



# St Helen's Well 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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>	St Helen's Well Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Pocklington
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SE810493, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 106
<b>Area:</b>	0.25 hectares (0.62 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

A small urban wood completely surrounded by housing. It is popular with local people and provides an important green space in a largely developed area.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Pocklington and District Civic Society gifted the site to the Trust on The 25th March 1996. Prior to ownership by the Civic Society the land was owned by the building developer who constructed the adjacent housing. East Yorkshire District Council gave a grant of £10,000 to the Trust to help fund future site maintenance.

This small site is situated in the north eastern suburbs of Pocklington and stretches for approximately 200m along the north east side of St Helen's Road, a residential road accessed off Kilnwick Road directly opposite Woldgate School, Kilnwick road is also known as the B1246 Pocklington to Drifffield road, This scrub woodland is completely surrounded by housing and occupies a narrow strip of sloping ground between the St Helen's Road and the rear gardens of a housing development above it to the north east (currently under construction in 2002). The landscape around Pocklington has notably few trees (woodland cover 1.7%) and is dominated by arable fields stretching across the Vale of York to the south and the rolling hillsides of the Wolds to the north. Another Trust property, Primrose Wood is within ten minutes walk through the suburbs and occupies a similar outskirt location. Their combined presence contributes considerably to the local landscape, which is scattered with small pockets of woodland and shelterbelts.

Occupying a location completely surrounded by housing in a landscape notable for its low tree cover the wood proves popular mainly with neighbouring residents. A public footpath passes within the site's northwest boundary, signposted for Kilnwick Percy, which is also a spur off the "Wolds Way" a long distance footpath.

There is local talk of a historic well on the site (St Helen's Well) but there is no documentary evidence to support this.

The site was purposely set aside for amenity purposes, it is a 100% woodland creation plot in a suburban area consequently the ground flora is unremarkable, where the canopy has closed there are sparse nettles, dock and willowherb and bindweed. Other open areas of the site are maintained as grassy glades fringed with gorse or have become dense bramble thickets, which in addition to the dog rose, blackthorn and hawthorn offer the local bird population protective shelter and sustenance. The site is well populated with bird life.

The site, donated to the Civic Society by a local developer had some initial works conducted by local groups and volunteers in conjunction with the BTCV. This included planting with a variety of shrubs and trees and the construction of a path running through the length of the site incorporating a flight of steps. A low post & rail fence fronting onto the road was also put in place at this time. A programme of annual maintenance has been in operation since acquisition including path mowing, sign maintenance, litter collection, and the cutting back of roadside vegetation. The way-leave for a surface water drain and electricity cable running north south across the centre of the site has been utilised as one of the glade areas.

All boundaries were transferred to the Trust on acquisitions that now have ultimate maintenance responsibility. However, boundary garden walls along part of the north east boundary by the developers of the houses will be the responsibility of the owners of the properties. The south west boundary consists of a low post and rail fence fronting onto the road, and the north west and south east boundaries are simple garden fences.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

#### ACCESS TO THE SITE

St Helen's Well is situated in the north - eastern suburbs of Pocklington, East Yorkshire. The wood stretches along the north east side of St Helen's Road, a residential road accessed off Kilnwick Road, the B1246 Barmby Moor to Driffield road, directly opposite the Woldgate School.

#### ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The wood has open public access from St Helen's Road. A public footpath to Kilnwick Percy falls immediately within the northwest boundary of the site.

#### PARKING

Roadside parking.

#### PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles

#### BUS STOPS

Pocklington - Nearest bus stop to be confirmed.

#### TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0870 608 2 608

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term aim will be to create a broadleaved woodland of diverse age and species structure, including a shrub under-storey as part of the site's habitat diversity. Shrubs will be encouraged to maintain a high percentage of the site cover, especially where they serve to reduce tree safety and boundary problems. The continuity of the woodland will be through natural regeneration of both tree and shrub species. The Trust will provide informal public access and maintain the public footpath.



## 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 public footpath follows just inside the woods north western boundary. This is part of the Chalkland Way - a 40-mile circular walking route on the Yorkshire Wolds, Britain's most northerly chalk outcrop, linking the villages of Great Givendale, Bishop Wilton, Bugthorpe, Thixendale, Fimber, Wetwang and Huggate. Most walkers start and finish at Pocklington. (The Wolds Way links to the Chalkland Way approximately a mile to the north east of the village, giving a convenient route into Pocklington)

Public access is allowed throughout the whole of the site via a single permissive route from east to west.

#### Significance

The site forms an amenity for local residents in an area with little accessible woodland. The woodland is very small and options are limited, but it does provide those in the immediate area with greenspace.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Although an initial interest was taken by locals in site work little active community involvement has been conducted since that time. The small size of the wood limits its use to a small number of local people. There is scope for promoting the Woodland Trust to those people using the long distance routes through signage.

#### Factors Causing Change

Occasional damage by mountain bikes, rampant weed growth.

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

To have a well-maintained entrances and public footpath of suitable surface that enables good access all year round.

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

Entrances, including signs, paths and roadside boundaries will be trimmed back annually. Litter collected as part of the maintenance contract at least annually. Tree safety inspections undertaken as per schedule and works undertaken where necessary.

## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

The site contributes to the well-wooded character of Pocklington and provides an important, albeit small, woodland habitat in an otherwise sparsely wooded area. It does form a locally important woodland element in the landscape.

### Significance

Woodland cover in the East Riding area is one of the lowest in the country at about 2.7% (Source NCC 1989). The site therefore contributes to this valuable habitat and landscape feature.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is surrounded by housing and no further planting is possible but the woods dominance in the landscape and wildlife benefits will no doubt improve as the trees and shrubs increase in size.

### Factors Causing Change

Increased public use, potential vandalism, tipping of rubbish, tree safety work

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a self-sustaining broadleaved wood with a high shrub element.

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

Monitor annually tree and shrub development and any potential tree safety given the surrounding development. Apart from access and tree safety the woodland will be managed as minimum intervention, with a Woodland Condition Assessment undertaken once per plan period which will guide the woodland management approach.

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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	0.28	Mixed native broadleaves	1990	High forest	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

The site consists of scrub interspersed with 2 small glades and some mature trees towards its north west corner. The open ground in the glades covers approximately 10% of the site. The mature sycamore and ash trees (P1960 approx) stand and account for approximately 20% of tree cover, ash (8%), sycamore (12%). The remainder of the northern half of the site was been planted in the early 1990's with mixed shrubs and small trees including hawthorn (37%), goat willow (8%), cherry (5%), birch (4%) and blackthorn (4%). The southern half of the site was planted at a later date, 1997 with mainly dogrose and blackthorn (12%). Scattered alder, beech and rowan are present throughout with lone specimens of sessile oak, small leaved lime, Norway maple and other exotics that have obviously been purposefully planted.

## 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.