly ash and sycamore with oak, rowan, birch and alder also present. Beautiful ground flora seen in season, including bluebells, wood anemone, yellow archangel, yellow pimpernel and wood sorrel.

2.2 Extended Description

Purchased by the Woodland Trust in january 2001 with the help of local people who ran a lengthy fundraising campaign to save the wood from development in the first instance. It lies on the south edge of the town of Dronfield adjacent to housing, and as such has a large potential for local visitors although it is currently fairly underused, given the size of the adjacent population.
It is an attractive woodland (probably ancient semi natural woodland given its ground flora) of ash and sycamore, with oak, rowan, silver birch, hazel, alder, holly hawthorn and formerly elm. Beech and sweet chestnut have also been planted at some time in the past although the history and planting dates of the wood are unknown.
There is an attractive ground flora, indicative (although limited to more common species) of ancient woodland NVC W9. There is a strong spring flush of bluebells, wood anenome, yellow archangel, yellow pimpernel and wood sorrel which is overtaken later in the year with dogs mercury, enchanters nightshade, nettles, cleavers and bramble with ferns.
The soil is slowly permeable clay loam over carboniferous mudstone. Coal seams occur within the mudstone and mining activity has been common within the area. There is known to be one mineshaft off the eastern boundary although its exact location is not visible and the wood itself is peppered with small addits and scrapes, and probably more hidden shafts.

With poor access to the wood and the presence of old shafts in the area, no timber operations are to be carried out: the wood is to be managed with minimum intervention on a tree safety basis only.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Kitchen Wood lies on the southern outskirts of Dronfield off the B6056. There is a network of permissive paths and Public Rights of Way that run through the wood, these consist of an unmodified earth surface on undulating terrain, which can be slippery when wet. Another permissive path that consisits of bark chippings runs from the north to the south this is flatter however, unsuitable for wheelchair access limiting some users to the site. An adjoining bridleway runs down the southern and east boundary and runs northwards along a farm track this can be accessed via Ashford Road, an entrance at this point consists of a kissing gate - this may be unsuitable for some users. The public regularly access the wood via the bridleway which links with a well worn permissive path around the perimeter of the site. Being very close to a number of housing there is potential for a high number of local visitors.

From the public footpath at Melbourne Avenue, the public footpath branches giving access to the woodland at two points - to the North West and to the western limit of the site giving access at this point, via a short permissive stretch outside the Woodland Trust boundary with a narrow bridge over the boundary stream.

The nearest bus station to the site is situated adjacent to Ashford Road. For bus information and timetables please access the traveline web link or furthur information www.traveline.org.uk or contact 0871 200 22 33

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The wood is to be managed as broadleaved high forest. The species mixture is appropriate for the site and non native species -beech and sweet chestnut- are acceptable in a secondary woodland environment. It is expected that over the longer term the wood will become more native in appearance with the dissapearance of the planted species.
The primary aim is to maintain forest cover with its associated ecosystem and to provide a long term amenity resource for local people. There will be a managed path network through the wood with open rides.

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

Kitchen Wood lies on the outskirts of Dronfield very close to housing and gets very well used by predominantly local visitors. There is a bridleway which runs for approximately 100m along the eastern boundary, from which a permissive path links through to an entrance in the western corner which adjoins a public footpath via a new bridge constructed since acquisition by local footpath volunteers. Within the wood the permissive path also links to a second public footpath newly designated in 2007 forming a circular route within the woodland and access out to Melbourne Avenue to the North west.

Significance

It fits in well with the local path network as it stands and provides people with an opportunity for a woodland walk where there are no others in the vicinity.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is already a fully developed circular route around the wood and no further access provision is required. Paths were improved in 2003/4 in order to prevent any further damage to the sensitive ground flora where previousy braiding due to the wet and muddy ground conditions was having a detrimental impact on the ground flora - particularly bluebells.
The entrance from the public footpath on the west corner is over a short stretch of permmissive route (including the bridge) and good relations need to be maintained with the neighbour to ensure that this route is preserved.
Horse access off the bridleway used to be a problem, but new and sturdy post and rail fencing has generally curbed this activity.

Dronfield is a large town and there is the potential for a large number of local visitors, although indications are that the wood is regularly used, but not heavily, at present.

Factors Causing Change

Changes to footpath designations and surfacing, renewed, unofficial horse access to the wood, changes in the level of use. Anti-social activities such as camps, fires and an increase in litter.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the current , appropriate level of visitor facilities and path network. Maintain open rides along the most heavily used parts of the path network.

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

Ensure that the level of visitor provision is appropriate for the site at the end of the plan period. Maintain entrances, signs and litter on at least one occasion per year. Maintain the path surfacing, fencing and bridge on at least one occasion per plan period. Undertake ride edge felling works commencing in 2019/20 along approximately 200m of the most heavily used path network to create drier conditions along the well used path network. Monitor any increase in horse activity within the condition survey.

5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

A mature natural secondary woodland (which is probably ASNW and missed off the English Nature Inventory)with some additional planting of beech and sweet chestnut (planting dates unknown). The wood is a mixture of primarily ash and sycamore with oak, alder, silver birch, hazel, holly, hawthorn and rowan and the above species. Together with its ground flora it can be classified as NVC type W9 and is a nice example of secondary woodland of some maturity, modified by planting, although its origins are unclear at this moment in time.

A Conservation Feature associated with this key feature is the small stream that forms the south west boundary.

Significance

The wood is ancient in its characteristics and forms a nice example of secondary woodland with an appropriate ancient woodland ground flora: although limited. It is part of a network of small woods (many of them ancient woodland) that are scattered through the surrounding extensively farmed landscape on the east Pennine fringe, and falls within a major concentration of ancient woodland distribution.

Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is too small to create a woodland ecosystem that will support any but the more common woodland species, however it is a nice example of woodland with an appropriate ancient woodland ground flora (although limited). There are no realistic hopes of woodland expansion althought the wood does fall into a major concentration of ancient woodland and forms part of a network of small woods (many of them ancient woodland) that are scattered through the surrounding extensively farmed landscape on the east Pennine fringe.

The wood is not in need of any silvicultural intervetion in the form of thinning or felling work and this would be severely constrained by the poor machinery/lorry access to the wood and the known presence of old mine shafts making this type of work potentially dangerous.

Factors Causing Change

trampling in bluebell areas, canopy senescence. Threats from tree diseases especially ash dieback disease. Threats from animal pests: grey squirrels and deer.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Retention as minimum intervention woodland where health and safety allows, encouraging fauna and flora species to remain undisturbed. Maintain an open ride system through the woodland.

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

Adopt minimum intervention through most of the woodland, allowing all tree species to remain on long term retention, this will provide ample deadwood habitat, regeneration of ash and sycamore is already evident, and is likely to dominate in the long term. Carry out ride edge felling works along part of the path network, as mentioned in the public access key feature. Deer impact should be noted as part of the condition assessment and squirrel control only as part of a wider landscape action with surrounding landowners, although chosen species such as the beech and sycamore maybe more prone to squirrel damage as these species become more prolific.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	2.78	Ash		High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order

A mixed stand of mostly ash and sycamore with lesser amounts of beech, alder, sweet chestnut, rowan, silver birch and oak. Prior to dutch elm disease, elm would have been a major component of the wood, but is now relegated to the odd dead tree and understorey coppice from old stumps. No in depth stand survey has been carried out with regard to tree species percentage breakdown etc. The ground flora is indicative of ancient woodland with the prescence of bluebells, wood anenome, wood sorrel, enchanters nightshade and dogs mercury. However it is not designated as such but may have been missed off the NCC Inventory (provisional) due to its size or simply in error. The wood has obviously been modified by planting of beech and sweet chestnut in the past. The understorey comprises a scattered mixture of hazel, holly, hawthorn and elder. In addition to the tree species, the ground flora is indicative of National Vegetation Classification type W9a Ash-Rowan-Dogs Mercury Woodland. There is a strong vernal flush of bluebells together with wood anenome, lesser celandine, yellow archangel, yellow pimpernel and wood sorrel, whilst later in the year bramble, dogs mercury, enchanters nightshade, cleavers, nettle, bracken and male fern dominate. The prescence of male fern and wood sorrel place the NVC classsification into W9 rather than W8 reflecting the cool and less continental climate dominated by the Pennines a few miles to the west. The area has a history of mining and there is believed to be an old mine shaft just outside the Trust's ownership on the east edge of the wood which is indistinct on the ground. Various small adits exist in the wood of unknown origin. The presence of old shafts and the near impassable way in for lorries, ensure that there is no possibility of conducting any thinning or felling work where the timber needs removed off site. The site is subject to a Tree Preservation Order

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.