



# Midgery 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](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>	Midgery Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Preston
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SD556332, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 102
<b>Area:</b>	7.45 hectares (18.41 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Prior to planting this site was grazing land and retains a number of hedgerow features within the woodland areas. Mainly alder and ash with bird cherry, wild cherry, oak, field maple, hawthorn, dogwood, hazel, willow and guelder rose also present.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Midgery Wood is located in Fulwood an urban area of the northern half of the City of Preston. The site is part of a cluster of Woodland Trust owned sites in northwest Preston. Recent development has situated domestic housing along all the sites boundaries apart from the North Eastern boundary where it abuts the M6 motorway. To the west is a large public open space managed by Preston Borough Council.

The wood is long and narrow in nature; it is approximately 1.5km long and 70m across at its widest point and the land slopes gently from North to South. The Savick brook runs just to the south of Midgery Wood.

The planting is typical of the late 1970s, with oak, ash, cherry, field maple, hazel, birch, rowan, willow, three species of alder, dogwood, guelder rose and dog rose, within this planting a number of hedgerows and older trees have been retained, especially fringing the stream.

Poor management access and areas of permanently wet ground make management operations with machinery challenging.

Midgery is one site in a network of woods which were gifted to the Woodland Trust by the Commission for New Towns in 1996. It was planted in the late seventies, as part of the overall structure plan of the Central Lancashire New Town. The path network also links Midgery Wood with other nearby Woodland Trust sites and an large area of open space owned and managed by Preston City Council.

The woodland has two Key Features Informal Public Access & Secondary Woodland.

The site is well used by local people and a network of Public Footpaths link the woodland to areas of open space managed by Preston City Council as well as several other Woodland Trust sites including Masons Wood, Fernyhalgh Wood & Moss Leach.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Midgery Wood is located in the suburb of Fulwood which is around six miles from Preston city centre. The site has a total of 11 access points. The easiest to find is located close to the roundabout just off Williams Lane which leads from Pittman Way. There is around 1500 metres of even surfaced paths through the wood.

Parking is available on nearby local roads but may be limited.

Nearest public toilet: Is located at Asda Superstore, Eastway, Fulwood which is around half a mile away from the wood. (Asda toilets are for customers only)

Nearest bus stop: Is located on Williams Lane, which is only around 50 metres from the wood. Williams Lane is a suburban road with a pavement. Information from Traveline website.

Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0870 608 2 608

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Our long term intention is to manage Midgery Wood as a mixed broadleaved, predominantly native high forest. Both native and non native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. Active thinning work will take place to promote long term stand stability and this work will be focussed where the woodland borders adjacent housing, motorway and footpaths. Gaps created by trees gradually reaching senescence, or by trees been felled for safety reasons will also create opportunities for natural regeneration to occur. We will retain older trees of any species across the whole site as long as safety allows.

Access will be maintained at its present level of 11 access points and approximately 1500m of surfaced paths to ensure that the woodland continues to provide quiet informal recreational opportunities for all.

Local people should be informed of and involved with the site management where appropriate, especially to help understand the management needs of the wood, and the negative effect of some activities such as dumping garden rubbish, which have had a major impact in certain areas.

Statutory obligations will continue to be met with regard to managing tree safety and access.

## 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 Secondary Woodland

#### Description

Midgery Wood is predominantly a new broadleaf plantation (planted circa 1975), with some relics of old hedgelines. The planting mix used reflects stand types typical of oak-ash woodland, with ash, alder, oak, field maple, birch and cherry as the main species planted. The site is an integral part in a local mosaic of habitats that includes the stream and meadows of the Savick Brook valley/local nature reserve; with a further 6.5ha of Woodland Trust owned woodlands within 300m; and an expanse of domestic gardens along its southern boundary.

#### Significance

The local area has been extensively developed with the loss of numerous hedgerows, mature trees and farmland. The effects and changes typical of an urban environment will continue to be a disturbance to local wildlife. The creation of Midgery Wood although small provides a replacement for lost tree cover. Its management as woodland for perpetuity along with other near by Woodland Trust sites (Ferryhalgh Wood, Clough Copse and Asda Wood) and the Savick Brook local nature reserve will provide a stable core of wildlife habitats in an otherwise changing landscape.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to ensure a continuity of valuable woodland habitat in an area under intense pressure from development. The existing habitat value can be improved upon through the retention where suitable of standing and fallen dead wood and tree safety operations will create gaps in the canopy for regeneration.

The main constraints on management derive from the sites location near a built environment. The close proximity of the woodland edge to domestic properties, and the high recreational usage, means that boundary and safety issues may take precedence over habitat improvements. Intense use during the summer months can manifest itself as "miss-use" and "over-use", wear and tear on open spaces; fires; den building; vandalism; and fly-tipping; are factors that have to be considered in relation to habitat creation and management.

#### Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback

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

Mature, stable broadleaved high forest, with a continuous canopy and diverse age and species range and succession by natural regeneration. As trees gradually reach senescence or are removed for tree safety purposes the gaps left in the canopy will be colonised by natural regeneration of oak, ash, birch etc.

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

Active thinning will be undertaken in 2018 to ensure long term stand stability, this work was across the whole site but focussed on areas where the site borders housing, footpaths and the M6 motorway. Once thinning work is complete no further intervention will take place during this plan period.

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out in the final year of the current plan period. This will make recommendations as to the management of the site, key elements of which are likely to include the effects of ash disease, the development of natural regeneration and any future thinning requirements.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

The site has a total of 11 access points. The easiest to find is located close to the roundabout just off Williams Lane which leads from Pittman Way. There is around 1500 metres of even surfaced paths through the wood. Informal access throughout and Public Right of way in Cpts. 1A and 2A. The site is part of a larger open access area, much of the adjacent land is owned by the local authority, and other Woodland Trust sites such as Fernyhalgh Wood are close to the site.

### Significance

The pressures of development in the local area means that these green spaces will become important wildlife corridors and the main areas for informal outdoor recreation. Further more the value of the wood to the local population will not just be derived its from provision of wildlife habitat and public amenity, but through its services as a filter for airborne pollution, light, and noise. As the woodland matures its value as habitat for a range of wildlife will increase providing greater opportunities for observation and enjoyment.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The site provides an opportunity for informal recreation in a densely urban area and also links into Public Open Space which is cared for by Preston City Council and the Public Rights Of Way Network. The close proximity of a large population means that the site is subject to intense use and sometimes misuse during the summer months. Wear and tear on open spaces; fires; den building; vandalism; fly tipping; dog excrement, and horse/motorbike riding are perennial problems that need to be taken into consideration when carrying out any management operation (particularly access work).

### Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping & increased pressure of public use due to increasing local population

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Midgery Wood will continue to be used by local residents and by walkers accessing the network of local open space.

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

Signs or plaques welcoming the general public to make use of the site will be maintained at the 11 entrance points. Vegetation encroaching onto 1500 metres of paths will be cut back and annual maintenance of all woodland fixtures; including, signs, gates, and fences will be undertaken. The site will be kept clear of litter and fly tipping.

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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	0.73	Ash	1980	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Tree Preservation Order
<p>A small woodland located on Faraday Drive, divided by a paved path, with hedges on either side which runs through the site. The northern edge abuts Faraday Drive, the southern edge borders a housing estate and the western boundary is Midgery Lane. There are a number of older hedgerow features which enrich the typical late 1970s planting of alder, ash, oak, field maple, cherry, hazel, hawthorn, dogwood and guelder rose.</p>							
2a	3.59	Ash	1980	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Tree Preservation Order
<p>A narrow (30 metres) screening plantation which runs from the roundabout at the junction of Pittman Way and Williams Lane towards the M6 motorway for 250 metres and then south-eastwards for 320 metres, where there is a junction of two paths, from that point the compartment continues southwards until it reaches a track which climbs the sandy slope above the Savick Brook. There are a number of older hedgerow features in the western arm of this compartment, but the wood is predominantly late 1970s planting, dominated by ash with field maple, oak, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, elder, hazel and dogwood. A track runs through the middle of the plot, which is well used by dog walkers and workers from the nearby light industrial units. There is a small area of open space contained within the fenced boundary with a bench and mown grass which is the responsibility of Preston Borough Council, all adjacent grassland areas are also managed by Preston Borough.</p>							
3a	3.09	Ash	1980	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Tree Preservation Order

This compartment lies south of the path which climbs up the steep sandy valley slope on the north side of the Savick Brook, it is 85 metres at its' widest point and reaches down to the Savick Brook at two points at the eastern and western ends. There are some remnant field boundary hedges with some large trees including a notable oak. These add interest to an otherwise typical late 1970s planting. The lower edge of the plantation is dominated by well grown alders of three species, *Alnus cordata*, *Alnus incana* and *Alnus glutinosa*, ash, cherry, oak, field maple, birch, hawthorn, gorse, guelder rose, elder and false acacia are also present. Two short stretches of path pass through the compartment. One section, 120 metres in length, passes through the compartment at the base of the slope close to the stream and is part of the Woodland Trust site. The other path climbs the slope and forms the boundary between compartments 2a and 3a. This path is outside the Trust's site.

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**Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)**

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2018	1a	Thin	0.73	11	8
2018	2a	Thin	3.59	11	38
2018	3a	Thin	3.09	12	38

## 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.