



# Brummit Plantation

## Management Plan 2015-2020

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Secondary Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

## 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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.

## 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>	Brummit Plantation
<b>Location:</b>	Milltown, Clay Cross
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SK377609, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 119
<b>Area:</b>	0.80 hectares (1.98 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

A small, quiet woodland site of mature beech with scattered ash, alder, sycamore and a few oak and sycamore trees to the south. The dense thorn around the wood provides an excellent refuge for small birds.

### 2.2 Extended Description

This small woodland (0.79 Ha) lies close to Ogston Reservoir as an isolated patch of roadside trees within surrounding farmland. The perimeter is formed by a ring of mature beech with scattered ash, alder and sycamore of around 150 years although there is no record of planting dates. They surround what was once obviously a small paddock that was allowed to scrub up with hawthorn, or deliberately planted this way as a pheasant covert in the nineteenth century. The thorn is now dense throughout and should be a good refuge for small birds.

The site is generally steeply sloped throughout and forms part of an intricate mosaic of farmland and small woods. At the southern end the site includes a scrubbed up roadside bank with a few mature (although small) oak and sycamore. There is a short section of path that runs parallel to the lane from the junction with the public road to opposite the lay-by on the lane. The level of use is low and there is no actual car park on Woodland Trust ground.

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## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Access to the site is gained by way of South Hill Lane (a publicly adopted highway) adjoining the south east boundary of the property, which leads off the B6014 between Stretton and Tansley. Car parking is available in the lay by on South Hill Lane adjacent. The only path runs along the roadside edge of the wood which is rough and muddy.

A limited bus service runs between Stretton and Tansley: details can be found on the Traveline website [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or alternatively ring Traveline on 0871 200 2233. Public facilities are available at the car park for Ogston Reservoir a few hundred yards down the road towards Tansley

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

It is intended to manage the site as a developing high forest canopy of mature trees under long term retention as far as safety issues on the roadside permit and to maintain the wood in the surrounding landscape. As a secondary planted broadleaved woodland of an amenity nature, the current species mix is acceptable and any change in species balance would have a negligible effect on key features. To this end the only silvicultural intervention will be for tree safety reasons only.

The intention for public access is to maintain the wood as a small informal recreational site by maintaining at least one accessible route along the lower slopes of the woodland.

## 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

A 100-150 year old linear wood with a mature fringe of beech alder and ash surrounding a core of mature hawthorn thicket. There is a short path circling the wood, the upper half of which was cleared in recent years out of the surrounding thorn. Due to the steep side slope this section is difficult to walk with ease, and it is therefore proposed to let this top section revert back to thorn scrub. The commemorative plaque was relocated to a more suitable location in 2003 to allow this to happen. The overmature beech adjacent to the layby pose safety issues and require regular tree safety inspections. The level of access is low with desirable use appearing to be by local people and dog walkers only - probably due to the low visibility of the site: being accessed down a small no through road lane only locals will know that it is there. It is of more importance as a general landscape feature on the fringes of Ogston Reservoir.

#### Significance

The wood forms a fairly insignificant part of the local access resource and there are far better and more pleasant and developed public facilities at nearby Ogston Reservoir. The wood will be used by the very immediate community only, who know the site is there.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

There are no further opportunities regarding this key feature. The small size of the wood and slope is limiting to any further recreational development, as there is no where else to place paths. It is also well isolated by farmland from other nearby walking/recreational facilities around Ogston Reservoir etc and is stuck in a low visibility location for the general public. Overmature trees pose safety issues.

#### Factors Causing Change

Changes in the nature and extent of undesirable site useage.

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

To maintain a mature mixed broadleaved wood suitable for a low level of informal recreation.

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

Leave the upper section of the path which is unsuitable due to wetness and side slope to revert to thorn scrub. Annually maintain the path by the roadside and maintain the two entrances at least once annually. Carry out necessary tree safety work as required with inspections yearly .



## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

A 100-150 year old linear wood with a mature fringe of beech alder and ash surrounding a core of mature hawthorn thicket. The wood was probably developed in this fashion as a shooting covert in the nineteenth century. Some of the beech trees have the potential for developing into veteran trees if they can stay healthy. The wood forms part of a mosaic of small wooded areas intermixed with farmland in a rolling landscape.

### Significance

The wood is probably of most importance as an integral piece of the varied landscape/landuse jigsaw, which is distinctive in this area, with its rolling hills and mosaic of farmland and small woods. The loss of even small components will have a significant effect on the landscape as a whole. In biodiversity terms the wood offers little that is not already common in the area.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The older trees will be developing a good microflora and fauna due to their age and have the potential to develop into veteran trees if they can stay healthy and safe relative to the road which is well used. The dense area of thorn scrub is likely to be a good habitat for songbirds. The main constraint is ironically the age and health of the larger trees, particularly the beech overhanging the road. A balance needs to be struck between long term retention of senescing trees and public safety.

### Factors Causing Change

The senescence of overmature trees, Tree safety issues in zone A & B

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain this area of mature mixed broadleaves and scrub as an integral part of the varied local landscape. To produce a varied canopy of veteran and mature trees over the scrub thicket by minimum intervention.

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

Carry out no silvicultural works except for necessary tree safety operations - focussed mainly on zone A at the roadside.

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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	0.79	Hawthorn species	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

This small woodland lies close to Ogston Reservoir as an isolated patch of roadside trees within surrounding farmland. The perimeter is formed by a ring of mature beech with scattered ash, alder and sycamore of around 150 years although there is no record of planting dates. They surround what was once obviously a small paddock that was allowed to scrub up with hawthorn, or deliberately planted this way as a pheasant covert. The thorn is now dense throughout. The site is generally steeply sloped throughout. At the southern end the site includes a scrubbed up roadside bank with a few mature (although small) oak and sycamore.

There is a short permissive pathway which gives access to the woodland leading from the car parking area and roadside. There is no actual carpark on Woodland Trust ground.

## 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.