



Brick Kiln Plantation

Management Plan 2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Brick Kiln Plantation
Location:	Tasley
Grid reference:	SO699942, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 138
Area:	1.70 hectares (4.20 acres)
Designations:	Planted Ancient Woodland Site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Bluebells, yellow archangel and wood sorrel are all indicative of the ancient nature of this broadleaf woodland. The site name derives from the previous site use of brick making, and the remains of an old brick kiln can be found within the woods.

2.2 Extended Description

Brick Kiln Plantation is a Planted Ancient Woodland site on the eastern edge of the village of Tasley, just 2km north-west of Bridgnorth. The wood lies in a predominantly flat agricultural area and is an important feature in the landscape. Surrounding land use is a mixture of pasture/arable rotational use to the north, east and south of the site. Woodland adjoins the east of the site (Trinity Wood, also owned and managed by the Woodland Trust).

Brick Kiln Plantation was largely clear felled approximately 50 years ago and replanted with a mixture of Larch, Spruce, Poplar, Beech and Sycamore, retaining a small proportion of pre-existing mature Oak and Willow. The Larch and virtually all the spruce have subsequently been removed with predominantly native broadleaved regeneration and native mixed broadleaved replanting now occupying these areas. Ancient Woodland Indicator species include Bluebell, Yellow Archangel and Wood Sorrel.

The local area has a history of brick making, a link to which can be seen in the north-west corner of wood which contains the former location of an old brick kiln and from which the wood derives its name.

The site is well visited. There is a circular path through the wood which many visitors incorporate as part of a longer route connecting to the Public Footpath network close by. There is no official parking here. However, there is an informal "pull in" along a minor road opposite the main entrance to Trinity Wood, a woodland creation site also owned by the Trust which lies adjacent to Brick Kiln Plantation. This 'pull-in' can accommodate approximately three cars. With just a short walk through Trinity Wood, visitors can then enter Brick Kiln Plantation along its western boundary. A public footpath runs outside the south-east boundaries of Trinity Wood and Brick Kiln Plantation. However, this particular section of footpath is rarely used now. Instead walkers prefer to gain access to Brick Kiln Plantation by first entering Trinity wood from the public highway (this lies right next to the Public Footpath entrance). Visitors then often choose to re-join the public footpath where this runs adjacent to the far (NE) corner of the Brick Kiln Plantation forming part of an extended scenic walk to and from the village of Tasley.

The Key Features for this this are:

Informal Public Access

Planted Ancient Woodland Site

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Nearest village is Tasley approximately ½ mile away on the outskirts of Bridgnorth. The wood can be reached via an open entrance into the wood leading off a public footpath which runs adjacent to the southern boundary of the wood. There is also an entrance to the wood via Trinity Wood, a further adjoining Woodland Trust property to the west of the site through an opening in the boundary hedge. The rides are flat and easily negotiated but can get wet underfoot in the winter.

Nearest bus stop - end of Church Lane approximately ½ mile away.

Nearest Train station - Shifnal, 9.1 miles

Nearest public toilet - Bridgnorth, Inneth Lane, 2 miles. Open 7am to 6pm with disabled facilities.

You can also try www.transportdirect.info or www.traveline.org.uk on the internet for the most up to date details for public transport in the area.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Woodland Trusts objectives and long term intentions for Brick Kiln Plantation are determined after balanced consideration of a number of points relating to our Woodland Management Approach (WMA) and seek to conserve key features in relation to our outcomes. Where there is conflict, the interests of biodiversity take precedence over people. We do not intervene at our sites unless there is evidence that it will improve woodland biodiversity and/or public understanding and enjoyment.

Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)

To ensure that ancient woodland features are maintained and enhanced by reducing threats to their survival, primarily from dense shade. To maintain a canopy of predominantly native broadleaves.

Informal Public Access

Brick Kiln Plantation offers excellent public access opportunities despite its size. There is a circular route which links conveniently to the nearby public footpath network and a further adjoining Trust property, Trinity Wood. In accordance with the Trust WMA, free public access will be provided for quiet, informal recreation and the woodland managed to make ensure it is accessible, welcoming and safe. The wood will remain an asset providing both a pleasant and educational experience for visitors. Paths will be kept open and access/improvement work undertaken where necessary to the paths where this will increase visitor enjoyment.

Regular tree inspections will be undertaken by competent people. Tree safety works will be implemented in accordance with recommendations from inspection reports and in line with current best practice.

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 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Brick Kiln Wood is an Ancient Woodland Site which was largely clear felled in approx 1950 and replanted with a mixture of Larch, Spruce, Poplar, Beech and Sycamore while retaining a small proportion pre-existing mature Oak and Willow. The majority of the wood has now been cleared of conifers with native natural regeneration and planted native mixed broadleaves now occupying these areas. Ancient Woodland Indicator species still present including Bluebell, Yellow Archangel and Wood Sorrel.

Significance

The site is known to have been constant in terms of tree cover for many 100's of years and while substantial felling and replanting with non-native species have taken place within the last 50 years, The site still offers a high value in terms of local biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

The key constraints on site derive from its small size coupled with a high exposure to winds from all directions and waterlogged ground conditions that are common for much of the year. The combination of these factors means that compaction of soils and habitat degradation could easily result from large scale or poorly timed woodland operations.

Through seeking natural regeneration and development within the wood, there is the opportunity to minimise interruption of the intimate and complex cycles between lower plants, fungi, invertebrates and the larger woodland structure. This will allow the widest possible range of species and habitats to survive and evolve, with the long term prospect of existing flora and fauna migrating west into Trinity Wood.

Factors Causing Change

Frequent Wind Damage

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A species and structurally diverse area of predominantly broadleaved woodland with ancient woodland features secured and protected from agents of threat e.g. non-native species threatening native species from dominating the high forest canopy or threaten remnant ancient woodland features present.

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

2020 - carry out a light restorative thinning in the small area of PAWS in the north of the site. Approximately 15-20% existing conifer canopy removal. As part of this operation, undertake a light thin of the ash stand just south of the aforementioned PAWS area . The ash thin will favour retention of specimens of best form and soundness, promoting better health and crown development.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

There is a very well used circular path that runs through the wood which in most places is easy to use (with the exception of very wet weather in the winter). Path drainage and improvement work in 2001 have increased surfaced conditions a great deal since that time.

Significance

The wood is a short walk from the nearby town of Bridgnorth and village of Tasley. It is easily reached via the public footpath network which runs adjacent to the southern boundary. The surrounding area has very little accessible woodland and Brick Kiln Wood coupled with Trinity offer a safe, varied and interesting woodland experience.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site can be very wet for much of the year due to the overall soil type and local land drainage. Consequently there is only limited opportunity to improve upon the existing access provision.

A strong sense of local ownership has been cultivated during the creation of neighbouring Trinity Wood, this coupled with the high usage by dog walkers and family groups offers the opportunity for the Trust to continue to foster a local understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Frequent Wind Damage, Permanently wet ground in parts of the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A well maintained circular permissive path that is interesting and enjoyable for visitors to follow and connects into the adjacent woodland, Trinity Wood also owned by the Woodland Trust.

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

To maintain the existing permissive circular route through cutting and clearing work as part of the annual maintenance programme. Paths to be cut once a year to a minimum 2 metre width.

To monitor public access provision and ensure that the existing levels of access are adequate. E.g. assess the path conditions and whether sections have deteriorated further through water logging etc. and whether repair or improvement work is desirable.

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	1.44	Mixed broadleaves	1985	High forest		Informal Public Access, Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>An exposed predominately broadleaved planted ancient woodland site. The wood was largely clear felled and replanted in approximately 1950 to 1960 with a mixture of larch, spruce, poplar, beech and sycamore retaining a small proportion of naturally occurring Oak and Willow. The areas of conifers have since been felled and native broadleaved regeneration and native mixed broadleaved planting now occupy these areas. Ancient woodland indicators include Bluebell, Yellow archangel and Wood sorrel. A very small inaccessible pocket of spruce is sited in the north-west corner of the site.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	0.30	33	10

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 on 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.