



Ling Close 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 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Secondary Woodland	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Ling Close Wood
Location:	Ledston
Grid reference:	SE431306, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 105
Area:	4.15 hectares (10.25 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It lies on the western boundary of the village of Ledston Luck and comprises a mixture of native broadleaf trees, and a pond.

2.2 Extended Description

The site was acquired by the Trust on 8th March 1999 as a site for its “Woods on Your Doorstep” (WOYD) project. The wood is situated on the western boundary of the village of Ledston Luck approximately 5 miles north of Castleford. There is a line of low voltage cable running across the northern section of the site from east to west and a line of telephone wires running up the western boundary. The field is clearly visible from the village and does link in well with the existing playing fields and footpath to the south of the site. The area was once part of the extensive West Yorkshire coalfields. Evidence of this can be clearly seen as to the north of the site is a partly restored spoil heap. The village is an ex coalmining settlement,

The woodland was designed primarily to provide a recreational facility and landscape feature as part of the WOYD project. This is one of the only significant areas of woodland in the village and surrounding landscape and therefore forms an important local amenity. A circular path is maintained by the Trust, with 3 access points located around the site.

Prior to planting, this generally flat site had been sown down to wheat by the existing tenant farmer. The site has had a number of uses over the years such as allotments, cricket and football pitches pre-war and then arable thereafter. A Forestry Commission woodland grant was received for the planting with a Better Land supplement. The Millennium Commission, the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust and Yorkshire Forward also provided funding. Extensive consultation was undertaken with the local community regarding the planting of the site. A community planting event was held on the 10th April 1999.

The main tree species to be found on site are 20% Ash, 20% Sessile oak, 20% Wild cherry, 20% Rowan, 6% Alder, 6% Crack willow. Shrub species are 2% Dog rose, 2% Hazel, 2% Hawthorn, 2% Blackthorn. A seasonal pond created as a millennium feature on the site is also a conservation feature.

Along the northern boundary a stone track exists with broadleaved woodland to the north. Arable field to the east with a fenced boundary. Arable to the south with a mature hawthorn hedge boundary. To the west is a hawthorn hedge and fencing running along the rear of the residential properties

A 5-year maintenance contract was undertaken between 1999 and 2003. Following the completion of the establishment contract tubes and guards were removed during the period 2005 - 2008. Ongoing maintenance includes path mowing, sufficient to allow reasonable access to the site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

The wood is located on the western edge of the village of Ledston Luck, which is approximately 5 miles north of Castleford. Access from the south is best undertaken by travelling into Castleford from the M62 on the A639. Follow signs for Garforth. This will take you onto the A656 heading north to Ledston Luck. Take the first access road on the right into the village with roadside parking available near a small playing field. A track alongside the playing field leads to the wood, which is situated behind the boundary hedge..

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

This flat site contains a grass circular footpath of approximately 700m. A freestanding information board and Trust welcome sign can be found just inside the wood, alongside the hedge. A seat can be found at the north eastern corner of the site.

PARKING

Roadside parking.

PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles

BUS STOPS

Ledston Luck - Nearest bus stop to be confirmed.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to maintain a diverse, secondary predominately broadleaved native high forest. This will be achieved by management through minimum intervention of the existing woodland and any trees or shrubs introduced through natural regeneration. The wood is expected to be dominated (80-100%) by native broadleaved species with a mixed shrub layer. Public access will be available throughout the site with the existing footpaths and open spaces maintained at the current levels, but tied into the management of adjoining accessible woodlands.

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 wood has open public access with a network of paths leading into the wood from the adjacent open access land. Woodland Trust signage has been erected at three entrance points. Being within easy walking distance of the village the site proves very popular with a wide range people of different ages from the local community, especially dog walkers. It is envisaged that as the woodland matures public usage will increase.

Significance

The site provides a short but interesting walk. Being located close to the edge of the village the woods accessibility will ensure that it is well used by the local community of all ages.

Opportunities & Constraints

At present due to the woods small size and age the woods usage is limited to a short walk for local people. The development of adjoining land (former colliery pit) as woodland and open space will undoubtedly increase the usage of this woodland as well.

Factors Causing Change

Increased public use.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a well-maintained network of paths that enables good access all year round from the various access points access points located around the site.

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

Maintenance of the existing 700m circular path, 3 access points and welcome signs, on at least one occasion per year

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

A predominantly young broadleaved plantation of mixed native species that was planted as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) in 1999. A secondary woodland consisting of 20% ash, 20% sessile oak, 20% wild cherry, 20% rowan, 6% alder, 6% crack willow. Shrub species on-site are 2% dog rose, 2% hazel, 2% hawthorn, 2% blackthorn. The woodland sits within close proximity to residential properties to the west with open arable land to the south and east with woodland cover directly to the north. The site is well drained with ditching to the north and east of the plantation.

Significance

Woodland cover is sparse in the countryside surrounding Ledston Luck, which was once dominated by coalmining. The species diversity in this wood makes this woodland a valuable habitat and landscape feature of the surrounding area. Directly to the north of the woodland is Ledston Luck plantation a Leeds City Council/West Yorkshire Wildlife Trust property. The surrounding area is predominantly open arable land with limited woodland cover

Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is a totally isolated from other mature or ancient woodlands and colonisation by certain woodland species is likely to be restricted. As a small wood the site is likely to be capable to support a limited range of species. Possible close relations with surrounding land owners to promote links to the wider environment maybe a possibility in the future, mature woodland can be found to the south and south east of the woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Ash die back is prominent in the area and will be a factor in the changing nature of species dominance in the area although due to the wet nature of the surrounding area alder is the dominant species, however ash has been successful and regeneration found within the woodland and surrounding area.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The vision is to develop and maintain the new planting in order to achieve a diverse broadleaved high forest encouraging self-sustaining woodland, dominated by 80-100% native broadleaved species, with a mixed native shrub layer and diverse age structure. As woodland cover around Ledston Luck is sparse and with the landscape once dominated by coal mining the wood will contribute to the area as a valued landscape feature and wildlife habitat.

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

The woodland will be monitored for woodland condition on at least one occasion per plan period. Thinning operations should be encouraged to increase light levels and encourage regeneration. This will be following the condition assessment in 2018.

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	4.24	Oak (sessile)	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

Compartment 1 consists of native mixed broadleaf trees (90%) and shrubs (10%). The main tree species to be found on site are 20% Ash, 20% sessile oak, 20% wild cherry, 20% rowan, 6% alder, 6% crack willow. Shrub species planted on-site are 2% dog rose, 2% hazel, 2% hawthorn, 2% blackthorn. The trees were planted in a random fashion at 2.1m spacing to achieve 2250 plants per hectare, creating a naturalistic effect and were protected from rabbits and deer by 1.2m Tubex tubes. The site is generally flat in appearance. Woodland Trust signs are placed at three of the site entrances. A seasonal pond has been created in the southwest corner of the site. Two park-type benches have been placed around the pond.

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.