



Reddish Mini 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Reddish Mini Wood
Location:	Reddish
Grid reference:	SJ893939, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 109
Area:	0.16 hectares (0.40 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Located off Fovant Crescent in Reddish, Stockport, this small wildlife garden is a small island of land surrounded on four sides by houses. It comprises shrubs and trees with areas of rough mown grass and a circular path. There is currently no public access.

2.2 Extended Description

Located off Fovant Crescent in Reddish, Stockport. This small woodland is surrounded on four sides by domestic properties with Finsbury Road to the south and Fovant Crescent to the west, north, and east, it directly abuts the gardens of forty one (41) properties. Access was formerly via a narrow walled alley (75cm wide) that runs between numbers 17 and 19 Fovant Crescent.

A poorly accessible island of land that has escaped development, the area degenerated into waste ground used for fly tipping and bonfires until the late 1980's when a local resident approached the owners for permission to manage it. With help from the Stockport Conservation Volunteers and the Manchester Wildlife Group the land was transformed into a small wildlife garden comprising of shrubs and trees with areas of rough mown grass and a circular path.

Unfortunately the site has always suffered badly from anti social behaviour issues. In 2006 the trust surveyed local residents and established that the vast majority of people wanted access to the site closing off permanently. In September 2006 a large metal gate was erected along the alley that runs between 17 and 19 Fovant Crescent and locked. The site currently has no public access.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Located off Fovant Crescent in Reddish, Stockport. This small wildlife / conservation garden (mini-wood) is surrounded on four sides by domestic properties with Finsbury road to the south and Fovant crescent to the west, north, and east, it directly abuts the gardens of forty one properties. Access is via a narrow alley (2'6" wide) that runs between numbers 17 and 19 Fovant Crescent.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to maintain a very simple mix of habitats within the significant constraints of the site (size, proximity of neighbouring properties, and access) with grassed areas, shrubs species and a small number of trees, ideally having no more than three or four establishing semi-mature trees across the site at any given time, with a rotation of the other trees species being coppiced back. Closing the site appears to have greatly reduced anti social behaviour problems on site and it is likely to remain closed for the foreseeable future. Woodland Trust remain open to opportunities that will allow the site to be transferred into a more community based management or ownership as this may help to engage and resolve the issues associated with anti social behaviour and tailor the management to meet the requirements of local residents.

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 Other

Description

A poorly accessible island of land that has escaped development, the area degenerated into waste ground used for fly tipping and bonfires until the late 1980's when a local resident approached the owners for permission to manage it. With help from the Stockport Conservation Volunteers and the Manchester Wildlife Group the land was transformed into a wildlife garden comprising of shrubs and trees with areas of rough mown grass and a circular path. Anti social behaviour in the form of underage drinking, drug taking, arson, litter and fly tipping became rife and in 2006 the Trust in consultation with local residents took the decision to close the site off. A large metal gate was erected along the alley that runs between 17 and 19 Fovant Crescent and locked. The site currently has no public access.

Significance

The site is a very small greenspace in an otherwise generally urban are. Large areas of accessible woodland and greenspace are easily reached on foot to the west at Highfield Country Park and to the east in the Reddish Vale Country Park and along the Tame river valley, which are well suited to public access due to their scale.

Opportunities & Constraints

Unfortunately the site has always suffered badly from anti-social behaviour issues and in 2006 access to the site was closed off following consultation. The planted trees and shrubs are on made ground and if left unmanaged will likely become susceptible to wind throw. Some neighbouring properties still access the woodlands via garden gates (these are informal access points and not maintained as part of the site management). There are still issues with the dumping of garden waste and litter within the wood. Fire risk is high, and rank grassland should not be allowed to develop, brash from tree work should also be either removed from site or chipped to reduce fire risk. Whilst planned as a wildlife garden, small scale intimate management of the site is not practical or sustainable unless considerable time and labour is invested ideally through a sustainable and committed volunteer programme, or through the site being managed by a 3rd party.

Factors Causing Change

Growth of trees and shrubs which impact on tree safety as well as light in the neighbouring gardens, which are in unusually close proximity on all boundaries (the wood is approximately 50m x 25m) . Ash disease will need assessing and the future of ash trees on site will need to be reviewed. Garden waste and littering will likely continue to be an issue.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain a simple mix of habitats with open grassland, trees and shrubs, managed on a coppice cycle. Trees and shrubs should not be left to get too established due to the proximity of neighbouring properties and potential instability. Long term management would ideally be suited to a local volunteer group or 3rd party lease.

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

Carry out a boundary coppice of planted shrubs once over each five year plan period for purposes of stand stability and mow grass area once a year to minimize fire risk. Ensure the site remains locked and that when contractors are on site all other works are completed, including clearance of litter/ dumping from adjacent properties. Ash disease will need to be assessed during June - August 2018 with a plan for management of ash decided by the end of 2018. At the end of each plan period undertake a condition assessment.

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	0.16	Mixed native broadleaves	1996	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation		

The compartment is small 0.2ha rectangular plot of land surrounded on four sides by housing, the boundaries are defined by garden fences. Access is via a narrow alley (2'6" wide) that runs between numbers 17 and 19 Fovant Crescent, however a locked gate was put on the alley in 2006 and the site closed to all public access. The area supports a mixture of young trees and shrubs (mostly native) planted in 1995. Species present include, ash, aspen, birch, alder, field maple, wild and bird cherry, English oak, rowan, goat willow, blackthorn, privet, dog rose, bramble, hawthorn, spindle, holly, hazel and elder with a ground flora of nettles willow herb, and mixed grasses.

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.