



Hannah Park

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Hannah Park
Location:	Worksop
Grid reference:	SK590772, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 120
Area:	5.79 hectares (14.31 acres)
Designations:	Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Hannah Park lies on the Bunter sandstone escarpment overlooking the town of Worksop, less than 2 miles away. It boasts a dry and extensive path network and is well used by the public.

2.2 Extended Description

Hannah Park was acquired by The Woodland Trust in 1981 through a purchase from Nottinghamshire County Council.

The wood is located on the southern edge of the town of Worksop in Nottinghamshire, and close to the southern bypass (A57) around the town. It is positioned on a high sandstone escarpment overlooking the town. Hannah Park is thought to have once been a component of the Welbeck estate (to the south) which probably explains the diversity of trees which have been planted throughout the site in the past. The site is characterised by a scattering of large over-mature beech trees, which are now declining in condition. Other notable species include oak, yew, sweet chestnut, lime, birch and sycamore.

In the centre of the site the trees become thinly scattered on the thin soil of the escarpment. Here the area has a 'parkland' appearance with widely spaced mature beeches and grassland beneath, together with the deadwood remains of a number of collapsed trees. On the eastern and western fringes of the site there is evidence of past mineral working, with many gullies and pits breaking up the ground.

The site benefits from a car park, accessed off Sparken Hill, the road on the west side of the wood. There is a good network of pedestrian paths throughout the site for visitors to enjoy and the site is popular with local people, especially for dog walking. The sandy soils mean that the paths are also dry through most of the year

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The wood is located approximately 2km to the south of Worksop. It lies directly to the south of the town cemetery, off the B6034 Worksop to Ollerton Road. The main entrance and car park is off Sparken Hill, just after the junction with the B6034.

It holds up to 15 cars and from here permissive footpaths run from the car park to all areas of the site. All footpath entrances are via squeeze gaps and the paths are on un-surfaced ground, which although mostly dry can be undulating in parts with short sections of steep ground.

There is a bus stop close by the car park entrance, and buses run into the centre of Worksop

The nearest railway station and public facilities are situated in the town of Worksop. For train and bus information please view the traveline website www.traveline.org.uk or contact 0871 200 22 33.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The wood will continue to be composed of a diverse mixture of mainly broadleaved trees, including well-established non-natives such as sweet chestnut and sycamore, and a strong component of yew. The large over-mature beeches will be retained for as long as possible, with the intention of establishing veteran trees on the site, but this will only be where the risk to the public is low (away from boundaries). It is likely that many of the over-mature beech trees will continue to decline and collapse in parts of the site and some will need felling for safety reasons (for instance in high risk zones along the road edges). This loss of large trees from the site, through natural collapse or safety felling, will continue to add significant gaps in the canopy for natural regeneration to occur, diversifying the age structure of the wood. The deadwood habitat will also increase in quality as result. The wood will be as safe as practical for visitors to enjoy, and routine safety inspections of trees in high risk zones will continue to be undertaken. Some pre-emptive felling of trees in high risk zones, such as along roadsides, will occur to ensure many mature trees are removed at an earlier stage and prior to any health/safety problems. This will lower the overall safety risk on the site. It is unlikely that any additional silvicultural thinning will be required in the medium term to enable sufficient natural regeneration to occur. The proportion of young birch, sycamore and beech will increase across the site, as gaps are created and natural regeneration develops. Open access for the public will be retained at the wood in perpetuity. A high standard of access provision and visitor facilities will be provided at the wood (especially at the car park), to acknowledge the popularity of the site. Continued investment in the car park will take place to ensure it feels welcoming and safe for visitors to enjoy. There will continue to be a good network of well-managed paths for people to use.

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 Secondary Woodland

Description

Hannah Park wood is prominent landscape feature on the high ground above the town of Worksop, occupying a position on the edge of a Bunter sandstone escarpment. The wood is sandwiched between the grand estates of Clumber Park to the east and Welbeck Priory to the west, which it was probably once a part of. It is located in area of Nottinghamshire known as the 'Dukeries', so called because of 4 historic Duke's estates in close proximity.

Consequently the composition of the wood has an estate feel about it, and can be described as mature secondary woodland with diverse mixture of species including some non-natives. Mature lime, sweet chestnut, oak and beech, dating from early last century are scattered across the wood and these have reached a height well in excess of 25m. The mature beech trees are a particular feature of the wood, especially on the escarpment in the centre, where more open-canopy woodland is found. Many of the beech are now starting to senesce and fall over, but this has greatly enhanced the deadwood habitat. In addition there are also some clustered groups of yew trees, and other tree species include sycamore, birch and elm. Natural regeneration of sycamore, beech, chestnut and birch occurs in the canopy gaps left by felled/fallen trees. Occasional larch trees are also present, although the woodland is predominantly broadleaved.

Due to the high sandstone content and thin soils, ground conditions are very dry for most of the year. Past mineral workings on the sandstone have created a cliff-fringed western boundary and a series of parallel gullies along the eastern boundary, with associated pits and hollows.

Beneath the trees the ground flora is quite sparse with a narrow range of species. On the escarpment the ground habitat is quite grassy (wavy hair grass), elsewhere patches of bramble can be found together with common woodland plants such as enchanter's nightshade.

Significance

The wood is part of a connected wooded landscape to the south of Worksop, linking to The National Trust's Clumber Park and the private estate of Welbeck.

Opportunities & Constraints

Some of the older trees (beech especially) are developing veteran characteristics and if they remain stable and safe there is the potential for the site to hold a collection of ecologically-rich veteran trees.

Factors Causing Change

The proportion of sycamore in the wood is likely to increase as time goes on, as natural regeneration in the canopy gaps will favour this species. However, other species such as beech and birch will also be strong components in patches of natural regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The overriding objective is to maintain a diversity of broadleaved trees (plus yew) over a range of age classes. The large over-mature beeches will be retained for as long as possible, with the intention of establishing veteran trees on the site, but this will only be where the risk to the public is low (away from boundaries). It is likely though that many of the over-mature beech trees will continue to decline and collapse in parts of the site and some will need felling for safety reasons (for instance in high risk zones along the road edges). This loss of large trees from the site, through natural collapse or safety felling, will continue to add significant gaps in the canopy for natural regeneration to occur, diversifying the age structure of the wood. The deadwood habitat will also increase in quality as result. Pre-emptive felling of trees in high risk zones (roadside boundaries and next the car park) will occur to ensure many mature trees are removed at an earlier stage and prior to any health/safety problems. It is unlikely that any additional silvicultural thinning will be required in the medium term to enable sufficient natural regeneration to occur. The proportion of young birch, sycamore and beech will increase across the site, as gaps are created and natural regeneration develops. The open woodland conditions on the sandstone ridge are likely to remain in the medium term, but the infilling of natural regeneration will slowly decrease the open area as mature beeches deteriorate and collapse.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to maintain the diversity of tree species and mixture of age classes present in the wood. To achieve this objective, and to help with keeping the wood as safe as possible, a thinning operation will be undertaken in 2019 along the boundaries of the wood and adjacent to the parking area. The thinning operation will be light (10%) and will cover a 30m width along these boundaries. Target areas will be the roadsides, the car park boundaries and the boundary with the cemetery. This operation will concentrate on the felling of the larger and more mature trees, especially any with structural defects or early signs of health problems which could worsen in later years and shorten the lifespan of trees. Mature beech in particular will be targeted for felling, as this species has been seen to fail more often than others at the site in recent years. Any resulting timber which can be extracted practically and without damage to the site will be used and taken off site.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The wood benefits from a car park off Sparken Hill, which can hold up to 15 cars. Welcome and information signage is provided at the car park, which is the main entry point for visitors. From here, a network of pedestrian paths (over 1.2km) travel around the majority of the site, which are ideal for short local walks. A public right of way footpath runs east-west through the car park, between Sparken Hill and the B6034. As well as the car park, it is possible to enter the wood on foot from entrances off the B6034 - opposite the car park and near the cemetery.

The terrain creates an interesting and varied experience for visitors, and the sandstone escarpment provides some good landscape views northwards towards the town of Worksop. Sandstone soils mean that for most of the year the paths are comparatively dry to use. The site is well used by local people, especially for dog-walking.

Significance

The proximity of the wood, close to the edge of Worksop, means that Hannah Park provides an important and accessible natural amenity for local people from the town and surrounding area. The presence of the car park also increases its accessibility and popularity.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: There are occasional anti-social problems, especially close to the car park, such as fly-tipping and vandalism. Illegal fires have occurred during the summer months.

Opportunities: It might be possible to increase the number of visitors from Worksop through increased promotion of the site locally

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Hannah Park should offer a high quality visitor experience in line with a category A Access designation. Pedestrian only access will be retained at the wood in perpetuity. There will be a well-managed network of paths around the wood which are easy and obvious to follow. The car park will be maintained to a high standard and should feel welcoming and safe when visitors arrive.

Prominent signage and information will be made available at the car park entrance; the objective is that visitors should leave with some understanding of the value of native woodlands and a clear knowledge of The Woodland Trust.

The wood will be made as safe as practicable through regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones and inspections of access furniture. The risk of tree failure along the high risk zones (eg roadsides) will be lowered through periodic removal of the top age class of trees.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to maintain a welcoming and safe accessible wood. This will be achieved by:

- Annual management of approximately 1.2km of paths and all entrances (including the car park) to ensure they are kept open for use. All signage and information boards will remain clean and visible, and replaced if they deteriorate. Boundary fencing, gates and entrances will all be regularly maintained to a high standard. The car park will also be kept free of litter, through the provision of bins and additional litter picking.
- Annual safety inspections of trees in high risk zones (eg. the roadsides, cemetery boundary and car park), to ensure the wood is as safe as possible for visitors, neighbours and road users.
- Undertaking a thinning operation along the high risk zones / boundaries in 2019, removing no more than 10% of trees from along the 30m boundary width. Target areas will be the roadsides, the car park boundaries and the boundary with the cemetery. This operation will concentrate on the felling of the larger and more mature trees, especially any with structural defects or early signs of health problems which could worsen in later years.
- Undertaking monitoring during this plan period to assess any threats occurring as a result of public access, such as fire damage or vandalism.

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	6.21	Beech	1850	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Tree Preservation Order
A mixed mainly broadleaved wood, with the major mature trees being beech, oak, sweet chestnut, sycamore and yew. There is scattering of over-mature beech trees throughout the wood. Other minor species include larch, lime and birch. On a flat to gentle north facing slope.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2022	1a	Thin	1.00	200	200

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 on 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.