



# Langton Wood

## Management Plan 2014-2019

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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>	Langton Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Redmarshall
<b>Grid reference:</b>	NZ385208, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 93
<b>Area:</b>	3.58 hectares (8.85 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Community Forest

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Langton Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It lies in the former Tees Forest, and comprises young broadleaf trees, a pond and a Millennium seat.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Langton Wood is situated on 4.07 ha of land on the southwest edge of the village of Redmarshall, Stockton-on-Tees (NZ 3850 2085). The land was acquired by the Trust 2000 and planted in December 2000 and January 2001 as part of the Trust's millennium campaign 'Woods on Your Doorstep' (WOYD) with native broadleaved trees and shrubs.

Situated in what was The Tees Forest, the wood occupies former arable land with a south-easterly aspect that very gently slopes down from the northeast and southwest towards the middle of the site. Arable land still surrounds much of the wood to the south, east and west with pastureland to the north. Adjoining the southwest corner of Langton Wood and running southeast from it is Redmarshall Oak Wood, new community woodland owned and planted in 2004 by The Tees Forest.

No public rights of way exist on site and currently, the wood can only be reached by following the concrete track leading off Redmarshall Road about 300m south-east of the village. Where this track bends, a strip of land running north along the field edge provides both pedestrian and management access to the wood. Running alongside this access route is a strip of land managed under a Countryside Stewardship Agreement by the owner of Ouston Moor Farm which continues around the outside edge of Langton Wood and has been made into a semi-metalled track to provide access for horse riders and walkers. A permissive circular path within the wood is maintained to provide access for walkers and an information board and welcome sign located at the wood's entrance for the benefit of visitors. A pond and seat form the wood's millennium feature located near the western boundary of the wood on the edge of the strip of open ground that crosses the northern end of Langton Wood forming the easement of two large water mains. Because of the difficulty of reaching the wood from Redmarshall village, Langton does not received a lot of public use. However, as this area was developed as a gateway site to the former Tees Forest with the establishment of two new community woods next to Langton, along with the bridleway that links them all, public recreation is likely to increase in future years.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

For those wishing to reach the wood by public transport, bus stops are located on Redmarshall Road and Drovers Lane in Redmarshall Village. From these bus stops, the wood can be reached within 10 to 15 minutes by walking down Drovers Lane towards Stockton-on-Tees. For those travelling to the wood by car, no car parking facilities exist at the wood and so visitors coming by car will have to find on-road parking within Redmarshall village.

The wood can be reached by following the public footpath from Redmarshall Setting off from the church, head east down a short road between houses, walk down the steps and cross a stile to enter the field. Follow the fence for 100m as it turns south. Cross the stile to exit the field, the entrance to the wood is 10m to the left.

The wood can also be reached from Drovers Lane that runs southeast out of the village towards Stockton-on-Tees. Follow this road for about 300m down the hill until you come to a concrete track on your right hand side. Follow this track until you reach the bend then turn right and follow the semi-metalled track northwards along the edge of the field until you come to the wood's entrance. Although gentle walking, the distance to the wood is about 1km and involves walking along the edge of the road, so visitors should take extra care.

The wood can be entered via a squeeze stile at the main entrance or by following the semi-metalled track around to the northern side of the wood where further squeezes are located. The wood is relatively flat with a large grass ride runs through the middle and another around its edges which are mown three times a year to keep them open for visitors.

For those needing public conveniences whilst visiting the wood, public toilets can be found at the community centre on Wheatley Walk, Hardwick in Stockton-on-Tees. Six RADAR toilets are located in Stockton-on-Tees (please see RADAR website for full details) including one on the High Street and one at Roper Park off Hartburn Avenue ((A1027).

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Langton Wood will be managed in order to realise its potential as a Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) site by establishing and maintaining vigorous, native broadleaf high forest woodland across site. Over the long-term (50 to 100 years plus), the wood will become self-perpetuating through natural regeneration, ensuring its existence in perpetuity. Informal public access will continue to be encouraged by mowing the permissive paths annually to ensure these remain inviting for walkers. By carrying out these activities, contributions will be made towards achieving the Trust's corporate objectives of increasing the area of new native woodland and also increasing enjoyment and understanding 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

The whole of Langton Wood is open for free public access on foot to members of the public. To facilitate this, the entrance and a circular permissive path are kept open by regular mowing. A seat next to the pond provides visitors with a place to sit and enjoy the wood.

#### Significance

Providing public access to woods is a cornerstone of the Trust's management approach to its properties and is encapsulated in its corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland. Being located on the edge of Redmarshall, the wood has the potential to be an important local amenity, providing an area where people can wander freely. The wood also forms part of a much larger amenity landscape formed by the stewardship track and the creation of Redmarshall Oak and Ouston Brier Woods by the Tees Forest, which can provide recreation for larger communities, such as Stockton-on-Tees.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

##### Opportunities

The fact that the wood is still surrounded by farmland offers the possibility for future expansion of the wood through further land acquisition.

##### Constraints

Tree safety works, likely due to ash dieback, could temporarily close sections of the permissive path within the wood. This is unlikely to last more than one day for each operation.

#### Factors Causing Change

Trespass by horse riders, encroachment of vegetation and seasonal water logging on part of site.

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

To ensure free public access on foot to the wood continues to be available in the future by maintaining the current level of access provision and by keeping all permissive paths free of obstruction for walkers.

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

The entrance to the wood, signs, and seat will be inspected at least once a year to ensure they are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition for public use. The 900m of permissive paths will be kept open for walkers by mowing up to three times a year and collecting litter at least once a year. Public safety will be protected by maintaining a site risk assessment of all known hazards within the wood and by carrying out any necessary work in order to minimise the dangers these hazards present to visitors.

## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

Approximately 7650 native trees and shrubs were planted in December 2000 and January 2001 over a gross area of 4.07 hectares in order to create new a native broadleaved wood on former arable land.

### Significance

Native broadleaved woodland is a vital habitat for many plants and animals found in the UK. Over the centuries, our countryside has lost most of its natural tree cover, with a consequent loss of biodiversity. By planting new native woodland we are helping to reverse this depletion and fragmentation of the countryside. Planting on former farmland provides a net gain in biodiversity that will increase as the wood develops. Consequently, increasing the area of new native woodland is one of the Trust's four key corporate objectives that the creation of Langton Wood helps to fulfil.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunities:

In 2004, The Tees Forest planted a new wood at the southeast corner of Langton, increasing the area of new native woodland. The fact that the wood is still surrounded by farmland offers the possibility for future expansion of the wood through further land acquisition. An active volunteer group works within the wood; the group are able to undertake monitoring, incident reporting and various woodland operations

#### Constraints:

The spread of Ash dieback could create large gaps in the canopy; with ash being the dominant species of re-generation on site , these gaps may remain open for a lengthy period resulting in a temporary loss of woodland habitat..

### Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback, leading to reduced growth or death of infected trees.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure that native high forest broadleaved woodland is successfully established and to ensure this remains healthy and vigorous so that, over the long-term, the wood becomes self-perpetuating through natural regeneration, ensuring its existence in perpetuity.

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

During the current plan period the short term objectives are to manage the wood through minimal intervention, unless otherwise dictated by annual monitoring of the ash disease progression and the need for safety work, and to undertake a general woodland condition assessment once during the plan period to monitor the health and resilience of the wood, which will guide the management of the woodland in the next plan period. Enrichment planting with native species where gaps in the canopy occur and due to ash dieback and no re-generation is present may also be necessary.

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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	4.07	Ash	2001	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Community Forest

Creation of a new native broadleaved wood was carried out at Langton during December 2000 and January 2001. Local people began the work at a public planting event held on the on the 17th of December during which approximately 950 trees were planted. The rest of the site was planted using contract labour. In total, 3.4 ha were planted, with the remaining 0.67 ha consisting of open space in the form of paths and the water pipes easement. Prior to planting, weeds were sprayed with herbicide and the ground ploughed, tilled and reseeded with a low yielding grass seed mix. Planting was carried out at a stocking density of 2250 trees per ha using 30 to 45 cm nursery transplants of local or British provenance planted in random group sizes and protected with 1.2m Tubex tree shelters and Tubex shrub shelters as appropriate.

A seat and pond are situated in the wood (see Conservation Map) and form its millennium feature. Two underground high pressure water mains cross the northern end of the wood running east-west and manhole covers associated with these are located at the western end of the easement.

## 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.