



Frank's Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Frank's Wood
Location:	Colerne
Grid reference:	ST822713, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 173
Area:	1.96 hectares (4.84 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Frank's Wood is a very small site located in the attractive village of Colerne a few miles west of Chippenham and lying just within the southern tip of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Formerly arable land it was later grassed over and planted in 2000 with mixed native broadleaves, mainly ash, field maple, oak, birch and some woody shrubs.

2.2 Extended Description

Frank's Wood is a small woodland creation site located in the attractive village of Colerne a few miles west of Chippenham and lying just within the southern tip of the Cotswolds AONB. The wood is situated on the Cotswolds Jurassic Oolitic limestone plateau, an important landscape feature, characteristic of the area. Covering the deep, wide valleys and tree-lined streams is a patchwork of arable and pasture land together with hedges and dry stone walls and occasional woodland blocks. A few miles to the east lies Colerne Park and Monk's Wood, a 47ha area of ancient semi natural woodland which is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Other large areas of woodland lie to the north and also the west. Derived from the underlying limestone, soils are typically calcareous and well-aerated.

To the north east and north west of the site are pasture and farmland. Houses border the north western side. The south western side borders open pasture and there is a country lane long the south eastern side, across from which are houses. Dry stone walls run along three sides of the site forming part of a network of dry stone walls which provide an important habitat niche and are an important part of the cultural heritage of the area.

Formerly arable land the site was grassed over by a previous owner and approximately 90% of the site was planted in 2000 as part of the 'Woods on Your Doorstep' millennium project, with mixed native broadleaves, mainly ash, field maple, oak, birch and some woody shrubs. Local people were involved in the woodland creation from the beginning through the fundraising, design and planting. The wood was named in honour of Frank Entwistle of Colerne who along with Mary Harvey, instigated the project.

The site is on a gentle slope, with access via a short gravel path, on a gentle gradient, from Eastrip Lane at the south western corner of the wood, which also the management entrance. There is another entrance further along Eastrip Lane which has a few steps up into the site. The site is generally well drained and has good views across the By Brook valley in the direction of the village of Box.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Access

Parking is not possible along Eastrip Lane and so most visitors walk from the village. However it should be noted that there are no pavements for much of the route from the village to the Wood and that Eastrip Lane is narrow although only used by local traffic as it is a dead end. There is one main access point into the wood - a short and gentle uphill slope directly off Eastrip Lane and into the south western corner. The wood can also be accessed via some small steps further along Eastrip Lane. There is a circular mown path around the site which is on a gentle gradient. The paths are un-surfaced but relatively even under-foot.

Public Transport

The nearest bus stop is located in the village of Colerne, approximately 0.2 miles from the site down narrow country lanes. This stop is serviced by Faresaver (service 635) between Bristol and Chippenham and Faresaver (service 228) between Bath and Colerne.

Facilities

The nearest public toilets, with baby changing and disabled facilities, are located within the Borough Parade shopping centre in Chippenham Town centre, approximately 4 miles east of the site.

3.2 Access / Walks

Access

Parking is not possible along Eastrip Lane and so most visitors walk from the village. However it should be noted that there are no pavements for much of the route from the village to the Wood and that Eastrip Lane is narrow although only used by local traffic as it is a dead end. There is one main access point into the wood - a short and gentle uphill slope directly off Eastrip Lane and into the south western corner. The wood can also be accessed via some small steps further along Eastrip Lane. There is a circular mown path around the site which is on a gentle gradient. The paths are un-surfaced but relatively even under-foot.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Frank's Wood will develop into a mature, native, broadleaved woodland with a healthy tree canopy and understory composed of woodland shrubs and flora. Management will be largely through natural processes with limited intervention undertaken as necessary to maintain light levels and diversify structural diversity or for safety reasons. The planting and development of Frank's Wood helps the Woodland Trust achieve its target of doubling the area of native woodland cover in the UK. There are dry stone walls on three sides of Frank's Wood, with the Trust being responsible for two of them. These are of local character and are an important local feature as well as a habitat for wildlife. These will be maintained/repared as necessary as part of safety/boundary responsibility/local significance reasons.

Located in an attractive village where locals take a keen interest, Frank's Wood will be managed as an important open access area where the public are welcome. The signs, information board and well-kept paths will be managed to encourage public interest and participation in the woodland; fulfilling the Trust's corporate objective of increasing people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland.

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

A small but well used wood, easily accessible from the village of Colerne. An information board is positioned at the main access point which leads onto a mown path around the wood. From the NE corner there are extensive views out across the Wiltshire countryside.

Significance

Informal public access to Frank's Wood works to achieve the Trust's aim to inspire people to value woods and trees. It also adds interest to the village of Colerne and provides an excellent place for locals to walk and enjoy quiet recreation. A well maintained site allows people to enjoy and value the site, both local individuals as well as organised visits such as school trips.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity -work with interested volunteers/community groups to undertake management works/site activities that further help to achieve Trust aim of encouraging everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

Constraints: Lack of formal parking at the main entrance and also of nearby parking/pavements may discourage some potential visitors, who need to walk along adjoining roads to reach the site.

Factors Causing Change

Increase or decrease in level of use
 Damage caused by deer to natural regeneration
 Flytipping
 Mis-use of the site by visitors e.g. litter/campfires
 Current tree diseases such as Chalara dieback in ash

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will remain open to the public for quiet informal recreation predominantly by locals from Colerne and as the wood grows it will give improved and varied opportunities for woodland walks, views, activities and wildlife interest

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

Operational Objective:

Accessible, well-maintained woodland used by the public. Path network and entrances remain in good condition and are appropriate for the level and type of use.

Work Programme:

Public access will be managed by mowing the paths and maintaining entrance points within the Estate Management Contract. This will help offer accessible access to the site and maintain the Woodland Trust welcome.

Litter clearance from the site will be undertaken as necessary.

Any fly tipping noted during site visits by Site Manager/ Contractors/visitors to be cleared

Action any works necessary for safety reasons.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The woodland was planted as part of the 'Woods on Your Doorstep' Millennium project. It contains a mixture of native broadleaves and shrubs, covering approximately 90% of the whole site. The 10% open space is located around the outside edges of the wood and allows a circular walk around the site. A path through the centre of the wood further diversifies the site to the benefit of both wildlife and people. Temporary bramble clumps encroaching from the edges provide low level/scrub habitat.

Significance

The Trust's objective of creating more native woods is adequately fulfilled in the new woodland becoming established. The Wood and the dry stone walls are key characteristics of the National Character Area profile and the Wood also provides NERC habitats of principal importance - Broadleaved mixed woodland, thus helping to deliver national BAP habitats.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity -work with interested volunteers/community groups to undertake management works/site activities that further help to achieve Trust aim of encouraging everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

Factors Causing Change

Deer damage
 Grey squirrel damage
 Invasive non-native species taking hold
 Storm damage altering canopy structure thus affecting light levels
 Spread of diseases such as Chalara fraxinea (Ash dieback) and Phytophthora ramorum
 Fly tipping
 Increase/decrease in level of use/mis-use of the site

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Healthy, mature, mixed broadleaf woodland with a naturally regenerating understory with retention of approximately maximum 20% open space with graduated wood edge alongside ride edges achieved through natural processes and limited intervention.

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

Operational Objective:

A mixed native broadleaf woodland that is managed as high forest through limited intervention with a diverse understory and developing ground flora.

Work programme:

Action any necessary works resulting from tree safety inspections.

Control encroaching bramble as required through EMC or volunteers

Control ragwort when necessary

Continue with repairs for boundary walls within the Trust's responsibility as and when necessary.

Path cuts and entrance maintenance.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
------	--------------	-------------	--------

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.92	Ash	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Mixed native broadleaves planted in late 2000. Main species planted include ash and field maple to replicate the species typical of the area. Oak, birch and woody shrubs such as hazel and hawthorn are also present, generally concentrated around the periphery.</p> <p>The NW tip of the wood touches private property but generally stone walls covered in shrubs and brambles separate the wood from the surrounding pasture land.</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 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.