



# The Sibsey Wood

## Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](http://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.

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## 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

<b>Site name:</b>	The Sibsey Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Aubourn
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SK919626, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 121
<b>Area:</b>	2.00 hectares (4.94 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

The Sibsey Wood was planted in February 2000 with native broadleaf trees to celebrate the Millennium. Located just to the east of Aubourn village, the woodland is situated in an agricultural setting and is located very close to the river Witham. Direct access can be taken through a set of kissing gates off Bridge Road.

## 2.2 Extended Description

The Sibsey Wood formed part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project which aimed at creating 200 new community woods nationally to mark the Millennium. The project was made possible with help from local people, a generous donation of land from the Neville Estate and support from The Millennium Commission and the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts.

The Sibsey Wood covers 2.0 hectares and lies approximately 0.5km west of the village of Aubourn, Lincolnshire. Management access is off a public highway on the western boundary of the site (SK 9196 6262). There is a small network of paths through the site linking the existing permissive path, the public road frontage and the footpath to the north of the wood.

The site was planted on the 20 February 2000 with 1,852 native broadleaf trees on a pasture field used in the past for allotments. In addition, 8 wellingtonia's, 12 eating apples and 1 yew tree were planted on the request of the local community to celebrate the Millennium.

The broadleaves planted were mainly common oak and ash along with a number of other species including; rowan, birch, hazel, wayfaring tree, guelder rose, spindle, wild privet, holly, blackthorn and dog rose. The smaller growing shrubs were planted along ride-sides, along the woodland edge and under power lines which cross the site along the eastern boundary.

The site slopes towards, and drains into, the River Witham which is 80 metres north of the northern boundary.

A hedge runs along the length of the northern boundary is currently the most important wildlife feature. The new planting took place on improved neutral grassland with a typical range of common species for this part of Lincolnshire.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

The wood lies close to the village of Aubourn near Lincoln. The site adjoins a public roadway (Auborn to Haddington Road) with footpath and is served by a small circular network of mown grass paths. Access is through kissing gates either directly off the Haddington to Auborn Road or via a new fenced off permissive path that runs down the edge of the field directly linking the wood to the edge of the village to the east (100m). This path is unsurfaced.

The nearest bus route is across the river 500m to the north at Bridge Road Haddington. Details can be found on Traveline at [traveline.org.uk](http://traveline.org.uk) or alternatively on 0871 200 2233. There are no public facilities in the vicinity.

Car parking is possible at the roadside boundary of the property but is difficult because of the high kerb and narrow carriageway.

### 3.2 Access / Walks



## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Sibsey Wood will be managed in order to realise its potential as a native broadleaf high forest woodland. The objective is that over the long-term (50 to 100 years), the wood becomes self-perpetuating through natural regeneration, ensuring its existence in perpetuity. The two millennium features (apple tree avenue and wellingtonia grove) will be maintained as long term features.

Informal public access will continue to be encouraged by annual mowing of the public footpath, permissive rides and open spaces on site to ensure these remain unobstructed for walkers.



## 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

The site lies close to the village of Aubourn. Public access is available via permissive paths which link into a public highway at the west end of the village. Other entrances allow both circular and through-site walks.

#### Significance

This WOYD site has been part funded by a local landowner and the local community and is very well used by the village of Aubourn. It is important that locals are able to enjoy open access to the woodland.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The paths link well to the existing network around the village and the small size of the wood prevents adding to this network.

#### Factors Causing Change

Changes in the level of visitor usage, shading of paths due to tree growth.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the existing network of open rides, pathways (340m) and glades through annual mowing to ensure easy and welcoming public access to the site. Maintain the level of visitor facilities in keeping with level of visitor use.

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

Maintain the current level of visitor provision over the plan period which includes 2 entrances and associated welcome signs. Maintain the 340m of footpaths through the site annually.

## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

A native broadleaved woodland, planted as part of the Woodlands on Your Doorstep initiative. Ash and common oak are the main tree species planted along with a range of lower growing trees and shrubs native to the locality.

### Significance

Woodland is an uncommon feature in the local area and the site will provide valuable wildlife habitat once matured, particularly for tree nesting birds. The site is of great importance to local people for informal recreation.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The woodland will provide an attractive local amenity for many years into the future and add to the network of small woodland habitats in the immediate locality.

### Factors Causing Change

Tree growth, vandalism and ash dieback disease.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

In the long term the woodland will mature into a secondary broadleaved woodland and management will be undertaken to maintain native high forest together with the two millennium features: the apple avenue and the Wellingtonia grove.

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

To ensure the wood continues to develop into a broadleaf high forest with the two millennium features. Woodland condition will be monitored on at least one occasion per plan period.

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## 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	2.00	Mixed native broadleaves	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

This small (2ha) WOYD site was planted on the 20th February 2000 at a density of 1100/ha with a mixture of native broadleaves. The site has a network of paths and rides, which link into the two main pedestrian access points and a well-used footpath which crosses the site. The management access is directly off the public road (grid reference; SK 9196 6262). The rides and glades make up small proportion (0.30ha) of the site. On the request of the local community to celebrate the Millennium, eight wellingtonias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) were planted in a circular feature in the centre of the wood, whilst the path leading from the main entrance is also lined with 12 eating apple trees (6 different varieties) as well as one yew tree.

## 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.