



Dick Buck's Burrows

Management Plan 2001-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Dick Buck's Burrows
Location:	Cromer
Grid reference:	TG211404, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 133
Area:	2.76 hectares (6.82 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Dick Buck's Burrows is a mature wood of oak, sweet chestnut, sycamore and beech two miles southwest of Cromer. A waymarked path through the wood links to the Weavers Way. There is a car park on site with space for three cars.

2.2 Extended Description

Dick Buck's Burrows is a 2.9ha mature broadleaved woodland dominated by oak, sweet chestnut, sycamore and beech with a hazel/hawthorn/bramble understorey. The wood is situated in a rural part of Norfolk, close to a National Trust property (Fellbrigg Hall) just south of the seaside resort of Cromer. It's situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is an important feature in the local landscape.

The wood was severely damaged by the storms of 1987 when many of the mature trees fell down. The affected areas were replanted in 1989 with native broadleaved trees, reflecting the existing species mix. A small part of the southern half of the wood was damaged by fire in 1996, this has also been replanted. As a consequence of these 'natural' events, the wood is now well structured with a good age and species mix. Approximately 30% of the canopy is made up of mature trees. Standing deadwood has been left where it does not compromise safety.

The woodland which is situated on two valley sides, dissected by Hall road, has open public access to it. The northern half slopes down to the south-east and the southern half to the north-west. Parking is provided for up to four cars in a layby on the northern side of the road. From this entrance point a waymarked path goes up the steep bank to the northern corner of the wood where it joins The Weavers Way, a popular long distance footpath, which runs outside the site along the western boundary. The southern part of the wood slopes down towards the road with steps feeding into a path that runs along the flatter land at the top. Management access is available from the roadside, however, given the topography of the wood, access internally is extremely limited.

The land around the wood is used for arable farming except for a triangle of unimproved grassland between Hall Road and Metton Road. There is a grove post in the southern part of the site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Dick's buck burrows is situated 2miles southwest of cromer in norfolk. The site has a hard standing car park whicch can accommodate three cars.

Does not provide a Sunday service.

X5: Norwich - Sheringham, Via Aylsham & Cromer

link to first buses: www.firstgroup.com

Cromer is the nearest town that has has connections to the railway system and the train operator is One Trains. A regular service runs from Norwich.

Link to train times: www.onerailway.com

the nearest Public Toilets are situated within cromer sea front 2 miles away. But the National Trust Property of Fellbrigg is situated 1/2 mile to the west.

The site itself stradles Hall road which splits the site in two. Both parts of the wood are on a steep slopes and the paths consist of mud tracks. To the west of the site a public right of way runs along the edge of the site.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

As a small secondary woodland, the objective is to maintain the overall integrity of the woodland, and to promote the conservation benefits it offers, whilst also providing a continued safe public access at a sustainable level.

The desired condition of the woodland in the long term is to manage dick buck's burrows retaining its current diverse age structure, whilst maintaining the current levels of deadwood habit where practical.

The long-term intention is to maintain public access at a sustainable level of use by maintaining the access features appropriately (car park, entrances and steps), and maintain the current good standard of paths present.

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

The woodland is situated on two valley sides, dissected by Hall road. Parking is provided for up to four cars in a lay by on the northern side of the road. A good pathway system runs throughout the site and joins The Weavers Way on the northern boundary.

Significance

It is important to maintain informal public access at this site in order to fulfil one of the Trust's main objectives of increasing public enjoyment of woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

The Weavers Way long distance footpath runs adjacent to the wood and provides walkers with an opportunity to leave the footpath and explore the woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Vandalism

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Enhance public access so that visitors to the site enjoy the experience.

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

To maintain site as an area of public open access, with ride system cut to a minimum of 2m to allow unhindered access for the public. Maintain all public access structures in a safe usable condition.

Work programme: Cut paths and trim around car park and remove litter - May and August

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Dick Buck's Burrows is situated on two valley sides, dissected by Hall road and is thought to be secondary in nature. The wood was severely damaged by the storms of 1987 when many of the mature trees fell down. The affected areas were replanted in 1989 with native broadleaved trees, reflecting the existing species mix. A small part of the southern half of the wood was damaged by fire in 1996, this has also been replanted. As a consequence of these 'natural' events, the wood is now well structured with a good age and species mix. Standing deadwood has been left where it does not compromise safety.

Significance

In the context of the locality this native broadleaved woodland is an important feature in the landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

Vehicular access

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain multi-structured mature secondary woodland, promoting natural regeneration, whilst maintaining current levels of deadwood habitat throughout the wood.

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

Maintain diverse age structure and deadwood habitat within the mature secondary woodland. The Woodland will be left to undertake a Natural process where intervention will be left to a minimum, apart from any health and safety issues that could arise pose a threat to public safety.

Work programme: Annual Tree Safety Survey

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	2.90	Sycamore	1900	null	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The wood has a diverse age structure with oak, sycamore, sweet chestnut and beech as the dominant species. There is also some silver birch, ash, wild cherry and rowan. Hazel, hawthorn and holly are found in the understorey along with bramble, bracken and bluebells on the ground floor. The wood was severely affected by the storms of 1987, when many of the mature trees came down. These gaps were replanted in 1989 reflecting the existing species mix. In the southern half of the wood, there is a block of mature beech trees with an open ground storey where a grove post is situated. Standing deadwood has been retained where it does not compromise the health and safety of road users and visitors to the wood.

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.