



Garbett's Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
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 Natural Secondary Woodland	
5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
MAPS	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Garbett's Wood
Location:	Rogate
Grid reference:	SU808236, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 197
Area:	2.46 hectares (6.08 acres)
Designations:	National Park

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Garbett's Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. This mainly mature woodland occupies part of the former garden of the neighbouring Red House, and includes a meadow with views of the South Downs.

2.2 Extended Description

Garbett's Wood is a small (2.5ha) site at the western end of the South Downs National Park, near Petersfield, West Sussex. It was acquired by the Trust in October 1997 and was part of the Woods on Your Doorstep (WoYD) campaign to mark the millennium. Funding came in part from Rogate Parish Council and local residents who named the site Garbett's Wood. Unlike most other WoYD sites Garbett's Wood did not need many trees planted due to the extent of tree cover already present. However, a hedge was planted along part of the northern boundary along with field maples in the northeast of the wood.

The soils have favoured the colonisation of predominantly ash trees in the eastern part of the site with more oak in the west, although the wood also occupies part of the former garden of the adjoining Red House, which accounts for some of the more unusual tree species in the wood such as lime, plane and horse chestnut. Mature trees have provided seed for colonisation, the majority of which are on the periphery of the wood, with occasional specimens within it.

There is a small meadow area in the southeast of the wood and a pond in the northeast that was designated as the millennium feature when the wood was acquired.

There is a short circular path around the site and a bench on southern boundary, giving views across the South Downs.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General location:

Garbett's Wood is situated to the SE of the village of Rogate just south of the A272, at the western end of the South Downs National Park near Petersfield.

General overview of paths & entrances:

There are entrances on the east and west boundaries of the wood. These can be reached via Habin Hill (west entrance) or Garbitts Lane (east entrances), which run south off of the A272 in Rogate. However, there are no pavements along these lanes. The entrances on each lane are approximately 200m south of the A272. The Habin Hill entrance is a short set of wooden steps up a steep roadside embankment. The Garbitts Lane entrances are a kissing gate in the south-eastern corner and a squeeze gap in the north-eastern corner. There is a circular path around the whole site, with a flight of steps leading to a bench on the southern boundary with views across the South Downs. Paths are unsurfaced with gentle to moderate slopes.

Parking:

There are no formal parking facilities near the wood and roadside parking in the area is very limited.

Public Transport:

Nearest train station: Petersfield, approx 5½ miles from the site via the A272 and Garbitts Lane.

Nearest bus stop: St Bartholomews Church, Rogate, approx 550m from the site. Further information on public transport can be obtained from Traveline: www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk or tel: 0871 200 22 33.

Public Toilets:

Nearest public toilets: Petersfield Central Car Park, approx 5½ miles away. Open 7 days a week with attendant for disabled assistance. Information obtained from East Hampshire District Council website (www.easthants.gov.uk).

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Garbett's Wood will develop as broadleaved high forest with predominantly native species. Oak and other mixed broadleaves such as birch, lime and field maple will be plentiful, with sycamore providing a significant proportion of the canopy cover. Larger specimen trees will be developing into veterans and dead wood will be more plentiful as the woodland matures. Ash Dieback will affect the ash present within the wood and surrounding landscape. This will alter the structure and composition of the woodland, creating open areas where ash diminishes, giving opportunity for other species such as sycamore to establish in their place. There is likely to be an increase in dead wood as a result of the disease and this will be retained on site where possible, in places where it does not present a hazard to neighbours or visitors to the wood. Any felled timber will be left on site to add to the deadwood habitat.

Hazel coppice will be thriving and a variety of other species such as holly, hawthorn and elder will provide a diverse understorey.

The pond will be well maintained and the meadow will provide a contrast of open space with grasses and wild flowers.

The circular path will keep all of the features of the wood fully accessible while providing additional open space and a variety of flora for wildlife.

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 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

The majority of the site is recent secondary woodland arising from natural colonisation. The young trees (approx 30 years old) are predominantly ash, sycamore and oak, with hazel and field maple. A significant and ongoing influence on the wood is Ash Dieback, a disease which has already begun to adversely affect many of the young ash at the site and will continue to do so over the plan period. The outcome is likely to result in ash no longer featuring as a canopy tree species. Conversely, young sycamore growth is prolific and is out-competing other tree species, understorey and ground flora in some areas, and is likely to feature as a more prominent canopy tree as ash diminishes. Along the western and southern boundaries there are mature trees including oak, ash, lime and plane, some of which are remnants of the old garden site which originally belonged to the adjoining property. There are also mature trees on the bank in the middle of the site including sycamore coppice and horse chestnut. Semi-mature and mature hazel coppice is most abundant at the east end of the site, and also comprises a large section of the roadside hedgerow on the east boundary. The woodland ground flora communities are most diverse at this side of the site. The south-eastern part of the site is a remnant meadow which has been kept partly open with mowing and is dominated by grasses and plants (e.g. stinging nettle and hogweed) that are indicative of fertile, previously cultivated ground. The margins of the meadow are dense with self-sown young oak and ash, hazel coppice, elder and the overhanging branches mature trees on the southern boundary. There is a small pond in the north-eastern part of the site which has almost completely closed over with wetland vegetation and surrounding self-sown trees.

Significance

The UK is the least wooded country in Europe and native woodland contains more threatened species than any other habitat in the UK. This woodland creation site helps to protect and connect fragmented woods by creating links to hedgerows and copses that form a larger wooded habitat - the South Downs National Park - providing multiple benefits to people and wildlife.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: The small size of the site, limited access and the sloped central area of the site and steep west bank limit the potential management options within the wood.

Opportunities: To increase engagement and activity with the South Downs National Park Authority Rangers and volunteers to deliver a work programme of conservation tasks.

Factors Causing Change

Ash Dieback

Prolific sycamore growth is suppressing shrub, tree species and ground flora regeneration in areas
Self-sown trees encroaching on the meadow and pond areas

Occasional squirrel damage.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Native broadleaved woodland with high forest structure, including a diverse understorey and ground flora. Oak and sycamore are likely to be the main canopy species, with field maple, hazel, hawthorn and holly plentiful in the understorey. Dead wood will be plentiful on the woodland floor, with some standing dead wood present where it does not present any health and risk to neighbours or visitors to the site. Approximately 25% of the site will be open space provided by the meadow, paths and pond area. Ground flora across the site will be abundant and diverse due to the variety of managed habitats.

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

To maintain and increase the value of the existing habitats towards a diverse high forest, the following will be carried out within the plan period:

- Restoration of the pond back to a favourable condition to include 70% open water and a maximum of 30% aquatic vegetation and surrounding trees.
- Reduction of the encroaching vegetation on the meadow by 50% to ensure continuity of open space with a balance of transitional habitat.
- Annual coppicing along sections of up to 450m of the main path network edges to increase open space and light and encourage ground flora and understorey development.
- Retention of cut material on site to increase dead wood habitat.
- Annual mowing or cutting of the meadow (0.35ha) after flowering season.
- An assessment of the woodlands condition, including open space, in 2022.

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Garbett's Wood is a small (2.5ha) site at the western end of the South Downs National Park. It is situated approximately 200m south of Rogate, a small village with a population of approximately 1500 residents on the A272, approximately five and a half miles east of Petersfield. There are few other properties in the area as the locality mainly consists of agricultural fields, hedgerows, copses and the occasional wood. Approximately three quarters of a mile south lies the Rother valley and about a mile to the north a large swathe of woodland surrounding Hill Brow, running east to west, both of which are accessible via road or footpath through Rogate village.

There are entrances on the east and west boundaries of the wood. These can be reached via Habin Hill (west entrance) or Garbitts Lane (east entrances), which run south off of the A272 in Rogate. However, there are no pavements along these lanes. The entrances on each lane are approximately 200m south of the A272.

The Habin Hill entrance is a short set of wooden steps up a steep roadside embankment. The Garbitts Lane entrances are a kissing gate in the south-eastern corner and a squeeze gap in the north-eastern corner. There is a circular path around the whole site, with a flight of steps leading to a bench on the southern boundary with views across the South Downs. Paths are unsurfaced with gentle to moderate slopes.

Significance

It has been proven that access to woodland provides an improved quality of life, with benefits to both mental and physical health. Whilst there is a good mosaic of habitats in the local landscape, Garbett's Wood provides residents of Rogate with one of few publically accessible woods within walking distance. With an easily accessible variety of habitats it also provides recreation and educational opportunities for local residents and schools.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: The site is small and there are no nearby parking facilities available.

Opportunities: To improve entrance signs and infrastructure. To facilitate the use of the wood as a Forest School area. To increase engagement and activity with the South Downs National Park Authority Rangers and volunteers to deliver a work programme of access improvement tasks. To promote the value of collaborative and community use of small woods and the work of the Trust in the South Downs Treescape.

Factors Causing Change

Prolific tree growth which encroaches on paths and entrances.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A network of well maintained paths and entrances with clear signage allowing access throughout the wood. There will be regular visits and use of the site by local residents and volunteers.

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

To provide public access which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved in the plan period with the following:

- Installation of two new welcome signs and two new noticeboards in 2018.
- Installation of chestnut post and rail fencing adjacent to the entrance steps on the west boundary.
- Annual path, meadow, and entrance maintenance.
- Annual coppicing along sections of up to 450m of the main path network edges to maintain open paths and promote diversity of habitats.
- Annual inspection of all site infrastructure.
- Annual tree safety inspections and remedial work in line with the Woodland Trust Tree Risk Management Policy.
- An assessment of the condition access infrastructure and signs in 2022 as part of the condition assessment of the site every five years.

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	2.47	Ash	1988	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Natural Secondary Woodland	

Young secondary woodland arising mainly from natural colonisation supplemented with planting. Ash and sycamore are the dominant canopy species, with the occasional oak, birch, lime, yew and horse chestnut. Low numbers of mature trees are present along boundaries and within the site, notably a few large oak, ash and lime. A significant proportion of the understorey is hazel coppice with holly, hawthorn, elder, blackthorn and field maple also present. Young sycamore is also abundant at present. There are some areas of diverse woodland ground flora communities, particularly in the east of the site, which include red campion, bluebells, dogs mercury, primrose, tutsan, herb robert, lesser celandine, greater stitch wort, and speedwells. There is a small pond in the northeast, a meadow in the southeast, and a steep tree covered bank and sloped area creating a large bowl-like depression in the centre of the site.

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.