



Castle Camps Millennium Wood

Management Plan

2013-2018

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
10. Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Castle Camps Millennium Wood
Location:	Castle Camps, Haverhill
Grid reference:	TL626430, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 154
Area:	5.09 hectares (12.58 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Castle Camps is a small woodland site created to mark the Millennium. Dominated by beech, ash and oak, a northern pond and an old hedge provide ecological diversity. The earthwork remains of a motte and bailey castle can be viewed to the south.

2.2 Extended Description

One of 200 'Woods On your doorstep' sites planted for the turn of the Millennium, Castle Camps wood makes up just over 5 Ha of new native woodland. Planted with the help of the community in November 1999, this previously arable field continues to develop into an established native broadleaved woodland at the heart of the community. Beech ash and oak were the main species of tree planted. The site slopes gently towards the South West, catching the sun and offering fantastic views over the gently rolling arable landscape of southern Cambridgeshire.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

From the village centre along Church Lane for 1km SW towards Camps End and the woodland is on the right hand side. No footpath

There are two entrances from Church Lane. The main entrance is beside a small sewage pumping station. Don't park in front of the entrance as it is in regular use by water board staff. An information board can be found here with a map of the site showing paths and other features. A public footpath also crosses the site which runs between Castle Camps village (it has a pub!) and Camps End, on the west side of Church Lane.

There are 1000m of paths within the wood roughly 5m in width. These are mown three times a year during the summer months to keep them clear and well defined. A culvert and a bridge give access to the area on the SW side of the River Granta. The paths are generally level, well maintained with no obstructions apart from the bridge, but this can be avoided. As paths are unsurfaced they can become muddy in wet weather.

There is a bus stop in the high street of Castle Camps village approx 1km away. For times ring the Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk. There are no public toilets in the vicinity

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Fully established high forest, comprising of native broadleaf species managed by supporting natural processes in line with Woodland Trust management guidelines. It should exhibit strong community ties and regular enjoyment by local population.

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

Around 1km of well defined footpaths, most of which are permissive, however are linked to the Public RoW system via the Public Footpath which intersects the North Western corner of the site. Four short circular walks are possible and the site is only a few hundred meters from the centre of Castle camps village, with some limited parking off Church lane (Quiet single track road with passing places).

Significance

Well used by local people who enjoy the quiet seclusion in an area where accessible woodland is otherwise scarce. The site effectively links public footpaths to make interesting circular walks available from the nearby villages.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Strong community interest and willingness to be involved. (As exhibited by the initial creation of the site)

Strong ties with Parish council

Constraints:

Relatively small local population

Site of limited size

Factors Causing Change

encroachment of Woody vegetation.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To provide safe, open, public access to a developing wood

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

Well defined paths, open, safe and easy to use. Cut at least three times during the growing season by parish council to woodland trust spec 2.01 (2013) and assessed annually for any additional works which may become necessary, such as coppicing or cutting back encroaching vegetation.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

4.0 ha of trees were planted at 2250 / ha. The main species are oak 50%; ash 20%; beech 5% and lime 5%. All were individually protected with sleeves and shrubs are in shelters. No planting has taken place within 6m of wayleave lines and a 3m margin has been retained around the boundaries for maintenance. 10m has been retained for the River Granta. A pond has been constructed towards the northern edge of the site. As a result of this, 1.16 ha of the site remains unplanted. The old boundary hedge forming the northern boundary is species rich and includes hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, oak, privet, field maple, elder, elm and bramble. It also has toadflax, bush vetch and primrose growing in its base making it unusually rich, possibly due to a former land use as an orchard.

Significance

Local Woodland is in small and highly fragmented parcels and so any native woodland planting is of benefit. This particular site links, protects and is enhancing the last vestiges of semi-natural habitat that existed within this site, including the river, old hedgerows and a developing pond. The proportion of open space, woodland edge and sunny aspect of the site will make excellent butterfly habitat when the wood becomes more established and offers better shelter.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Sunny aspect and mandatory open space offers potential to offer species rich rides and woodland edge habitat.

Constraints:

The power lines crossing the site are a consideration, especially as the trees mature in future years

Factors Causing Change

-Natural succession to mature broadleaved woodland

- Disease Chalara Fraxinea

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a healthy native broadleaf woodland, with a graded edge habitat of no less than 4.0 ha. The main canopy species are to be oak and ash.

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

To monitor the health and establishment of the woodland as it matures by annual visual inspection by Site Manager. The site is not yet well established enough to begin ride edge coppice regime during this plan period. (2013)

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	5.16	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>Beech ash and oak were the main species of tree planted, now with an average top height of 5m in most areas. The site comprises of a single field gently facing to the south-west in what is generally, a slightly undulating, arable landscape. A tall old hedge belonging to the site forms the northern boundary and is ecologically important as well as being a landscape feature. There are views 500m to the south of Castle Farm, where the earthworks of a Motte and Bailey castle remain. In turn, this gives name to the nearby village and to the new wood. A small water course - the upper reaches of the River Granta cuts through the SW corner of the site and is bridged in two places for access. An overhead power line crosses the site at the eastern end and a sewer runs through the centre in a generally east - west direction. A public footpath crosses the site at the northern end. These have been incorporated into the design of the site as areas of open ground. A pond has been created at the northern end and serves as the Millennium Feature</p>							

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 on 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.