



Yalta Wood

Management Plan 2014-2019

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Yalta Wood
Location:	Fotherby
Grid reference:	TF319910, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 113
Area:	2.91 hectares (7.19 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A small, rather isolated wood, this provides some interest in a mainly flat agricultural landscape. It is used by local people and has a public footpath running along its eastern boundary. There is also a circular footpath within part of the wood.

2.2 Extended Description

Yalta Wood is a 2.92 ha site situated near Fotherby, Louth, Lincolnshire in a fairly isolated location surrounded by farmland on the edge of the Wolds. The wood was planted under a Woodland Trust Licensed Planting Scheme agreement with the former owner around 1980 before being gifted to the Trust in 1983. A further 0.34 ha extension was added and planted under the WGS by the Trust in 1993. The land was previously part of Bartons Farm, Fotherby and the field known as High Close.

The 1980 planting (Cpt 1) was a mix of both broadleaf and conifer trees, the main species being oak, beech, sycamore with Scots pine and larch. Lime, walnut, cherry and horse chestnuts define the rides with guelder rose, hazel and dogwood found around the margins of a circular ride. Planting was done in lines running generally east - west, designed to allow for future line thinning. It is assumed that the conifers were to serve as a nurse to the broadleaf trees and thinned in favour of the latter. Some thinning has taken place in the past to maintain the species balance and relieve suppressed broadleaves. Hedges surround the Cpt on the northern, western and southern sides.

The 1993 planting (Cpt 2) lies immediately to the east of cpt 1 and has established quite well and includes a large element of walnut, requested by the site donor. Hedges exist on the northern, eastern and southern sides, the eastern hedge and field side bank out with the Trust's ownership.

Access to the site is via a combined management / kissing gate into Cpt 2 from Little Grimsby Lane. A railway sleeper bridge does exist across the roadside ditch onto the road from Cpt 1 in the SW corner but this has become overgrown by the hedge and appears to have gone rotten and become unusable. A circular path with glades can be found within Cpt 1. The site is used by locals for short walks/dog walking and as a public right of way runs through the field just off the east edge of the wood to the lane so the wood links well with the local path network. The level of use is low but figures are unknown.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The wood is located 750m south of Fotherby and 3km north of Louth in Lincolnshire. It can be accessed via Louth Road and Little Grimsby Lane from both communities. Parking is on the roadside verge - be aware of lorries using the lane and turning into the farm opposite.

A hand-gate can be found in the SE corner of the wood from where two paths can be found. There is a circular path within Cpt 1 and a linear path through Cpt 2, from where a link into Cpt 1 can be made. The whole of the site is open to the public and a welcome sign identifies the entrance. The paths are grass surfaces these are mown during the summer months to keep them accessible and easily defined. Point of entry onto the site is via a stile, therefore this may limit some users to the site.

There are few, if any, other woodland amenity facilities in the immediate area. A bus stop is made on Little Grimsby Lane. For bus information and timetables please access the traveline web link or contact 0871 200 22 33.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The dominance of conifers in specific areas will initially be reduced through thinning operations. The wood will then be allowed to develop naturally to high forest of predominantly native broadleaf species through natural processes. In the longer term it is hoped that age diversification will be provided by natural regeneration.

The woodland will remain fully accessible to the public with a circular ride 400m footpath managed within it and welcome signs at the entrance.

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

Yalta Wood lies some 750m south of the village of Fotherby in rural Lincolnshire. The area is not highly populated and useage of the wood is fairly low. It can be reached via quiet lanes or by a public footpath which lies adjacent to the site and runs within the field over the east boundary. A hand-gate lies in the SE corner of the site from where a circular path can be taken around Cpt 1 which is wide and takes in some glade areas, or directly north through Cpt 2. These paths are mown during the summer to define them and keep them accessible. The whole of the site is open to the public.

A welcome sign identifies the property at the entrance. Car parking is possible on the road verge of Little Grimsby Lane but beware of lorries turning into the farm entrance opposite.

Significance

For local people, Yalta Wood is important, because it provides an opportunity to experience woodland that many will have seen develop, with no restriction on quiet access. They will also be able to see the woodland develop over the coming years, being transformed from appearing to be mainly coniferous into being deciduous and observe the wildlife attracted to it. There is little other publicly accessible woodland in the vicinity.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: The site is quite small in woodland terms and therefore limited as to how much can be included. It is unlikely therefore that additional facilities will be provided, particularly with the site being unlikely to attract large numbers of visitors due to its location. The site donor wishes to keep the paths open and well cut for public access

Opportunities: The site is highly visible from nearby roads and will serve to promote the Trust as well as providing an uncommon facility within the area.

Factors Causing Change

Changes in the level of site use

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain open access for quiet public use, throughout the site. To continue to manage the paths (410m) through mowing and ensure tree / public safety levels are maintained.

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

To maintain the 410m circular path at least once annually for public access. This will be achieved by regular trimming of side branches and ground vegetation. The one entrance to be maintained with one welcome sign.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

2.58 ha was planted as a broadleaf woodland in about 1980 with a coniferous nurse.. Oak, beech and sycamore lie with larch and Scots pine in species specific rows.

0.34ha was planted in 1993 as a broadleaf woodland extension to the site and is now well established.

Significance

Yalta Wood lies within an essentially intensive arable landscape where there are relatively few woodlands but a good network of field boundary hedges. Yalta links with these natural corridors to form an important wildlife refuge in the local context.

Opportunities & Constraints

The current dominance of the conifers is a constraint in developing the wood as a predominantly broadleaf wood. The conifers were thinned in 2004 with many ring barked. This has led to problems with wind blow and partial failure of trees.

Factors Causing Change

wind damage, self thinning

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a mixed broadleaved woodland with a predominance of native trees as far as practicable.

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

Undertake a small scale thinning operation in 2024/25 to reduce the density of conifer trees and enable broadleaved species to develop. Thinning to be no more than 20% of trees, and focus upon conifer species, beech and those trees of poor shape and form which are over topping those trees of better quality

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	2.58	Scots pine	1980	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

The compartment was planted with mixed conifers and broadleaves in around 1980 originally as a Licensed Planting Scheme and covers some 2.58 ha. It was planted in species specific rows running generally east - west, alternating between larch / oak towards the south (estimated at 25%), larch / oak / beech centrally (40%) and Scots pine / sycamore towards the north (35%). Rows are 2m apart with trees planted at 2.5m within the rows giving 2000 trees / ha. The Conservation Features map shows the general distribution of trees taken from the original planting plan.

Some thinning has previously been undertaken but this was many years ago and seems to have been targeted towards the beech. The conifers (which were most likely planted as a nurse to the broadleaves) have now become dominant and were severely suppressing the broadleaf trees until a light thin to waste was carried out in 2004. The oak are doing well and will respond quickly to additional space and light but the beech and sycamore are looking generally poor but with some reasonable stems. There should be sufficient trees to make broadleaf woodland.

There are other tree species forming avenues along the rides including walnut, horse chestnut, cherry and lime, with an area of silver birch in the SE corner. Blackthorn scrub has got established near the southern boundary and some game cover including berberis and snowberry grow around the circular ride. The boundary hedges are tall and well developed.

2a	0.34	Ash	1992	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
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The extension was planted in 1993 with the following main species under the WGS. Oak 25%, ash 25%, beech 15% and 5% each of walnut, hornbeam and cherry. Spacing was at 3x3m (1100 / ha) and all trees and shrubs were individually protected against rabbits by tree shelters. Shrubs are planted towards the northern and eastern boundaries in particular due to overhead wires in place above outside the boundary. There is an underground water tank in the SE corner of the compartment with a concrete capping.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2014	1a	Thin	2.40	21	50
2025	1a	Thin	2.57	43	110
2025	2a	Selective Fell	0.34	29	10

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.