WOODLAND TRUST

Haddon Fields

Management Plan 2017-2022

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Fields
Location:	Clipston
Grid reference:	SP709809, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. N/A
Area:	12.20 hectares (30.15 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Haddon Fields is made up grazing fields with small pockets of recently planted broadleaf trees along the south-eastern boundary. Ancient ridge and furrow extend down towards Sidom's Ford which in turn runs through the site towards the village of Clipston. A PROW footpath can be found crossing the site in a generally north-south direction.

2.2 Extended Description

The site Haddon Fields is made up of two fields, Great Hill to the south and Little Hill to the north. Great Hill was donated by the previous landowner Miss Haddon late 2015 and Little Hill in 2017.

Great Hill:

8.3ha's / 20.51 acres of grazing land known locally as Great Hill. The property is divided into two halves by a stream locally called "Sidoms Ford", a tributary of the River Ise which runs from the north to the south of the property.

A dilapidated concrete culvert connects the two halves of the site; at the time of writing it is not currently in a fit state to be used by vehicles; the two management gates (one for each half of the site) located on Longhold Road should be used instead.

The western portion of Great Hill is separated again into two halves by a small tributary which runs in from the western boundary about half way up the field, it then runs eastwards for a short distance before connecting into Sidoms Ford; a wide culvert is located on the western boundary which after recently being replaced is fit for vehicular and pedestrian use allowing access between the northern and southern sections of this portion of the site.

The fields historically have been grazed by livestock, this will continue into the future. Medieval ridge and furrow is prevalent across the property being recognised in a 2001 archaeological document “Turning the Plough” as being potentially of national significance. The prevalent archaeology on the property is one of the reasons along with flood risk that tree planting is so limited.

A Public Right of Way (CH8) runs north south through the western portion of the property.

Little Hill:

Little Hill to the north is of a similar make up to Great Hill adjacent, the main feature in this field is a large imposing sluice controlled dam operated by the Environment Agency. The field is currently grazed by sheep, it is important that this remains the case as sheep have minimal impact upon the site including the dam structure and in-fact help with maintenance of the dam in that they keep the grass on the structure grazed low.

Sidoms Ford:

Sidoms Ford, the stream which runs through the property, is liable to periodic flood events which result in the backing up of water at Great Hill and Little Hill which when then floods adjacent Clipston Village, this is the reason why the Environment Agency operate a dam in the area of Little Hill. It is important from a flood control point of view that restrictions / potential restrictions to water flow during flood events are avoided to allow water to get away quickly from the area of flood. This along with the archaeology is the reason why tree planting is so limited at the property.

There has been significant erosion and poaching of the stream edge at Great Hill by cattle which have been allowed to graze in the field. The Environment Agency have requested that this situation is rectified either through the erection of a stock fence either side of the stream to keep cattle out or by moving away from grazing with cattle to sheep grazing instead. Sheep have minimal impact upon the property and the stream and as such a fence along the stream edge would not be required. From a management point of view pertaining to the medieval ridge and furrow on site sheep would be best placed to help manage this feature by keeping grass down and through avoiding the poaching caused by larger livestock. The Woodland Trust will look to graze both Great Hill and Little Hill thenceforth with sheep only.

Both Great Hill and Little Hill are exceptionally wet in the winter months

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Haddon Fields is made up of two land parcels separated by stock fencing and broadleaf hedgerow. The northern parcel of land is known locally as Little Hills and can be access via several entrances one of which being off a minor road named Kelmarsh Road, as well as along the Public Right of Way (PROW) CH8 which runs north-south through both fields. Entrances along this footpath can be found along the northern boundary of Little Hills and in the south-west corner of Great Hills leading to Longhold Road.

The PROW (Northamptonshire Highways) is unsurfaced, but relatively level. It can become slippery/muddy in wetter weather, as can the rest of the site due to the stream regularly breaking its banks after heavy rainfall. The PROW crosses a culvert halfway along the footpath in Great Hills which has recently been repaired to allow safe travel over the stream. Woodland Trust welcome signs are to be installed at the main entrances during 2017.

Haddon Fields is within walking distance of Clipston village (0.5 miles).There are no formal parking facilities for the site and as such access is best achieved through the PROW.

The nearest bus stop is located towards the centre of the village on Harborough Road and is served by the CountyConnect Welland Valley Demand Responsive Area Service. Day of operation – M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa. Frequency: Hourly or better. MUST BE BOOKED more than an hour in advance, phone CountyConnect on 0345 456 4474. For more information please visit www.county-connect.co.uk or www.traveline.info (0871 200 22 33).

There are no public toilets in vicinity.

3.2 Access / Walks

See section 3.1 (Getting there) for site access information

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To manage Great Hill and Little Hill as fields for grazing with the view of creating a species-rich sward for the benefit of native flora and fauna.
To provide an area of accessible green space for local people to visit and enjoy.
To maintain the existing archaeological features on site and to manage the property in conjunction with farming tenants and local people in such a way that the associated grass land, trees, hedgerows and aquatic habitats and associated wildlife are allowed to develop and thrive in perpetuity.

Key Features
F1: Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat
F2: Informal Public 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 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

Great Hill:
8.3ha's / 20.51 acres of grazing land known locally as Great Hill. The property is divided into two halves by a stream called "Sidoms Ford" which runs from the north to the south of the property. The western portion of Great Hill is separated again into two halves by a small tributary which runs in from the western boundary about half way up the field, it then runs eastwards for a short distance before connecting into Sidoms Ford; a wide culvert is located on the western boundary.
The fields historically have been grazed by livestock, this will continue into the future. Medieval ridge and furrow is prevalent across the property being recognised in a 2001 archaeological document "Turning the Plough" as being potentially of national significance. The prevalent archaeology on the property is one of the reasons along with flood risk that tree planting is so limited.
Small scale tree planting was undertaken near to the eastern boundary of the Great Hills. This consisted of native broadleaves which buffered the boundary hedgerow adding up to an approximate total of 0.17ha / 0.13acres. The areas of planting have been stock fenced to mitigate against grazing animals.

Little Hill to the north is of a similar make up to Great Hill adjacent, the main feature in this field is a large imposing sluice controlled dam operated by the Environment Agency. The field is currently grazed by sheep, it is important that this remains the case as sheep have minimal impact upon the site including the dam structure and in-fact help with maintenance of the dam in that they keep the grass on the structure grazed low.

Significance

Haddon Fields provides an important area for informal recreation for the local communities of Clipston, as well as visitors from the wider area using the PROW. The site also contains medieval ridge and furrow which is potentially of national significance, as described in a 2001 archaeological document "Turning the Plough". Ensuring semi-natural open ground habitat is maintained while part of wider landscape scale habitat networks falls under the Woodland Trust's Management Approach.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
Re-introduce livestock grazing onto the site, specifically sheep, in order to manage the field and maintain the ridge and furrow which may otherwise be damaged through continual tractor mowing.
Work with the 'Friends of Haddon Fields' group and wider local community where there is a desire to be involved with the site.
Investigate the possible expansion of tree planted areas where deemed appropriate and after approval from the Environment Agency.
Potential for planting standard oak tree centrally within Great Hill, replacing previous mature specimen. Planting could form volunteer activity with the Friends of Haddon Fields

Constraints:
Regular flooding of open area.
Poaching of stream banks through grazing animals.

Factors Causing Change

Flooding
Grazing livestock

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Work towards a robust grassland habitat with a varied sward structure which is species-rich with a developing mixed broadleaf planted area providing buffering along the eastern boundary hedgerow.

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

Through the grazing of sheep on the site, continue to remove nutrients from the grassland without the use of heavy machinery which could damage the historic ridge and furrow, with the aim of creating a species-rich sward for the benefit of native flora and fauna.
Manage tree planted areas through weed control to ensure their continual development and explore the opportunity to expand where possible.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Haddon Fields is made up of two land parcels separated by stock fencing and broadleaf hedgerow. The northern parcel of land is known locally as Little Hills and can be access via several entrances one of which being off a minor road named Kelmarsh Road, as well as along the Public Right of Way (PROW) CH8 which runs north-south through both fields. Entrances along this footpath can be found along the northern boundary of Little Hills and in the south-west corner of Great Hills leading to Longhold Road.
The PROW (Northamptonshire Highways) is unsurfaced, but relatively level. It can become slippery/muddy in wetter weather, as can the rest of the site due to the stream regularly breaking its banks after heavy rainfall. The PROW crosses a culvert halfway along the footpath in Great Hills which has recently been repaired to allow safe travel over the stream. Woodland Trust welcome signs are to be installed at the main entrances during 2017.

Significance

With a PROW running through the site from Little Hill to Longhold Road, Haddon Fields is open to the public and used primarily by local people.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities -
Created additional access points between Great Hill and Little Hill allowing great access to the site as a whole.
Possibility of creating an informal circular walk for visitors in addition to the existing linear PROW which runs along the eastern boundary. This could include the addition of a footbridge in Great Hills

Constraints -
Flooding
Watercourse crossing point

Factors Causing Change

Flooding
Maintenance/removal of existing culvert across main watercourse - may alter public access

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain access provision and visitor numbers. Guided by 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 on-going tree safety and site risk assessment inspections, which will lead to remedial works as required. Local residents will be encouraged to play an active part in caring for the site, particularly through volunteers.

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

Signs welcoming the general public to make use of the wood will be installed at the main entrance points to the site. We aim to maintain close links with local people and organisations such as the 'Friends of Haddon Fields' group.
An annual estate maintenance contract (EMC) will maintain site fixtures, carry hedge cutting and removal litter when needed thus ensuring that the site remains an inviting and pleasant place to visit.
Entrance maintenance to meet Woodland Trust specifications 1.01.
Remove culvert across main watercourse and replace with ford crossing (2017). This work will require prior approval from the Environment Agency.
Additional public access will be reviewed through monitoring and consultation with sites users, and then implemented where desirable. This will include a footbridge across the main watercourse allowing greater public access. This will require prior approval from the Environment Agency.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	8.30	NULL	2015	Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Management factors (eg grazing etc), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat	
Grazed field known as Great Hill with a stream Sidoms Ford flowing through the property north to south splitting the field into two halves. A small tributary flows into the field half way along the western boundary; this joins into Sidoms Ford effectively splitting the western portion of the field in half again. Access around the fields over the streams is via two culverts in various states of repair and two field gates located on Longhold Road. A public right of way runs through the western portion of the property in a north south direction crossing the tributary via a culvert but officially running over a dilapidated foot bridge immediately adjacent that requires removal / repair. The field has until recently been grazed with cattle, however due to the erosion and poaching of the stream edge there is a desire following a meeting with the Environment Agency to move towards grazing with sheep. The field contains significant medieval ridge furrow which it is reckoned could be of national importance. The Woodland Trust will plant small pockets of native broadleaved trees along the eastern boundary of the field, around 500 trees in total, however because of the significant archaeology and the flood risk from Sidoms Ford and the potential impact of flooding on Clipston village adjacent, tree planting is extremely limited. The Woodland Trust aims to replace the stock fence running around the boundary with new in late summer 2016 and to stock fence around the small pockets of tree planting. It should be noted that this compartment is very wet in the winter months.							
1b	3.90	NULL	2017	Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Management factors (eg grazing etc), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat	

Little Hill to the north is of a similar make up to Great Hill adjacent, the main feature in this field is a large imposing sluice controlled dam operated by the Environment Agency. The field is currently grazed by sheep, it is important that this remains the case as sheep have minimal impact upon the site including the dam structure and in-fact help with maintenance of the dam in that they keep the grass on the structure grazed low.
The Woodland Trust has planted small pockets of native broadleaf trees in the corners of the field to the north and south. Because of the significant archaeology and the flood risk from Sidoms Ford and the potential impact of flooding on Clipston village adjacent, tree planting is extremely limited.

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.