



Pipe Hall Farm ext 2

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Pipe Hall Farm ext 2
Location:	Lichfield
Grid reference:	SK091092, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 128
Area:	13.14 hectares (32.47 acres)
Designations:	Scheduled Ancient Monument

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Take a gentle stroll through Pipe Hall Farm to explore planted ancient woodland, young broadleaf woodland and meadows, and enjoy views of Lichfield Cathedral and surrounding Maple Hays Hall.

2.2 Extended Description

Pipe Hall Farm is situated in the Forest of Mercia Community Forest (FOMCF) midway between the communities of Burntwood and Lichfield within a predominantly arable landscape. It is one of 12 Community Forests in the FOMCF. The site as we see it today was acquired in 3 parts, the largest area was acquired first and includes most of the planting and site compartments (1,2 and 3). Later a further extension was acquired to the north-east of the site which facilitated the construction of a car park and then finally the most recent acquisition in early 2010 where a further substantial area adjoining the site was completed in the south-eastern corner of just over 13 ha including a small area of PAWS (Jubilee Wood). Within this small area of PAWS there is also a Grade 2 Listed structure called the 'Conduit Head' which is noted as being circa 13th Century, in the period Norman to Medieval 1200 AD to 1299 AD. The description on the County Environment Historic Record database says 'Conduit Head Medieval with corbelled stone roof - this fed water through a lead conduit to Lichfield Cathedral until possibly as late as 1969'. The building was restored/renovated in 2010 and looks rather like a small stone shed over the top of a spring but has a very important link to the past by way of Lichfield's development for many hundreds of years!

The site covers almost 62 hectares forming a number of different types of woodland and open areas as follows; 37 hectares of secondary woodland (planted in 1994-96) predominantly of native broadleaf species with a small proportion of conifer in the open grassland areas. Wide rides are also a feature of the planting design and look magnificent today and thoroughly appreciated by walkers here; two further blocks of secondary woodland with a total area of 3.46 hectares, These areas are conifer-broadleaf mixes are much older (p1960). Timber is of varying quality with the Scots pine in Parkers Plantation showing the better form. Rides pass through both blocks of these mature woodlands; An 8.1 hectare block of improved pasture occupies the north-east corner of the site, 5.69 of which is under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme until 2014 and is fabulous for picnics! and finally the Trusts most recent acquisition of land adjoining the South-East boundary in the form of 8.71ha of arable land which has been planted with native mixed broadleaves and also a small area of PAWS (Jubilee Wood).

Pipe Hall Farm is predominantly flat but rises slightly as one heads east and affords views of Lichfield Cathedral through the historic parkland landscape and surrounding Maple Hays Hall, Pipe Hall Farm once being part of the Maple Hays Estate.

Most of Pipe Hall Farm is situated on reddish loamy soils of the Bromsgrove Association. The soil is therefore prone to drought and has a high risk of soil erosion. The pH values for the site vary from pH 4.5 - 6.5.

Car Parking is available in the sizeable car park (approximately 20 vehicles) off St Mathews Road, and is very well used by visitors.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Pipe Hall is a large site roughly half-way between Lichfield and Burntwood in the SE corner of Cannock Chase.

The primary access is the newly extended car park off St Matthews Road (SK083096). This will accommodate approximately 24 cars and has 2 specially designated disabled parking bays. The access from the car park is through 2 kissing gates which can be fully opened in order to allow the passage of large mobility vehicles by using a RADAR key. Linking these two gates is a specially surfaced all-abilities path which provides a circuit of 700 metres.

There is a Public footpath which runs along the NE boundary which provides additional access to the site. However this requires a walk of approximately 2 kms from the Lichfield-Burntwood Road. Within the site are 8 kms of managed permissive paths which connect the car park to almost every part of the site. Pipe Hall has a large variety of attractive landscapes and habitats from large open meadow areas to mature plantations established by previous owners and areas of woodland planted by the Woodland Trust in the last fifteen years. Most of the paths are mown grass and provide easy walking however some of the narrower paths through the woodland would not be suitable for buggies and wheelchairs.

The nearest bus stop is at the end of Woodhouses Lane on the A5190 between Lichfield and Burnt Wood. For times of the services go to www.traveline.org.uk but this will require an additional walk to Woodhouses and then on to St Matthews Road, a distance of just over 1 km. Arriva buses 860-1-2 leave Lichfield Bus station opposite the railway station every quarter of an hour and pass along the A5190 which is shown the map. The stop at Woodhouses Lane is about a mile from the woodland. The Green Bus No 15 leaves the same bus station three times a day and passes within a quarter of a mile of the site. It goes along Woodhouses Lane and turns left where that lane joins St. Matthew's Road, again shown on the map.

There are public toilets at Burntwood (Sankey's Corner, Chase Terrace. High Street, Chasetown. And Swan Island, Burntwood) and at Lichfield (Dam Street, Bird Street, The Friary and the Bus Station).

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Woodland Trusts objectives and long term intentions for Pipe Hall Farm are determined after balanced consideration of a number of points relating to our Woodland Management Approach (WMA) and seek to conserve key features in relation to our outcomes. Where there is conflict, the interests of biodiversity take precedence over people. We do not intervene at our sites unless there is evidence that it will improve woodland biodiversity and/or public understanding and enjoyment.

Open Ground Habitat Subcompartment 3a

To maintain this area as open grassland i as per the Countryside Stewardship Agreement with floristic survey's undertaken every 5-10 years. Keeping this area of the site as open ground is very important, it provides a great deal of enjoyment and interest (visitors frequently comment on this). There are super views from there and in the summer it's a fantastic spot for picnics! To keep this area open and manage the existing floristic interest, the meadow needs to be cut a maximum of twice a year (preferably with cuttings removed) and timed so flowers and grasses in the sward can seed. Sward height after cutting should not exceed 50mm.

Informal Public Access All compartments

The popularity of Pipe Hal Farm easliy recognised by the constant flood of regular visitors that arrive here daily. The site offers excellent public access opportunities. There are a great variety of interesting and beautiful paths and some wonderful views from the site. In accordance with the Trusts WMA, free public access will be provided for quiet, informal recreation and the woodland managed to make it accessible, welcoming and safe with the wood remaining an asset providing both a pleasant and educational experience for visitors. Paths will be kept open and ride edge work in the form of coppiced and scalloped bays will be undertaken to add to visitor interest.

Regular tree inspections will be undertaken by competent people and tree safety works will be implemented in accordance with recommendations from inspection reports and in line with current best practice.

Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) Subcompartment 5a

In accordance with the Trust Management Approach, non native conifer plantations on ancient woodland sites within Pipe Hall Farm will be restored to a predominantly semi-natural composition and structure. Ancient Woodland is our most valuable wildlife habitat and the restoration of PAWS represents the only opportunity to increase the area of ancient woodland with semi-natural characteristics.

The Trusts approach of PAWS restoration will be carried out through maintaining and enhancing remnant ancient-woodland features by reducing threats to their survival, primarily from dense shade. This process may take some years. Secondly, long term improvements to the general ecological value of sites by gradually shifting the canopy towards a more semi-natural species composition and structure. Action is prioritised to conserve and enhance remnant ancient-woodland features based

on the level of threat, with urgent and careful attention being directed to those areas most at risk. In essence it's about management of light levels as most threats come from excessive shade or light. In terms of Pipe Hall Farm, those areas most threatened will be treated first.

Secondary Woodland

Subcompartments 1a, 2a, 2b, 4a,b,c.

To maintain these areas and where appropriate as per the Trusts WMA, carry out the phased removal of conifers to reduce the proportion of these to predominantly native broadleaved composition (i.e. Subcompartment 2a - Parkers Plantation)

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.

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
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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.