



Haddon 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Haddon Wood
Location:	Alhampton, Shepton Mallet
Grid reference:	ST629345, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. N/A
Area:	11.38 hectares (28.12 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

The land was donated to the Trust in 2013 and planted as a new native woodland. It also features open glades, wide sweeping rides, and space for a future pond and community orchard.

2.2 Extended Description

Haddon Wood is a recently created woodland being planted with a mixture of native broadleaf trees in 2013 and 2014. An orchard of local varieties (Compt 1b) has also been planted. A lake was also created in 2014 in compartment 2a. The land was previously grazed improved grassland and Compartment 1a contains one of the best examples of medieval ridge and furrow in Somerset, this has been left as unplanted open ground.

Although generally flat a gentle slope across part of the site rises up to 60m above sea level but gives good views across the otherwise flat landscape. The site is within the Yeovil Scarplands national character area (no. 140), this area has very little woodland cover at only 4% of which a noticeable quantity is comprised of orchards.

Soils are of largely calcareous clay overlying Jurassic limestone which means they can stay wet a long time after rain and on the site lower lying areas can be prone to poaching. The site is crossed by a public footpath and a bridleway joins the northern boundary, the site has a number of permissive paths throughout and provides good public access.

There is a very strong and active community group who carry out the majority of the management on site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The site is to the southern edge of the village of Alhampton, 10km south of Shepton Mallet. The site is adjacent to a bridleway on the northern boundary and is crossed by a footpath which enters at the south-eastern corner and passes through the site splitting midway and exiting at two separate locations on the northern boundary. Although the 'correct' location of one of these is not clear the Trust will provide pedestrian access at a suitable point to make the use of the footpath as easy as possible for visitors

The main access points are from the road on the eastern boundary where two gates allow some parking in set-back areas. Pedestrian access is through 5 different points - two on the northern boundary and three on the eastern boundary, at the time of writing these access points are either through field gates or over step stiles however the work programme is to convert these to kissing gates.

Once within the site it is generally level with a gentle slope rising to the west from which good views are available across the surrounding area. Paths within the site are currently grass. Some areas which sit in the lower area of the wood are known to poach in times of wet weather; these are in narrow gateways and are currently unavoidable for walkers.

Castle Cary train station is 1km to the south and can be walked along roads without pavements. The nearest bus stop is in the village of Alhampton. Visitors should walk along 'No Through Road' to reach the pedestrian entrance at the side of the brightly coloured tin tabernacle. The nearest public toilets are 2 miles away at Millbrook Gardens car park in Castle Cary

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term aim is to establish new native woodland which will be of benefit to wildlife and at the heart of the local community who will use the site for recreation, education and resources. The site will be well valued for informal recreation by the local community, the site linking in with the wider network of paths or an enjoyable walk by itself.

Due to the lack of surrounding woodland it is anticipated that it will take many years for species of specialist woodland flora and fauna to find the site, however more mobile generalist species will soon start to colonise adding interest and diversity.

The important archaeological features will remain in good condition and unaffected by the development of the woodland around it.

The local community group should be supported to continue taking a major role in the management of the wood.

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 New Native Woodland

Description

Planted half in the spring of 2013 and half in winter 13/14, this is a new native woodland on land donated to the Trust. Community engagement was undertaken to help with the design of the woodland which incorporates open areas, wide sweeping rides, viewpoints and an area for products such as coppice and wood fuel.

A lake (compt 2a) and community orchard (compt 1b) of local varieties have been created. The site is surrounded by hedgerows of native species mostly hawthorn, blackthorn and field maple with some mature ash. Medieval ridge and furrow is present in compt 1a and while not scheduled has been left as grassland. Yellow rattle has been introduced to the edge of the ride in compartment 1a to try to restrict the grass growth with the possibility of further diversifying the sward by introducing other native wildflowers, however the phosphate levels in the soil are high so this may take some years to achieve.

Significance

The Woodland Trust believes there should be a doubling of woodland cover in the UK and the creation of Haddon Wood helps towards this. The local area has very limited woodland cover (4%) and this will be a significant addition to the landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: There is currently some barbed wire within the edges of the hedges making management difficult.

Factors Causing Change

Deer and squirrel damage may affect the woodland as it develops. New tree diseases may also have an effect. The wood was planted after the ban on planting ash came in so the effect of ash die back will be limited to the few mature trees on site.

Non- native aquatic plants may become an issue if they got into the lake taking over from native species.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site should develop as a woodland providing habitat opportunities throughout the mosaic of different areas. The wood will be even-aged but a wide mixture of species will create diversity until natural processes start to develop. The lake will continue to develop and the open grassland areas slowly increase in botanical diversity. The ridge and furrow will remain intact.

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

The woodland will continue to mature, tree guards being removed as and when necessary.
The lake will continue to develop naturally unless non-native species are found and then action may be required to control them.
Barbed wire will be removed from the hedges to enable management.
External sides of hedges will be cut once a year in February to maintain our legal obligations. Most internal hedges will be left to develop naturally as part of the woodland, only those which may inhibit access will be cut.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The site has a network of wide rides spread throughout the site. These will link to the wider Public Rights of Way that surround the woodland. Parking is difficult and is discouraged in the village of Alhampton itself, but there are two 'pull in's at the entrances on the eastern side of the wood. The site is relatively flat with one small incline that leads to the top of a hill from which good views of the surrounding landscape are available. Paths range from being wide and level to some having been created by local people winding through the trees. Some paths become muddy after heavy rain. There is a picnic table in the orchard and benches located at various points around the wood. All entrances have kissing gates.

Significance

The Woodland Trust believes that there should be a wood with open access close to everyone's home to allow for ease of access and this is partly fulfilled by the ownership of Haddon Wood.

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

As the woodland and hedgerows mature some of the narrower paths will become difficult to use and manage.

Increased use may cause some paths to become bare and muddy during wet weather.

Ash dieback may create a safety issue where the trees are near buildings, roads or paths.

The flash flooding of the pull in and road by Jacobs lane due to run off from the field above is causing the erosion of the pull in.

The occasional theft from cars may put people off visiting.

The increased popularity of the site with dog walking is becoming an issue in terms of dog muck and may put some visitors off returning

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term objective is for the wood to be well used, attractive woodland that is valued and cared for by the local residents.

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

The wood will be attractive and welcoming, this will be achieved by:

Maintaining all access furniture and mowing of paths. Some of the narrower paths will be opened up to enable better use and management.

Hedges adjacent to paths will be cut annually in February.

Additional areas will be mown to improve site lines to the parking areas, including a short section of the road side grass verge to discourage the occasional car break in.

A solution to stop the flash flooding will be sought potential by directing water as it flows down slope into the ditch that runs along Jacobs Lane.

Ash trees will be managed as necessary as ash die back develops.

Install dog bins at the 2 entrances along the road on the condition that Mendip District Council will empty them.

5.3 Orchard

Description

Compartment 1b has been planted as an orchard to be used by the local community. Species are mainly local types. The orchard is managed by the 'Friends of Haddon Wood'

Significance

Orchards were once very common in the area, while there are still many around the number has diminished dramatically over time

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

Disease such as honey fungus and canker and affect the orchard.

A lack of management will affect the amount of fruit each tree produces.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An orchard of standard trees, the species composition of which should be predominately local and rare varieties acting as a genetic resource for other orchards. The orchard should also provide a free resource of fruit to local people and visitors.

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

Management of the area will focus on providing light airy conditions for the fruit trees by limiting competition from other trees, bramble etc. The trees themselves will be pruned to promote a stable growth structure and fruiting and to manage canker if it occurs.

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	4.55	Mixed native broadleaves	2013	Wood establishment	Archaeological features	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>Newly planted woodland of mixed broadleaf species, planted with community support in spring 2013. Two large strips of the western field are left unplanted after consultation with the archaeologist as they display well preserved ridge and furrow, trees are planted in the parts of this field that are identified as not having such features. Soil is calcareous clay which holds water in lower lying areas making these prone to poaching; these areas are to be planted with wet tolerant species such as alder and willow. In the eastern field of this block a species selection more abundant in hazel is made to allow future use as coppice or woodfuel that could be harvested by local residents for their own benefit.</p>							
1b	1.00	Mixed broadleaves	2013	Non-wood habitat	Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>The northern most field of the site is a community orchard to incorporate mixed fruit and nuts. Planted in a non-uniform way to make it an attractive 'first impression' to the site when entering from the village. This links to the heritage of the region which is a traditional fruit producing area. Many of the traditional orchards, and the associated specialist flora and fauna, are disappearing in favour of modern production methods; therefore this will be planted in the manner of a traditional orchard.</p>							
2a	5.82	Mixed native broadleaves	2014	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>Planted in winter 13/14. It is planted as native woodland with wide sweeping rides and a central glade left open as the potential site for a pond/wet flush to benefit wildlife and the internal landscape. Main species are to be Oak, Lime, Field Maple and Hazel.</p>							

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.