



Little Swine Carr Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Little Swine Carr Wood
Location:	Maunby, Thirsk, North Yorkshire
Grid reference:	SE353872, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. N/A
Area:	3.30 hectares (8.15 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A small woodland set within the picturesque North Yorkshire landscape. Easily accessible from the local village of Maunby on foot, the woodland provides a tranquil setting to observe local flora and fauna.

2.2 Extended Description

Situated on relatively flat former agricultural land, this relatively newly planted 3.30ha woodland (c.2000), sits within a local landscape dominated by arable and pasture land. Soils are loamy clays with poor drainage in places.

Planted with a native mixture including; oak, ash, Scots pine, willow, cherry, mountain ash, silver birch, crab apple and hornbeam at 2.1m spacing's protected by 1.2m deer tubes planted in single species groups. Overall the condition of the woodland is excellent with some superb quality Oak. Ground flora is limited at present to grass and rank vegetation and patches of bare ground where the canopy is densest.

The main wood land contains two small and shallow ponds which form an important wildlife feature within a heavily managed landscape. On the western boundary of the wood a small (0.33ha) area of managed open ground is located beneath overhead power lines. Blackthorn regeneration is prolific and if left un-managed this area would revert back to woodland scrub.

A series of managed rides form a mainly circular permissive route around the wood. A single entrance point is located at the most southern point of the wood, leading onto a farm track. A Gallops is located directly adjacent to the southern boundary of the wood. Public usage is limited due to the access at present.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Our long term intention for Little Swine Carr Wood is to create a mature, native, secondary broadleaved woodland. Whilst the main species component of the woodland is Oak this is becoming suppressed in areas and given the wet nature of the soils it will be necessary to undertake thinning work to maintain a desirable species mixture and stand stability.

The long term intention is therefore to manage the woodland as a oak high forest. The existing network of paths will be maintained by routine maintenance to support the level of public use of the site, which is not expected to change greatly from current levels.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

Public access is available via the access point located on the southern boundary leading to a series of permissive paths. At the entrance a WT sign welcomes visitors. Signs are inspected and paths are mown twice annually.

Significance

Woodland provides a peaceful area to walk very close to Maunby village.

Opportunities & Constraints

Paths will require mowing annually to maintain the access provision, with access points and welcoming signs requiring maintenance and replacement. Little scope for further access provision as the footpaths and rides already allow access around and through the site.

Factors Causing Change

Damage to paths by horses, windblown trees and prolific blackthorn regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the entrance point and paths within the woodland to existing standards.

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

Maintain existing permissive path through annual mowing to ensure easy and welcoming public access to the site. Hedges will also be cut once every two years and trees pruned where required next to rides/paths to maintain public access to the site. New site furniture will be installed to ensure that the woodland is only accessible on foot.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

This young woodland was planted in c.2000 with a native mixture including; oak, ash, Scots pine, willow, cherry, mountain ash, silver birch, crab apple and hornbeam at 2.1m spacing's protected by 1.2m deer tubes planted in single species groups. There are a few mature trees (willow) located adjacent to the small ponds.

Significance

There is a relatively small proportion of woodland within the local landscape and therefore this little woodland forms a important local habitat.

Opportunities & Constraints

Access for machinery is limited due to the condition of the main access track leading to the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Colonisation of rank vegetation. Further regeneration of blackthorn reverting the area of open ground to woodland scrub. Ash dieback disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a colourful, species-rich (diverse) and resilient habitat, that will provide a interesting visitor experience.

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

A light selective thin during the plan period, focussing on the retaining the longer terms species and removing those of poor form or health, which will also encourage regeneration and development of ground flora. To maintain a open ground habitat by mowing the area beneath the power lines annually. A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out once per plan period.

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	2.97	other oak spp	2000	Wood establishment	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Services & wayleaves		
<p>The compartment is relatively flat with the main species comprising of Oak and Ash with secondary species of Scots pine, willow, cherry, mountain ash, silver birch, crab apple and hornbeam. The ground flora is predominantly grass and nettles with areas of bare ground. Two small and shallow ponds are located in towards the northern boundary of the wood and form an important wildlife feature. Bounded on all sides by agricultural land (both arable and pasture), there is also a Gallops located directly adjacent to the southern boundary. A series of managed rides form a network of permissive paths following a circular route around the woodland exiting by the only entrance located on the southern tip of the wood.</p>							
1b	0.33	Open ground	2000	Non-wood habitat	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Services & wayleaves		
<p>An area of managed open ground located beneath the overhead power lines. Blackthorn regeneration is prolific and if un-maintained the area will revert to woodland scrub.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2018	1a	Selective Fell	2.97	2	5
2020	1a	Thin	3.00	20	60

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.