WOODLAND TRUST

Nettleton Wood

Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Nettleton Wood
Location:	Nettleton, Caistor
Grid reference:	TF095994, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 112
Area:	9.96 hectares (24.61 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Nettleton Wood is a mixture of young birchwood and open space, along with a small remnant of the original oak planting from the 19th century. The site almost borders the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

2.2 Extended Description

Nettleton Wood was purchased in 1981 and back then it consisted of, half and half, open grassy heath and secondary oak and birch woodland. The open half was subsequently planted in 1983/4 and only patchily established due to poor species choice for the site and intense rabbit pressure. Birch has regenerated strongly since stock animals were removed upon acquisition and this area is now a mixture of young birchwood, and open space .

The site appears as natural secondary woodland of silver birch and oak: including a small remnant of the original oak planting from the 19th century interspersed with small woodland glades in 1C. In compartment 1D this reverts to a large stand of Salix spp. on some wetter ground.

The whole property almost abuts the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which starts the other side of the A46.

Management access is from the A46 to the east down a private drive to a property. Public access may be obtained from the west through the Forestry Commission woodland which adjoins the site. The wood lies on level well drained land with woodland to the south , west and north west. Only a short section of the site in the north eastern corner abuts open agricultural land.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Rights exist for management access only along the private track to the wood.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To manage the site as native high forest. The existing natural secondary oak, birch and willow woodland is robust and self sustaining with adequate regeneration in open spaces. The mature oaks in compartment 1C have enough space to grow on and halo thinning is not necessary. The area will therefore be managed with minimum intervention.

Compartment 1A is gradually reverting to natural secondary woodland due to the increase in birch regeneration and the suppression of some of the species in the original planting which were unsuitable for this dry sandy heath soil. It is intended to allow the development of birch and oak through natural processes. The area will therefore be managed with minimum intervention.

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

The wood which lies on flat and generally well drained land has a mixture of age and species including oak, ash, beech, hornbeam and cherry which were planted in parts of the site. However, natural regeneration of birch throughout the planted compartment has dominated the species and overshadowed some of the planted trees. However, it has produced a more natural appearance to the area. The planted area of the site has therefore developed into secondary woodland but with a very natural appearance.

Significance

The Trust's land holding is only part of Nettleton Woods, with the larger part (around 80%) being owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. The Trust's site therefore contributes to the overall woodland area which is significant in size for this area of Lincolnshire. The Forestry Commission area is managed for timber so the Trust's area provides a small area which has minimal intervention ans disturbance.

Opportunities & Constraints

Management intervention in the woodland seems unnecessary and allowing the wood to develop into mature secondary woodland with natural processes of senesce and natural regeneration help form its character.

In the long term factors influencing the success of natural regeneration such as deer damage will need to be monitored and intervention undertaken at any time when it was felt necessary to ensure the success of natural regeneration. Reviewing at each plan period (5 years) will be sufficient to monitor this aspect.

Factors Causing Change

Birch colonisation, canopy development, rabbit damage, squirrel damage, deer damage.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A gradual conversion to natural secondary birch woodland with scattered oak.

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

Inspect the site at the end of the plan period (2019) to assess the success of natural processes in establishing a secondary birch woodland.

5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Just over half of the site is composed of natural secondary woodland, primarily silver birch and willow spp. with some oak that has invaded open ground and possibly abandoned war felling coupes. Cpt 3 also contains remnants of what was probably the original oak planting on the area which appear to be in excess of 150 years. However, site history is unknown and these are just suppositions based on the site characteristics on the ground. Ground flora under the oak/ birch approximates to NVC W16 with light cover of bramble with bracken, broad buckler fern and some mosses in the ground layer. It is generally species poor and is generally what you would expect under secondary woodland on heathland sites. The area under Salix cinerea occurs obviously in a wetter hollow and the vegetation includes the above with some nettle and cleavers along with rushes and more mosses.

Significance

A good example of secondary woodland, similar to what would have occurred naturally on the heath margins in this locality. The woodland is fairly robust and appears to be relatively self sustaining.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity is there to maintain a robust example of birch, oak and willow woodland with an appropriate ground flora approximating to NVC W16/W1.

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of oak, birch and willow, senescence of mature oaks, canopy development in semi mature areas.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the current extent of the natural secondary woodland and allow the expansion into the adjacent planted area.

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

Inspect the site in 2019 (end of plan period) to review the amount and success of natural regeneration of native tree species on the site during the past plan period.

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	4.81	Birch (downy/silver)		High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Natural Secondary Woodland, Secondary Woodland	
The compartment lies on flat well drained land and consists of a mixture of oak, ash, lime cherry, beech and hornbeam with a large proportion of silver birch that has naturally regenerated since planting work which was undertaken in 1983 and 1984. The woodland has a very natural appearance with a mixture of tree sizes and species and some small open glades. The historical information on the site was that it was bought in December 1981 and the northern section was planted under the Forestry Grant Scheme with a variety of broadleaved species over two years - 1983 & 84. The half nearest the gate was planted first. The planting site was open grassy heath with bracken in part. According to records, heavy snow occurred after planting and no rabbit fencing had been carried out, therefore a large portion of the crop was initially lost. The area was subsequently rabbit fenced, but without efficient control within the enclosure many trees were lost and eventually the Forestry Commission reclaimed grant on around half of the area on the tenth anniversary of the scheme. .							
1b	2.75	Birch (downy/silver)		High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Natural Secondary Woodland, Secondary Woodland	
This area was woodland upon purchase in 1981 and lies on flat well drained land. It is mostly comprised of silver birch (90%) with a scattering of mature oak (10%) and a few open glades throughout. There are instances of oak regenerating naturally in the surrounding areas. The birch is not planted and appears to be natural secondary woodland of up to the same age as the oak. It is suspected that the area may have been a war time felling coupe that has since regenerated naturally with oak and birch. The small open areas in the northwest of the compartment has included a very small remnant of heather vegetation that would have once been widespread in the locality which has been known as Nettleton Moor. The under storey is predominantly light bramble with bracken and ferns over a mossy ground layer with sparse grass.							

1c	0.96	Oak (pedunculate)	1850	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Natural Secondary Woodland, Secondary Woodland	
This is a diverse area that was woodland at the time of purchase. The compartment lies on flat well drained land and its main feature are the mature oaks (of some considerable vintage) that cover 80% of the area, interspersed with 15% silver birch and 5% willow spp. of varying ages. The oak must be at least 150-200 years old and are probably the remnants of the original plantation. There is little under storey to speak of and the ground layer is quite grassy with some bracken and ferns.							
1d	1.51	other willows		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Natural Secondary Woodland, Secondary Woodland	
A fine area of secondary woodland on flat land comprised almost entirely of willow spp.(Salix cinerea and caprea mostly) 95%, with 5 % silver birch and a scattering of oak where the stand is drier. It could be a regenerated second world war felling coupe, similarly to 1b except on damper ground. The ground flora again has a light bramble cover over a mossy ground layer but nettles, cleavers and rushes are widespread with some ferns and the occasional elder.							

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.