



Millhampton Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Millhampton Wood
Location:	Ombersley
Grid reference:	SO830651, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 150
Area:	4.87 hectares (12.03 acres)
Designations:	Woods on your Doorstep

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Millhampton Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It has been planted with native broadleaf trees and shrubs and features a sculptured iron seat at its heart.

2.2 Extended Description

Millhampton Wood is located 2km north west of the village of Ombersley (Junction off the A 4133 & A 449) and lies approximately 400m west of the lane and mid-way between the hamlets of Uphampton and Batterton Green. It is a community woodland planted in the winter of 2000 / 2001 as part of the Woodland Trusts millennium project "Woods on Your Doorstep" (WOYD). The site was purchased with the help and support of the Millennium Commission, the Sainsbury Family Trust, Homebase and through donations from local residents. Local people were also involved in the design and subsequent planting of the new woodland.

The site is roughly rectangular and approximately 500m long by 100m wide. It has been planted as new native broadleaved woodland in four blocks covering 4ha interspersed with a network of rides and open ground (approximately 0.1ha). The planting mix emulates species found in National Vegetation Classification (NVC) woodland type W8, and includes English (Pedunculate) oak, ash, silver birch, wild cherry, small-leaved lime, hornbeam, crab apple, field maple, and damson with marginal plantings of woody shrubs including blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, guelder-rose, dogwood and spindle. As a botanical feature a Whitty Pear or Old Sorb Tree (the descendant of a local origin sorbus) was planted in the small block just to the north of the eastern pedestrian access.

The wood has three public access points that link the site with the local public footpath network. Within the site nine hundred metres of informal footpath are maintained, giving access to the whole site. To celebrate the passing of the Millennium the wood has a sculptured iron seat at its heart, from which visitors can enjoy a vista that encompasses the mid Severn valley from the Malvern Hills in the south to the Cleve Hills in the north.

The site lies on the western facing of a broad ridge overlooking the Severn Valley. The soils are light well drained with a Sandy texture and overlay a substrate of Triassic sandstone. Prior to the Woodland Trusts ownership the site had a history of intense cultivation and soil improvement, this has seriously altered the natural soil horizon and there is little distinction between the horizons and no obvious organic horizon. Given time and a lack of cultivation it is likely that the soil horizon will revert to acid brown earth.

Surrounding land use consists of agricultural arable fields, leaving Millhampton Wood as an important local landscape and habitat feature. There are no wooded areas of significant size in the local vicinity.

Key Features:

KF f1 - Informal Public Access

KF f2 - New Native Woodland

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access is available via public footpath [FP 54] which crosses part of the site. There is also a public footpath link [FP55] to the public highway to the east of the site, this mostly following the route of the management access. FP55 enters the site via a less-able kissing gate. There is a circular route through the site which slopes gently to the west of the site. The condition of the paths are generally good right through the year thanks to the free draining soil type. There is no parking nearby, the best way to access the site is via the public footpath network.

Nearest bus stop - Omberseley High Street Approximately 2 miles away

Nearest railway station - Droitwich - approximately 5 miles away.

Nearest Public Toilet - Car Park on Vale Road, Stourport-on-Severn approximately 5 miles away. There are also disabled facilities at these toilets.

** Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The aim is to maintain native species amenity woodland with a variety of associated habitats which is resilient and robust. The woodland will continue to complement and enhance the local landscape and offer opportunities for informal recreation.

Until now Millhampton Wood has been allowed to develop naturally as a mixed native broadleaved woodland with the dominant appearance being a mixture of native broadleaves with good structural diversity. The planted trees have now grown to stage where intervention is deemed necessary and will take the form of small scale halo thinning (less than 5 cubic metres per quarter) around natural regeneration and trees with particularly good form creating woodland that is diverse in species, structure and natural regeneration. Other work will include carrying out essential tree safety works, annual mowing of open areas and selected ride sides and working on selected areas of coppicing along ride edges to promote visitor enjoyment when required.

Management will maintain approximately the same distribution of open ground across the site. Areas of scrub will be encouraged to develop (but not dominate) along woodland margins. These areas will be maintained through a programme of ride edge coppice and occasional scallop cuts.

Public access will be maintained through footpath cutting 4 times per year, along with 2 litter picks around the entrances. Public access will also be inspected once per year through key feature observations, leading to furniture repairs/replacements where necessary.

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

Public access to the wood is gained via three access points, two along the south west boundary and one on the eastern boundary. Public footpath No 54 crosses the southern section of the wood and links in with other public footpaths from Borley, Uphampton and Northampton. The wood has 0.9ha of open rides and 900m of informal footpath delivering access to the whole site. As a millennium feature a sculptured iron seat has been erected on the slopes in a clearing near the centre of the wood from where visitors can enjoy views of the mid Severn valley from the Malvern's in the south to the Clee Hills and Wyre Forest to the north.

Significance

Millhampton Wood was created as part of the Millennium Project "Woodland Trusts Woods On Your Doorstep" from the very beginning the local community have been encouraged to feel a sense of ownership towards the wood and to participate in its development. The use of nearly all Woodland Trust owned sites for quiet, informal public recreation forms a core to the Woodland Trusts vision for the future. Managed for perpetuity as part of a larger mosaic of habitats Millhampton Wood will attract (over time) a variety of permanent and transient flora and fauna making the site an ideal location for observing wildlife and gradual changes in local biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

The provision of access was a Key Feature in the design of Millhampton Wood, consequently within the constraints of the Woodland Trusts aims the sites potential has been maximised. Therefore the key opportunities for the site are that the present levels of access provision be maintained, but that the level of usage be increased. To some extent this can be achieved by maintaining close links with local people and organisations, and by working with Wychavon District Council and local Parish Councils to promote recreational use of the new wood.

Factors Causing Change

Development of woodland

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long-term intention is to maintain the present access provision but increasing usage of the wood. Guided by the parameters set out in the Woodland Trusts woodland management principles and access policy, management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The Trusts duty of care to neighbours and visitors will continue to be addressed through ongoing tree safety and site risk assessment regimes, which will stimulate remedial works as required. Local residents will be encouraged to play an active part in caring for the site, particularly through close links with the Parish Council.

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

Signs welcoming the general public to make use of the wood will be maintained at key points. The woodland will be promoted through the Woodland Trust's own publications and web site. We shall also aim to maintain close links with local people and organisations, and the District and Parish Councils. An annual estate maintenance contract (EMC) will maintain woodland fixtures and paths / meadows cuts and the removal of litter thus ensuring that the wood remains an inviting and pleasant place to visit. EMC work to include a minimum of four path/ride cuts entrance maintenance and inspections a year. Entrance maintenance and footpath cuts to meet Woodland Trust specifications 1.01 & 2.01.

5.2 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

Description

The compartment is 80% (4ha) new native woodland 18% (0.9ha) open ground, and approximately 2% (0.16) established trees including one mature ash and oak a collection of willows (*S. alba*, *S. cinerea* and *S. viminalis*) and scrub in the old irrigation lagoon. The planting mix comprised: 25% English (Pedunculate) oak, ash 15%, silver birch 10%, rowan 5%, small-leaved lime 2%, hornbeam 2%, crab apple 2%, field maple 2%, damson 2%. With 10% woody shrubs: hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder-rose, dogwood and spindle. The oak was planted in blocks of approximately 50 trees, and the ash and other trees in blocks of 25, the shrub/ bush species were planted along the planting block margins in groups of approximately 15. Prior to planting the site was seeded with a low vigour fescue mix this remains the dominant ground flora in the woodland blocks and open ground although greater diversity exists at the headlands and hedgerows. The boundaries comprise mixed thorn hedge with occasional mature and semi-mature oak, field maple and ash. The species composition and age of the incorporated trees suggest that the South west and western hedges are quite old and may be valuable as an existing seed bank and wildlife haven.

Significance

The creation of new native broadleaved woodland is an aim of the Woodland Trust and has also been identified as a priority by the Government in The England Forestry Strategy. The juxtaposition of Millhampton Wood within a landscape regionally poor in woodland, and near an area of high population means that the wood helps deliver national and regional forestry strategy goals, and the Woodland Trusts own core objectives of "restoring and improving biodiversity - increasing public awareness in woodland" and "creating new native woodland".

Opportunities & Constraints

Through seeking naturally paced development within the wood there is the opportunity to minimize interruption of the intimate and complex cycles between lower plants - fungi - invertebrates and the larger woodland structure, allowing the widest possible range of species and habitats to evolve and survive. However, the sites soils and exposure coupled with the tight planting density (2500 trees/ha) suggests that as the wood approaches pole stage its more exposed sections will have a predisposition to wind-throw. An opportunity exists through integrating the tree safety programme with an opportunistic irregular selection system, to foster a predominantly natural woodland but with a safe and inviting path and ride network.

Factors Causing Change

Pests and disease such as Chalara/Ash Dieback.
 Deer browsing and squirrel damage.
 Density of planted broadleaf species affecting future development.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain a native species amenity woodland with a variety of associated habitats which is resilient and robust. The planted trees have now grown to stage where intervention is deemed necessary as evidenced through the woodland condition assessment and will be undertaken in line with the Woodland Trusts Woodland Management Approach - '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'. This will take the form of small scale halo thinning (less than 5 cubic metres per quarter) around natural regeneration and trees with particularly good form creating woodland that is diverse in species and has good resilience. Other work will include carrying out essential tree safety works, annual mowing of open areas and selected ride sides and working on selected areas of coppicing along ride edges to promote visitor enjoyment when required.

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

To monitor the site to ensure that it continues to develop in line with with long term vision and is not threatened or damaged by any new or previously unknown factors such as predation or windblow through the Woodland Condition Assessment.

Carry out essential tree safety work, retaining fallen and/or standing deadwood where safe to do so. Carry out ride edge coppicing where this will enhance visitor enjoyment and undertake small-scale halo thinning within the planted areas around good examples of mixed native broadleaf natural regeneration and individual trees, allowing increased room and light levels for continued development. Any thinning undertaken will not exceed 5 cubic metres per calendar quarter. Coppicing/Halo thinning to occur annually between September and March as detailed in work programme.

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	5.00	Ash	2000	Coppice		Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Woods on your Doorstep

A roughly rectangular the compartment is approximately 500m long and 100m wide with a slight gradient and western aspect a large man made seasonally wet irrigation pond occupies part of the high ground in the south west of the compartment. The compartment is 80% (4ha) new native woodland (see Appendix Two - detailed sub compartment composition), 18% (0.9ha) open ground / paths and rides, and 2% (0.16ha) existing mature trees and scrub 1 x oak & ash with willow and thorn in the area of the pond. The north west boundary is defined by post and wire stock fence, the eastern boundary by post and wire fence with sections of sweet chestnut shelterbelt to the north, and mature thorn hedge to the south. The remainder of the boundaries are defined by mature thorn and mixed hedgerow. Management access is gained via a fieldgate at the east end of the north east boundary. Two public access points along the south western boundary and one at mid point on the eastern boundary open onto the ride and internal path network. Public footpath No 54 crosses the southern section of the site.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2018	1a	Selective Fell	4.77	1	5
2019	1a	Selective Fell	4.77	1	5
2020	1a	Selective Fell	4.77	1	5
2021	1a	Selective Fell	4.77	1	5
2022	1a	Selective Fell	4.77	1	5

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.