WOODLAND TRUST

Daeda's 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Daeda's Wood
Location:	Deddington
Grid reference:	SP460330, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 151
Area:	3.70 hectares (9.14 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Daeda's Wood is a copse of willow, oak and ash alongside scrub species, befitting its wet woodland surroundings. Open glades are included in the wood design and an all-weather path runs from the entrance to the site centre.

2.2 Extended Description

Daeda's Wood is a small copse of just under 4 hectares (9.14 acres) and was established in 1997 from an arable field as part of the Woodland Trust's Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) campaign. This was the first WOYD to be completed and it lies to the north west of the village of Deddington in the valley of the River Swere in north Oxfordshire, which is located in the Cotswolds NCA which form the best-known section of the predominantly oolitic Jurassic Limestone belt that stretches from the Dorset coast to Lincolnshire.

The wood was planted with a range of tree species including ash, willow, oak and alder as well as shrub species such as osier, blackthorn, hawthorn and Guelder rose in order to reflect the typical wet woodland found in river valleys nearby. Open glades were incorporated into the planting design as well as paths including a 180 metre surfaced all-weather path leading from the main entrance to the centre of the site. Adjacent to the River Swere are 31 old willow pollards which have been re-pollarded in recent years to minimise the risk of collapse and preserve the trees for as long as possible.

Soils comprise freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils which are highly fertile and suitable for deciduous woodlands. Usually free draining but the proximity to the River Swere means some of the woodland is within the natural floodplain and is consequently wet most of the year. A wildflower meadow has been created where ox-eye daisy, ragged robin and meadowsweet have been most successful. Cowslips, musk mallow, purple tufted vetch and primroses are also present. Aquatic plants in the Swere such as arrowheads and yellow water-lilies add to the diversity and interest.

The wood is well used by local people, both on foot and visited by car, where there is a lay-by constructed as part of the site design to accommodate 2-4 cars. There is a good network of paths throughout the wood allowing the visitor a varied experience. Paths around the wood are generally in good condition but can become boggy following wet periods of weather.

The Woodland Trust has given Daeda's Wood a category B rating for access (moderate usage site where we do maintain paths).

There has been a strong community involvement with Daeda's Wood from the wood's inception. Residents of Deddington and other local villages were actively involved through design, fundraising, planting and aftercare. The Friends of Daeda's Wood continue to support the wood through practical conservation tasks, public events, and promoting the wood through local media.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Getting there: Buses run between Banbury and Oxford and stop at Deddington (Market Place). A public bridleway runs north from Deddington and joins Daeda's Wood on the southern side. By vehicle, follow the A 4620 north from Deddington for approximately 3/4km. A left turn leads into a layby next to a Highways Depot - from the layby, follow a road signed towards Milton. Daeda's Wood is at the bottom of the valley next to the River Swere. There is parking for around three cars at the entrance. The wood is level and has several paths including a section of accessible, surfaced path. A public bridleway runs parallel to the southern boundary but outside the wood.

Public conveniences: There are several in Banbury (8kms away) at Banbury Bus Station, Bridge Street, Horsefair and Bridge Street (by side of Town Hall) maintained by Cherwell District Council (contact details: Tel. 01295 252535 or www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk).

Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33 .

All distances are approximate.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intentions for Daeda's Wood will seek to realise two of the Woodland Trust's three key aims:

- to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife
- to create new woodland

The woodland will be managed to ensure there is good diversity of tree species and to improve conditions for selected retained specimens to enable it to be resilient to change. Silvicultural intervention will be necessary to achieve this. The wood will contain an element of open space (20%) through managed rides and glades, and small scale silvicultural management such as ride-side coppicing and cutting of glades will be incorporated into the on-going management of the wood. The likely colonisation by ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) will affect the species composition of the wood over time, and so oak is likely to be the target dominant tree species within the woodland areas.

The riverside willow pollards are historic features in the landscape and they will be managed to minimise the risk of collapse and to extend their lives for as long as possible. This will be achieved through a regular cutting/re-pollarding cycle of approximately 7-10 years.

A good standard of access provision will be maintained at Daeda's Wood in line with category B status. The path network will be kept open for use and entrances will be accessible and clearly signed. The woodland will always remain safe and open for people to enjoy in an informal way. This will be achieved through a managed path and entrance network and regular safety inspections of site infrastructure and of higher risk tree zones. Parts of the path network will also contain small sunny glades.

The local community will continue to be supported in helping to manage the wood where required.

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 Secondary Woodland

Description

The woodland was planted in 1997. The major tree species are ash (42%), willows (23% - including crack / white / almond / goat / purple and osier) and pedunculate oak (24%).

Other minor tree species include aspen, poplar (grey and black) downy birch and alder. Shrub species are situated alongside the ride edges in parts and include hawthorn, blackthorn and Guelder rose. All are native broadleaved species and were planted at a rate of 1100 / Ha (3m x 3m spacing). The trees have established very well on this wet low lying site.

About 20% of the site is comprised of open space - paths and woodland glades. A wildflower meadow has been created where ox-eye daisy, ragged robin and meadowsweet have been most successful. Cowslips, musk mallow, purple tufted vetch and primroses are also present. Aquatic plants in the Swere such as arrowheads and yellow water-lilies add to the diversity and interest.

Alongside the river to the north are 31 old crack willow pollards. 20 of these trees were last re-pollarded in the winter of 2012/13, and the remaining trees in the winter of 2016/2017. Several have partially collapsed due to lack of management in the past, but remaining trees are responding well to management and will be managed on a 7-10 year re-pollard cycle.

Significance

Locally the wood is important as a resource for wildlife. It acts as a buffer to the River Swere, which is known to have otters. The creation of this woodland has helped increase the amount of new native woodland cover in an area where woodland cover is very low, as well as establishing an open access woodland near to where people live.

New woodlands help absorb CO2 from the atmosphere, protect soils from erosion, create future wood fuel supplies, improve health and wellbeing, encourage wildlife and build resilience against pests and diseases while improving biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
- The woodland is wet most of the year which presents challenges for management, which should be carefully timed with drier site conditions

Opportunities:
- To use the site to demonstrate the Trust's approach to woodland establishment and to influence neighbouring landowners and other key stakeholders where possible
- The enthusiasm of the local community continues to present an opportunity to help manage and enhance the woodland

Factors Causing Change

- Mammal damage (deer, squirrel). Deer are present on site and browsing is evident, though impact is low and is being in-part controlled by regular public access
- Death of ash due to colonisation of ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)
- Increasing shade and loss of structure within some stands where species such has willow are dominant
- Changes in structure and gaps in canopy due to wind-blow and disease/dieback e.g. Hymenoscyphus fraxineus in ash. The woodland is ash dominated and the oak is now becoming suppressed, though colonisation of ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) is imminent and will adapt this balance

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In the long term Daeda's Wood will be a thriving mixed native broadleaved woodland, with woodland components such as mature trees, introduced ground flora, and a diverse deadwood component in a secure and improving condition.

The likely colonisation by ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) will affect the species composition of the wood over time, and the resulting stands (oak, willow, poplar, and alder the most common species) of high forest will be being managed on a continuous cover silvicultural system to produce uneven-aged, self-regenerating stands of high conservation and amenity value. The lives of the riverside pollards will be extended for as long as possible, achieved by re-pollarding the trees on a 7-10 year cycle and felling competing neighbouring trees. A proportion of open space (rides and glades - circa 15%) that has good woodland edge habitat and wild flower interest will be retained and will naturally improve condition and diversify over time with appropriate management.

Deer damage to the broadleaf trees will be monitored and action taken if the damage becomes unacceptable. Similarly intervention may be required in consideration of major structural changes due to potential impact by pests and diseases.

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

Daeda's Wood will be managed to maintain and improve conditions for continued healthy tree colonisation, and to improve habitat diversity where possible.

- Ride-edge coppicing (<20 m2 per annum) will take place to create open and dry paths where required and improve edge habitat and structure - 2019 / 2023
- Minor targeted thinning (<20 m2 per annum) will take place within stands to favour planted oaks, particularly where they are being dominated. Ash is expected to die off and so good quality oak will be significant - 2019 / 2023
- Small glades (total of 0.25ha) will be strimmed, and volunteers will remove the arisings to moderate nutrient return - annual
- The 21 riverside willow pollards which underwent restoration pollarding in 2012/13 will be re-pollarded in 2023. The remaining trees that were initially cut in 2016 will be re-pollarded in 2026.

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Daeda's Wood is located around 1.6km / 1 mile north of Deddington (population 2,146) with Adderbury 2.4km / 1.5 miles to the north-east (pop 2,819). Daeda's Wood is classified as access category 'B', or "regular usage, 5 – 15 people using one entrance per day".

There is a dedicated layby next to the wood for car-parking, and this can accommodate 3-4 cars. Once on-site there are several paths on the site which provide visitors with the opportunity for short circular walks, including a surfaced path which runs part way (180m) into the site along the path from the main entrance. There are 2 entrances to the site, the main one being from the road to the east (Milton Road).

Significance

The wood provides a quiet riverside area, maturing woodland and open meadow for informal recreation, which is especially suitable for local people living close to Deddington.
This is a community woodland and the site helps to bring people together by getting involved in the management of the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
- Limited scope to increase car parking
- Somewhat detached from populous areas
- Site remains wet for most of the year

Opportunities:
- The enthusiasm and interest of the local Friends Group provides the opportunity to manage and improve the wood. Opportunity for increased community involvement in management of the wood through volunteering activities
- Deada's is within 3km of two primary schools (Christopher Rawlins C of E Primary School in Adderbury and Deddington C of E Primary School) and could provide a location for 'one-off' educational visits
- There is an opportunity to adopt part of the site for use as a forest school

Factors Causing Change

- Changes in vegetation along rides
- Visual changes as woodland matures
- Antisocial activities, e.g. fly tipping, fires, cycling off permitted routes
- Support for the Friends Group could reduce over time

Long term Objective (50 years+)

- Informal public access will be provided at the wood in perpetuity
- To provide easy access for visitors with a cut path surface along clearly defined routes
- The paths will be kept safe for quiet, recreational pedestrian access to the woodland
- The site will be accessible and safe but not over-managed with excessive infrastructure and signage
- There will be an appropriate level of resources available for the site to guide and inform all visitors

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

- The path network will be managed to allow visitors access to the wood (approximately 800m of path) - annual
- The site and especially the parking areas will be kept clean and welcoming for visitors through routine estate management - annual
- Entrances - maintenance and inspection: Cleaning of all signage and fixing of any immediate problems with entrance furniture - annual
- The safety of visitors to the site will be managed through regular tree safety inspections, and this will be carried out annually along the roadside
- The surfaced path will be kept free of organic material build up and therefore fit for purpose - 2019 / 2021 / 2023
- Paths will be widened where necessary by cutting back / coppicing encroaching vegetation which will help dry paths and retain and open and accessible feel - 2019 / 2023

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	3.87	Ash	1997	High forest	Landscape factors	Connecting People with woods & trees, Secondary Woodland	Area of Landscape Value
This area is composed mainly of ash, oak and willow (most commonly crack and white). Minor components include aspen, black poplar, purple willow, osier, alder, downy birch and grey poplar. Ash is by far the most dominant species. Old crack willow pollards are present along the river on the northern boundary.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Thin	3.00	2	5
2019	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	2	1
2023	1a	Thin	3.00	2	5
2023	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	2	1

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.