



# Nabs Wood

## 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](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>	Nabs Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Silkstone Common
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SE294037, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 110
<b>Area:</b>	4.90 hectares (12.11 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Green Belt, Site of monument - in memory of Husker Pit disaster

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

In season this wood greets you with a carpet of bluebells, ramson and dog's mercury, with a canopy of oak, sycamore, ash and beech above your head. An old mining area and site of the Husker Pit disaster of 1838, it has a rich historical context.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Nabs Wood is just over 12 acres and the wood was acquired by The Woodland Trust on the 8th March 1985 with funding from the Countryside Commission and Silkstone Parish Council. The wood is situated approximately 6 miles to the west of Barnsley and is on the southern edge of the village of Silkstone Common, off Moor End Lane. The Woodland Trust woods of Bagger and Lower Lee Woods are situated only a few miles to the south near Hood Green, and further along Moor End Lane.

Nabs Wood is a predominantly broadleaved woodland composed of mainly native species. The main tree species are oak, sycamore, ash and beech. There are also minor components of other tree species including birch, rowan, English elm, field maple and Scots pine. Holly and hazel are commonly found in the under-storey. Although the wood is not ancient, it does have some specialist woodland plants including bluebells, ransoms, and dog's mercury. A full plant survey was conducted in 1985.

The wood is accessible to the public for pedestrian access only and there is a circular permissive footpath which covers the majority of the wood. A stream and associated valley runs the length of the wood, and several bridges and flights of steps are present where the footpath bisects the stream. The surrounding landscape is mostly pastoral farming and Nabs Wood links to other woodland at the northwest end.

The wood has strong historical links with the local mining industry. It was the scene of the Huskar Pit disaster in 1838 when 26 children died after the mineshaft in which they were working flooded. A memorial to the incident is situated near to the entrance of the wood, off Moor End Lane. Two capped mineshafts and an old adit entrance are still present within the wood.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

### ACCESS TO THE SITE

Nabs Wood is located approximately 4 miles to the west of Barnsley on the southern edge of the village of Silkstone Common. Access from the M1 is from junction 37, following the A626 towards Penistone. Continue along the A626 for about 3 miles to the hamlet of Noblethorpe. Turn left on a minor road sign posted Silkstone Common. After a mile the road meets the B6449 at a crossroads in the centre of the village. Go straight over and follow this minor road, Moor End Lane for 0.5 miles. After passing under and an old railway bridge, there is a layby on the right-hand side of the road and the entrance to the wood is just beyond this. (SE295039).

### ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The access to the wood is through a squeeze stile and down a set of wooden steps. The wood contains a circular path of approximately 700m, which is unsurfaced. The path can be muddy and wet, with uneven ground. There are 3 flights of steps and 4 footbridges to cross on the circular walk.

### PARKING

Roadside parking on Moor End Lane is approximately 20m from the entrance to the wood.

### PUBLIC TOILETS

None known within 5 miles.

### BUS STOPS

The nearest bus stop is in Silkstone Common.

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

For further information about public transport please contact Traveline on [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0871 200 22 33

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to maintain a largely broadleaved woodland which is diverse in tree species and structure, which will ensure that it remains as resilient as possible to future changes imposed on it (eg from tree diseases). Oak and sycamore are likely to remain as the most abundant tree species, but the percentage of ash is likely to decrease through the impact of ash dieback. A small component of non-native conifers will be retained in the wood, but all non-native and invasive species (eg Portuguese laurel) will be eradicated. Silvicultural management of the trees will only be carried out when there is a need to enhance diversity.

A good standard of access provision will be maintained at Nabs Wood. The path network will be kept open for use and the entrance will be welcoming, accessible and clearly signed. All access infrastructure (eg. steps & bridges) will be routinely inspected and maintained. The memorial to the mining disaster will be retained in the wood to enable visitors to learn and appreciate this local history; it will be routinely inspected and maintained. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones, and routine inspection of the old mine shafts.



## 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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

#### Description

A mature broadleaved wood with the main species being oak (30%) and sycamore (30%). Beech and ash are also common and there is a scattering of other minor tree species including cherry, elm, birch, rowan, field maple and Scots pine. Holly is common in the understorey, as well as elm and hazel, which has been supplemented with planting in the north of the wood during 2004. Small patches of Portuguese laurel are also present in the understorey.

Although the wood is not listed on the ancient woodland inventory, it does exhibit some qualities more typical of ancient woods, such as drifts of bluebells. Other specialist woodland plants are also present including wood anemone, woodruff, wood sorrel and ramsons. Bramble also covers large areas of the ground. A full botanical survey was last carried out in 1985. A stream system runs through the middle of the wood, which has an associated valley alongside it.

Coal mining has been carried out at the wood in the past and there are several capped mineshafts and related ground features still present in the wood.

#### Significance

The wood contributes to a rolling pastoral landscape interspersed with small to medium sized semi-natural woods. Nabs Wood is part of a concentration of Woodland Trust woods in this area West of Barnsley, which also includes Bagger Wood and Lower Lee Wood situated two miles to the south.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is likely to be inaccessible for the harvesting of timber, due to the terrain and steeped entrance.

#### Factors Causing Change

The percentage of sycamore in the wood could increase further in future years. The local deer population could increase, and pose a threat to the wood.

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

To maintain a largely broadleaved woodland which is diverse in tree species and structure, and has a healthy deadwood habitat. This will ensure that it remains as resilient as possible to future changes imposed on it (eg from tree diseases). Oak and sycamore are likely to remain as the most abundant tree species, but the percentage of ash is likely to decrease through the impact of ash dieback. A small component of non-native conifers will be retained in the wood, but all non-native and invasive species (eg Portuguese laurel) will be eradicated. Silvicultural management of the trees will only be carried out when there is a need to enhance diversity and promote the regeneration of trees. Due to the site constraints any timber resulting from the felling of trees, either for safety or silvicultural reasons, is likely to remain in the woodland and will contribute to the deadwood habitat.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to eradicate all in non-native species and to maintain the present woodland conditions. This will be achieved by:

- Removing all remaining patches of laurel in 2017 and applying follow up herbicide in the succeeding years until the plants are eventually killed off.
- Adopting minimal silvicultural intervention during this plan period. Trees will only be felled for the purposes of public safety.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Nabs Wood is just to the south of Silkstone Common village. It is within walking distance of the village and of the 'Dove Valley Trail', a long distance walking route in South Yorkshire, along a disused railway. Nabs Wood is a small quiet site for informal recreation, offering pedestrian-only access.

There is a circular path network around the wood, which is approximately 700m in length. A banked stream runs for most of the length of the wood, adding variety and interest to the walk, and there are several sets of bridges and steps for crossing over it. The main entrance is clearly signed, off Moor End Lane, and there is a memorial close to the entrance honouring those who lost their lives in the Huskar Pit coal mining disaster of 1838.

The Trust has given this wood a Category B for access provision, which equates to: a site with regular usage, with 5 - 15 people using one entrance per day.

### Significance

The wood provides a quiet area for informal recreation - especially suitable for local people living close to the nearby village of Silkstone Common.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is likely to remain of interest for local visitors only, owing to its small size. As the wood was the scene for the Huskar Pit disaster of 1838, future memorial events may occur with the local community.

### Factors Causing Change

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Access facilities will, on the whole, be low key and appropriate for this small locally visited site. However a good standard of access provision will be maintained at Nabs Wood: the path network will be kept open for use, the main entrance will be accessible and clearly signed and infrastructure such as bridges and steps will be maintained to a safe condition.

The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones, and routine inspection of old mine shafts. The memorial to the pit disaster will be retained at the wood. It will be routinely inspected and maintained to a good condition, so that visitors can continue to learn about this historical event in the wood's history.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to provide low key public access which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:

- Annual management of the main paths, a total of 700m, and undertaking any necessary repairs to access infrastructure.
- One formal safety inspection during this 5 year period of all bridges, steps and old mining shafts. Any necessary repairs or safety works resulting from this will be undertaken.
- An annual inspection of tree safety along the roadside, and at least one inspection in this 5 year period of tree safety along the path network. Any resulting safety works will be undertaken following this.
- One formal review of access provision at the wood during this 5 year period.

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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	4.88	Sycamore	1920	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	
<p>A mature broadleaved wood of mainly oak and sycamore, together with ash, beech, cherry, birch, rowan and Scots pine. The mature trees are 50 - 100 years old. The understorey contains holly, hazel, elder and elm. Old coal mine workings are present.</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.