



Brakey Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Brakey Wood
Location:	Hoxne
Grid reference:	TM187769, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 156
Area:	6.28 hectares (15.52 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Brakey Wood includes a stream running the length of the wood and a small meadow to provide open space. A circular grassy path allows visitors easy access. A sculpture of the Hoxne caveman can be found in the woods.

2.2 Extended Description

Brakey wood is 15 acre young secondary woodland that was planted in 1999 as part of the Woodland Trusts woodland at your doorstep project. Prior to the creation of the woodland the site was an arable field. Running through length of the wood along the boundary is Chickering Beck, which is a stream that has been extensively re-profiled by the local drainage board. The land to the south and east of the wood is in arable production, to the west there are the sewage works. On the northern boundary there is privately owned mixed woodland.

A circular grassy path has been created around the wood and links into a footpath at the western end of the wood which will become part of a planned walk through and around the village of Hoxne. A small meadow has been created in the centre of the site close to the southern boundary to provide open space for the public once the wood has developed. As part of the Mid Suffolk District Council's 'hearts of oak project' a large sculpture of the Hoxne caveman was placed within the wood.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Brakey wood is situated outside the suffolk village of Hoxne and can be easily accessed either on foot from the village or there is a hard surface car park off Wittons lane. The site topography is very gental gradient but the part of the site adjacent to the stream can become very muddy for a large part of the year. The paths are cut three times a year and are not surfaced.

Nearest bus service

498 Harleston - Cratfield - Halesworth - Metfield - Harleston

Link:www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk

The closest train station is at Diss

Link to train time tables: www.onerailway.com

Nearest Toilet

the Swan inn, Low street, Hoxne

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention will be to allow Brakey wood to develop naturally and become high forest through minimal intervention. Whilst the meadow will be maintained as an area of open ground adding further diversity and public open space to the site.

Public access

The long-term intention is to maintain a sustainable level of use by maintaining the access features and internal infrastructure appropriately. The long-term management will concentrate on maintaining the current paths and internal structures, such as entrances, benches and sculptures to a safe useable standard.

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

Brakey wood is locally important to the village of Hoxne and the surrounding area. A circular grassy path has been created around the site leading from the car park in the east to the public footpath connection leading to Hoxne village. A small meadow is situated on the southern edge of the wood and is cut and arising's removed annually. Close to the meadow a statue of Hoxne caveman and a dedicated bench has been placed.

Significance

Given the level of local community involvement that there was with the creation of Brakey wood it is important to maintain good access for the local community within the local area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The wet nature of the ground in the west may inhibit access for the less able and those with pushchairs at certain times of the year.

Vegetation along the river bank prevents access and views of the river at certain times of the year.

Factors Causing Change

None

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the permissive pedestrian path system and all internal structures to a high standard so that visitors to the site enjoy the experience at Brakey wood

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

To maintain site as an area of public open access, with ride system cut to a minimum of 1.5 m to allow unhindered access for the public. Maintain all public access structures in a safe usable condition. Retain continuity within existing meadow as an area of open space. Cut meadow after seeding (August).

Work plan:

Path cut - May undertake path cut 1.5 metre width.

Path Cut - June undertake path cut 1.5 metre width.

Path cut - July undertake path cut 1.5 metre width.

Path Cut - August (including meadow cut)

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

The main body of the woodland. The following species have been planted: Common alder, white willow, common ash, pedunculate oak, field maple, hornbeam, small-leaved lime, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. The alder, willow and some of the ash have been concentrated on the wetter ground to the west to create a wet woodland area. To the north of the stream pedunculate oak and common ash have been planted to gap up the existing scrubby area. 4 sequoia trees were planted on the higher ground as a local landscape feature, whilst a number of black poplar have been planted by the local volunteers in the wetter parts of the wood as part of a local Black poplar preservation scheme.

Significance

Establishing Brakey Wood will help to increase the area of new native woodland in Suffolk. On a local level it is a significant new habitat for wildlife and a feature in the landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Deer are present in the area and may potentially damage the trees.
Ash Dieback is present on site and is currently causing high mortality within the planted common ash.

Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage

Ash Dieback

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a mature native mixed broadleaved woodland with developing natural regeneration and abundant deadwood habitat.

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

The woodland area will be allowed to undertake a natural process of development, apart from any health and safety issues that could arise pose a threat to public safety.
Cut boundary woodland margin to a depth of 5 metres to reduce developing encroachment of woodland on to Wittons Lane and also eventual encroachment of trees affecting overhead services.

Work Programme

2019 - November - Tree safety - Coppice all trees to a depth of 5 metres from roadside boundary edge. Chip all brash in to wood and stack timber neatly in piles on woodland edge or remove all timber from site.

2021 - November - Ride Side coppicing - Coppice ride edges to a depth of 3 metres Chip all brash in to wood and stack timber neatly in piles on woodland edge or remove all timber from site. Please see reference map.

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	6.31	Mixed native broadleaves	1999	Min-intervention		New Native Woodland	

The following species have been planted: Common alder, white willow, common ash, pedunculate oak, field maple, hornbeam, small-leaved lime, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. The alder, willow and some of the ash have been concentrated on the wetter ground to the west. A rabbit fence has been erected along the south-western boundary and along the western boundary to protect the neighbouring arable fields. The small strip to the north of the Stream the Trust added to the existing natural regeneration by planting common ash and pedunculate oak to infill the gaps.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Thin	5.75	2	10

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.