



The Nuttery

Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	The Nuttery
Location:	Newnham
Grid reference:	SP582595, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 152
Area:	0.53 hectares (1.31 acres)
Designations:	Conservation Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Gifted to the Woodland Trust by the Marriott family in 1989, the Nuttery is a historic cobnut(filbert) orchard with snowdrops blooming under the trees in winter.

2.2 Extended Description

The Nuttery was a commercial cobnut orchard at the turn of the 19th century although there is mention of an orchard existing on the site from 1787 in some fashion.

Picked by women and children, the dried and sorted nuts were sold in Covent Garden, Coventry and Birmingham wholesale markets. The snowdrops were planted later and boxes of carefully packed posies were sent to the wholesale flower markets. The orchard gradually became commercially unviable and coppicing was reduced, but thinning and pruning was maintained.

Traditionally in Northampton fruiting hazels would have been coppiced on a 15 - 20 year cycle, rather than pruned as some are today in Kent. Coppicing greatly prolongs the life of the hazel, providing a sustainable source of cobnuts and timber product which can be used for stakes and binders in traditional crafts such as hedgelaying.

The coppicing stimulates new growth and better fruiting, this begins in the fifth year after cutting with the most usual harvest time at the beginning of October. According to the previous owners, most of the nuts are "Kentish Cobs" (Lamberts Filberts cross pollinated with Pearsons Prolific - the true dessert cob) and a smaller number are shorter, fatter "Nottingham Cobs".

The snowdrops, which have in the past carpeted the ground under the hazel bushes, were harvested every year both as flowers in February and as green bulbs just after flowering time. The bulbs would have been dug up and sorted with the smaller ones being replanted back into the site to divide and multiply.

After the Trust took over the site in 1989, a regular programme of hazel coppicing was re-introduced, one line of the derelict hazel bushes being cut every year. In 2010 it was felt that the coppicing regime may have been too harsh resulting in increased light levels which encouraged the development of coarse vegetation which has swamped the snow drops in areas, along with regeneration of ash, sycamore and thorn seeding in from the adjacent hedgerow. This will become detrimental to the original orchard characteristics of the site as it matures unless removed.

The Nuttery itself is well known locally, particularly for its snow drops and is an important cultural component of the local area, a number of locals having worked in The Nuttery when it was still a productive orchard. Recently local people raised concerns about the loss of the snow drops and as a result have themselves taken on the mantle of removing some of the coarse vegetation and the ash saplings. Coppicing of the hazel itself was put on hold with periodic monitoring taking place and further work being undertaken by a contractor as well as local people so as to get on top of the coarse vegetation and ash regeneration. Local people will be consulted before any vegetation clearance or coppicing takes place at The Nuttery. The necessity in the future to coppice will be assessed through monitoring and again consultation with local people.

Native ground flora is characterised by cow parsley and ground elder which disappear in early summer when the tree canopy is complete, and patchy nettle, bramble and coarse grasses in the areas exposed to the light. The snowdrops (*galanthus nivalis*) are the last vestiges of those grown for sale and comprise both single and (mostly) double common varieties. Small numbers of wild flowers also persist including wood anemones, celandine and corydalis along with a few garden escapes.

Neighbouring land consists of a continuation of the orchard into adjacent properties, including the original orchard owners' house (still called The Nuttery), gardens, a very small area of broadleaf woodland and sheep and permanent pasture, with the field to the east being ridge and furrow. There is little other woodland in the local area, with the land predominantly made up of agricultural grassland.

The site also sits within a Conservation Area (Newnham), as designated by Daventry District Council on the 5th May 2011. Further information regarding the Conservation Area can be found at - <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-and-building-control/conservation-area-maps/?assetdet2736c0a9-8961-4e72-975f-c5711afe956e=28525>

The site is mainly used by local people, although the display of snowdrops does provide a draw to visitors from further afield.

There is local parking, although restricted.

The entrance is located off Manor Lane, with access to the site through a pedestrian squeeze gap. The entrance is marked by a Woodland Trust welcome sign at point of entry. The path network is generally level with a good surface, however the paths are narrow with nut bushes either side of the paths.

The key features for this site are:

KF1 Informal Public Access

KF2 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

There is local parking, although restricted. The path network is generally level with a good surface, however the paths are narrow with nut bushes either side of the paths. The entrance is restricted by a squeeze gap. Nearest bus stops are on A361 at Badby and A45 by negotiation. For times contact the Travel Line on www.traveline.info or 0871 200 22 33. There nearest public toilets are in Daventry approx 5km NW next to the bus station 7.30am to 5.00pm, disabled facilities

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Woodland Trusts objectives and long term intentions for The Nuttery are determined after balanced consideration of a number of points relating to our Woodland Management Approach (WMA), carrying out woodland condition assessments and seeking 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.

In line with the Woodland Trusts Management Approach (WMA) considering the heritage and cultural value of the site locally, as well as the niche habitat the coppice woodland provides; the long term policy will be to reintroduce active coppicing on the site over a 20 year period cycle, with each complete cycle covering 4, 5 year management plan periods. Managing the coppice, which has been in situ without break for over 200 yrs, will help ensure that healthy and robust coppice cover continues well into the future.

Essential tree safety work will be carried out where required.

Footpath maintenance through cutting back of encroaching vegetation will also be carried out where this contributes to increasing the overall enjoyment and access of visitors to the site.

Informal, quiet recreational use will be encouraged.

The aim of these intervention works will be to provide greater structural diversity, maintaining the varied habitat that such management brings, benefitting both flora and fauna that are attracted to actively managed coppice. Such species will include the snowdrops that have become an integral element of the site over its history.

It is also hoped that The Nuttery will continue to be a focal point of interest for the local community who have been actively involved in its development throughout its history.

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

The site although small is situated in the centre of the village of Newnham. Visited by local people particularly at snowdrop flowering time in February and March. A narrow path circles within the wood.

Significance

Other than Everdon Stubbs it is the only tree'd area with significant tree cover open to public access locally. Ideal for a quick visit and has become a regular visiting place for residents

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

Site is small it taking only a few minutes to circumnavigate.

No designated car park for visitors

Does not link to the PROW network

Opportunities

Very much a locally appreciated wood being a rare example of this type of coppice management

Potential for better links with regular local site visitors, with the opportunity of establishing volunteer site wardens

Factors Causing Change

Any increase in visitor numbers

Long term Objective (50 years+)

People will continue to visit and enjoy the site on a regular basis and have an understanding of its significance.

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

The ongoing maintenance of the present footpath network and site entrance, to allowing public access, measured through annual Informal Public Assess key feature monitoring. This will include refurbishment and replacement of existing entrance infrastructure and signage during 2020.

Make contact with local site users and investigate potential for volunteer site wardens, with the desire to have at least one active warden on site by 2022.

Maintenance of boundary post and wire fencing to take place 2020.

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Managed as an coppiced orchard for nearly 200 years for the production of cobnuts (filberts) later on snow drops underneath them. A 15 year coppicing cycle was introduced in 1991 but by 2010 it was felt that that regime was too intense and was resulting in domination of the snowdrops by coarse vegetation.

Significance

This site has a relatively long history as a coppiced woodland/nut orchard. Such places are rare in this part of the country. With this management history the planted woodland has begun to mimic an ancient woodland habitat in terms of structure and species. The Nuttery is unique woodland for Northamptonshire and for the Woodland Trust

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

Small site
 No vehicle access
 Coarse vegetation
 Active badger sett on site and boundary
 Rabbits
 Grey Squirrels

Opportunities

Is a valuable wildlife habitat
 The snow drops are a major attraction and are of great value to local people
 The orchard has an important role in the local history of Newnham
 Provision of coppiced hazel stems for hedge laying and horticultural use
 Possible educational collaboration with local organisations

Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage
 Tree pests and disease
 Coarse vegetation

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Reintroduce active coppicing on the site over a 20 year period cycle, with each complete cycle covering 4, 5 year management plan periods. Managing the coppice, which has been in situ without break for over 200 yrs, will help ensure that healthy and robust coppice cover continues well into the future.

Coppicing is to begin within the south-eastern section of the site where mature hazel has not been coppiced for an extended period and move on to the more recently cut hazel starting from the next plan period, 2024.

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

Establish the reintroduction of active coppicing and the control of coarse vegetation and regeneration of broad leaved species (other than hazel) through cutting as necessary. Initially, during this plan period, coppicing will start within the south-eastern section of the site where mature hazel has not been coppiced for an extended period resulting the loss of the majority of the ground flora from the area. Some older stools within this area will be left in situ to decay naturally providing a varied habitat.

Prior to any coppicing commencing, deer impact and activity assessments will be undertaken and as part of an initial trial a small number of older stools will be coppiced to ground level and deer exclusion plots (with additional rabbit netting) will be installed. These will contain some cut stools while some cut stools will remain outside of these enclosures in order to provide some comparison of any potential browsing that may occur. Wider coppicing will only be undertaken on site once deer control methods are in place where required.

Environmental Assessments to be undertaken prior to coppicing, specifically regarding badgers on site. Any work to avoid the badgers' breeding season of December to June (inclusive). Stools next to sett entrances to be retained where suitable and only hand cutting to take place, with no machinery within a cordoned off area.

Cutting of coarse vegetation and natural broadleaf regeneration such as ash and sycamore (not hazel) between rows of hazel coppice will take place annually during July.

Essential tree safety work will be carried out where required.

Local people will be consulted before any work takes place via the management plan consultation process.

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	0.60	Hazel	1950	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Conservation Area

200-year-old planted hazel orchard. The only mature trees are ash that are contained within the surrounding boundary hedges. The hazel are planted at a regular 2m spacing in lines running north to south, much of this hazel has been coppiced in the last decade or so. Ground flora is relatively species poor although in areas snowdrops do dominate; these are the last vestiges of the snowdrops, which were cultivated as a commercial crop in times past. Small numbers of wild flowers also persist including wood anemones, celandine and corydalis. The Nuttery is to be managed as an orchard conducive to the preservation and development of the snow drops growing on site. The focus will be the reintroduction of active coppicing and the control of coarse vegetation and regeneration of broad leaved species (other than hazel) through cutting as necessary and the promotion and maintenance of light levels conducive to the orchards development, Local people have a keen interest in The Nuttery and should be consulted on its management before any work takes place.

Active badger sett identified on site. Entrances/exits to sett located on the southern boundary and towards the eastern section of the site.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Coppice	0.10	25	2.5
2021	1a	Coppice	0.10	25	2.5
2024	1a	Coppice	0.11	23	2.5
2026	1a	Coppice	0.11	23	2.5
2029	1a	Coppice	0.16	16	2.5
2031	1a	Coppice	0.16	16	2.5
2034	1a	Coppice	0.14	18	2.5
2036	1a	Coppice	0.14	18	2.5

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.