



Hippo 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Hippo Wood
Location:	Boulton Moor
Grid reference:	SK376317, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 128
Area:	2.43 hectares (6.00 acres)
Designations:	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Hippo Wood, planted in January 2001, formed part of the "Woods On Your Doorstep" project, supported by the Millennium Commission, which created 200 new community woods within walking distance of towns and villages. This woodland creation site was made possible by the support of Homebase Ltd and the Sainsbury's Family Charitable Trust. The now well established young woodland lies on the south edge of Derby in Alvaston, and occupies a former playing field of the adjacent Noel-Baker Community School. It extends to 2.44 hectares and is bounded on the east by the school on the north by housing and on the west by an unfilled canal that acts as a cycle/footpath.

2.2 Extended Description

Hippo Wood, planted in January 2001, formed part of the "Woods On Your Doorstep" project, supported by the Millennium Commission, which created 200 new community woods within walking distance of towns and villages. This woodland creation site was made possible by the support of Homebase Ltd and the Sainsbury's Family Charitable Trust.

The site lies on the south edge of Derby in Alvaston, and occupies a former playing field of the adjacent Noel-Baker Community School. It extends to 2.44 hectares and is bounded on the east by the school on the north by housing and on the west by an unfilled canal that acts as a cycle/footpath. There are open views to the south.

The planted areas consist of native tree species, including ash, oak, gean, field maple plus minor species. Originally planted in plastic sleeves on ripped lines 3m apart, it was subject to very high levels of vandalism and theft, and hence beating up took place without plant protection and weeding to allow the trees a start before becoming too visible. This approach was successful, and the site is now very well established.

A significant proportion of the site (30%) is retained open ground. The majority of this consists of a 20m wayleave corridor for a main sewer (Severn Trent Water) and underground electricity cable (East Midlands Electricity), together with an area of wet grassland at the south end of the site which holds some scattered planting. The remainder are rides and pathways. A new desire line path has been established by schoolchildren running due south from the Harlow Close entrance and this has overridden the original site design.

The site adjoins Harlow Close which is an adopted public highway, and provides access for both management and public. An existing pedestrian entrance which is wheel chair accessible currently provides public access together with an open access off the public footpath which follows the route of the old canal towpath on the west side. A short tarmac surfaced path links the two entrances, the rest of the path network being level, mown grass routes.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The site adjoins Harlow Close which is an adopted public highway. An existing pedestrian entrance which is wheel chair accessible currently provides public access together with an open access off the public footpath which follows the route of the old canal towpath on the west side. A short tarmac surfaced path links the two entrances, the rest of the path network being level, mown grass routes.

The Boulton/Shelton Lock areas are well served by the Derby City bus network. Details should be found on the Traveline website www.traveline.org.uk or alternatively ring Traveline on 0987 200 2233.

There are no known public facilities in the area.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Following successful establishment the wood will be managed to high forest through minimum intervention, maintaining the current levels of informal visitor access provision.

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

Visitor access to the site is via Harlow Close and off the public footpath which runs down the west edge of the property. Mown paths are maintained around the site, although the original site design has been overridden by the establishment of a strong desire line path between the Harlow Close entrance to the southern entrance.

The site is subject to a high level of use as it is on one of the routes to the school.

Significance

The project gathered some support from the local community for whom it provides a recreational resource. It is important because it lies within the heart of the community - bounded by and linking two schools a housing development and a cycle track. It could also provide an educational resource for the neighbouring schools.

Opportunities & Constraints

Paths will require regular mowing and upkeep. Entrances require regular inspection and repair due to the level of vandalism on site.

The site is subject to a high level of daily use, due to a school route passing through the centre.

Factors Causing Change

Occasional vandalism damage, littering.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish a mixed broadleaved woodland as an area of informal recreation for the local population, providing accessible woodland with low key signage and welcome.

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

Ensure the level of visitor provision remains commensurate with the high level of public use, whilst realising that the levels of usage is related to the school and to a relatively small number of local regular users.

Inspect signs and entrances on at least one occasion per year and repair as necessary. Carry out twice yearly path mowing.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

2.44Ha of new native broadleaved woodland that has been created as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep initiative.

Significance

The wood once established will form an important recreational resource for local people and an educational resource for the neighbouring school.

Opportunities & Constraints

High levels of vandalism will ensure that this wood will require a steady and high level of maintenance/funding throughout a lengthy establishment period and beyond.

Factors Causing Change

Vandalism and theft of trees., Possible vole damage

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An established broadleaved woodland as an area of informal recreation for the local population, as an educational resource for the neighbouring school, and as an area of woodland in an otherwise urban location.

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

Management of the site following establishment during the current plan period 2015-2020, will follow Woodland Trust management principles and will be limited to works involving public safety or the repair/ reinstatement following vandalism.

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	2.44	Oak (sessile)	2001	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

Planted in January 2001 (former playing fields) with a mixture of native broadleaves: ash, oak, gear, field maple plus minor shrub species. Planted in plastic sleeves on ripped lines 3m apart.

A significant proportion of the flat site (30%) is retained open ground. The majority of this consists of a 20m wayleave corridor for a main sewer (Severn Trent Water) and underground electricity cable (East Midlands Electricity), together with an area of wet grassland at the south end of the site which holds some scattered planting. The remainder are rides and pathways. A new desire line path has been established by schoolchildren running due south from the Harlow Close entrance and this has overridden the original site design. The western edge of the site is formed by an infilled canal that now serves as a public foot and cycle path.

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.