



# Rectory Field

## Management Plan 2009-2014

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 Other	
5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

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## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk). Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

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## SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Rectory Field
<b>Location:</b>	East Oghwell
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SX841695, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 202
<b>Area:</b>	2.13 hectares (5.26 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Baileys Wood is a small wood occupying the east and north facing slopes alongside the Biddulph Brook, immediately north of Biddulph, Staffordshire. It was planted in 1974 and is comprised mainly of oak woodland.

## 2.2 Extended Description

This site is largely managed as grazing land and individual tree management needs which require only minimal management input, usually to ensure public safety or to meet legal obligations

Located on the edge of the Village of East Oghwell, this pasture field is grazed by cattle and contains groups of old and young specimen trees. The main roundel contains Corsican and Monterey pines supplemented by the occasional broadleaved specimen. There is some standing dead wood created by previous storm damage. There is also new planting in parkland guards which has been added during the last 15 years.

Generally the site has an open 'parkland' feel and is set in a predominately pastoral landscape, but is not believed to be historical wood pasture. It is adjacent to the Old Rectory (now a nursing home) which itself sits in a Parkland setting. The tree groups are an important feature of the internal landscape of the site which is bounded by native hedging to the West, North and East.

It is pleasant to visit but this is restricted by the grazing regime.

This site will be periodically inspected and formally reviewed every 10 years with a nominal interim 5 year review.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Rectory field is just under a kilometre south of the village of East Oghwell on a busy country road with no pavement. The nearest bus stop is in East Oghwell and this is approx. two kilometres from Rectory Fields. There is space for a car to pull in on the opposite side of the road to the field next to the black and white post. From the road there is a large push open gate into the field. There are no dedicated paths through the field, and, as you would expect in a field, it can get muddy and water logged.

The nearest toilets are in Newton Abbot. Cricketfield Car Park, Decoy Car Park, Newfoundland Way and Station Road have RADAR accessible toilets ([www.directenquiries.com](http://www.directenquiries.com)) 2010

For up to date local travel information see the travel line website [www.travelline.org.uk](http://www.travelline.org.uk)

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To perpetuate the Woodland Pasture/Parkland character of the site, by ensuring a wide range of age classes of the trees represented whilst continuing the grazing regime to ensure maintenance of the grassland sward, with a minimum of artificial inputs. Ultimately the aim is to develop a diverse semi-natural sward structure beneath and surrounding parkland trees.

Continue to manage the hedge boundaries in a responsible, traditional and sympathetic style in conjunction with Tenants and neighbours.

Ensure that secondary woodland continues to develop to maturity with minimum intervention.

Once grazing become impractical the site will be allowed to succeed to secondary woodland.

## 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 Other

#### Description

Parkland: comprising predominately improved grassland with specimen tree plantings of various ages (p1880 to 1990). Conservation features are remnant patches of MG5 type neutral grassland, scrubby hedges and parkland trees.

#### Significance

Unique within the local landscape in that it provides an example of past agricultural practices i.e. open woodland pasture/parkland

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Restrictive covenant

Grazing to improve diversity of the sward. Improve visual impact that embraces the local landscape providing enjoyment for the local and wider communities.

#### Factors Causing Change

Rabbit Damage, Uncontrolled grazing, Squirrel damage

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

Continued grazing with cattle will provide the main contribution to ensuring a wide variety of grassland types.

Sympathetic management of the variety of trees species will also contribute to the visual enjoyment of this open woodland pasture/parkland site.

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

In line with the donor's wishes the land will be grazed for as long as it is viable to do so.

Grazed areas remain open and in the same general condition that it currently is.

Rank vegetation (nettle, bramble, bracken and tree regeneration) is no more than current levels which is 5% of the area.

Prevent grazing damage from livestock on the trees.

Monitor boundary fencing issues and act upon as appropriate.

## 5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

### Description

Even aged (p1960) mixed native species scrub and tree cover.

### Significance

Condition of gift - to prevent from being grazed

### Opportunities & Constraints

Tiny area, very impractical to manage other than by limited intervention, given restriction on fencing by the gift condition.

### Factors Causing Change

Rabbit Damage, Uncontrolled grazing

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

A mature, clump of trees with characteristic woodland ground flora.

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

Minimum intervention (monitoring yearly for any damage).

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## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	2.04	NULL		null			
<p>Grassland Pasture Field, (generally improved) quite lush with more botanical interest around the margins.  Hedges in moderate to poor condition surround the site.  Scattered Corsican and Monterey Pine roundels with the odd broadleaved specimens are bolstered with small new planting clumps.  The terrain falls to the West.</p>							
1b	0.08	NULL		null			
<p>Tiny shrub belt (with odd tree) protected from Grazing stock.</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.