



Pound Farm

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Pound Farm
Location:	Great Glemham
Grid reference:	TM322630, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 156
Area:	89.72 hectares (221.70 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This expanse of relatively young woodland is interspersed with pockets of ancient woodland, wide rides and wildflower meadows, making it a beautiful and diverse site. Its undulating paths offer splendid views over the surrounding countryside, and its five ponds give plenty of opportunity for kids to explore the aquatic habitat by pond dipping.

2.2 Extended Description

Pound Farm is a 90 hectare site that was created between 1990 to 1993 on boulder clay over chalk. It is set in a rolling landscape of arable farmland, small isolated woodland and hedgerows. The adjoining land is arable with Cransford SSSI meadow close by on the northern boundary. The design mirrors the surrounding landscape with a patchwork of woodland and open meadows linked by hedgerows. There is also a small stream running through the site from the north running south east and exiting adjacent to pound farm house on the eastern boundary.

There were some initial problems with the establishment of certain species - oak in the north-west corner, and small-leaved lime and wild cherry along the northern boundary have all suffered from a high failure rate, but this has been redressed with infill planting and natural broadleaf regeneration. In 2012 Pound Farm was identified as having ash dieback and has been severely affected by the fungal disease due to the high percentage of common ash within the site.

Five ponds were restored when the site was created - one pond was already established and the other four have been created on the location of previously filled in ponds. The ponds have now developed a diverse ecology, with a wide variety of associated invertebrates, plant species, great crested newts smooth newts recorded.

The ancient woodland is in 2 small copses and one mature woodland belt comprising common ash as the dominant species, field maple, penduculate oak and hazel over a ground flora dominated by dog's mercury - typical of W8 type woodland. Broom Covert is the largest remnant with the best structure, the other two function more as shelterbelts.

Key features within site:

f1: Informal Public Access

f2: New Native Woodland

f3: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

f4: Open Ground Habitat

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By bus

The main bus service from Ipswich is the 63: Ipswich - Woodbridge - Framlingham. The closest bus stop is at Framlingham, a four-mile (6.4km) walk to the site. For more information, visit www.firstgroup.com.

By car

Pound Farm is situated off the B1119 between Framlingham and Great Glemham in Suffolk (look for the brown tourist sign). The site has a large, hard surfaced car park that can accommodate about 15 vehicles.

3.2 Access / Walks

There are two kissing gate pedestrian entrances at either end of a public right of way. A large covered information board and two further boards give details of the tree planting and meadowland. There are also a number of seats around the ride network which provide opportunities for rest and picnics.

Paths are mainly grass and are undulating. They are mown regularly but during the winter months the site becomes waterlogged and muddy.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term management of Pound Farm will continue to maintain and develop the patchwork of woodland and meadowland, whilst protecting the remnant ancient woodland within the site. This will be undertaken by diversifying the woodland tree species and age structures to mitigate the impacts of current and future pests and pathogen's, such as ash dieback and acute oak decline, so their potential impact can be reduced. This will develop and improve the woodlands overall resilience to future pests and pathogen's that may arise in the future, whilst developing and improving its diversity and protect its key components. This will take into account all the different habitats associated with the woodland ecosystem, resulting in a diverse multi-structured high forest, maintaining the current valuable flora and fauna at level where they will not become threatened and placed in decline.

Secondary woodland

The long term intension will be for the areas of secondary woodland that have developed in to a single structure plantation will be thinned to develop a multi-structured high forest canopy with diverse variety of tree species and age classes, with diverse understorey species, natural regeneration and deadwood habitat.

Ancient Woodland

The areas of ancient woodland retained coppice will be managed due to its very high common ash content will be thinned and under planted with native species indicative to the region to develop greater tree species diversity and eventually age structure, whilst increasing the potential for natural regeneration which will reduce the impact of the ash decline, and allowing standing and lying deadwood to continue to develop within the ancient woodland stand.

Meadow and open ground habitat

The long term intention will be to maintain the current floristically diverse meadows and open ground within the wood enriching the overall diversity of the site. The desired condition of the meadows and open ground will be to have floristically diverse meadows and rides with good scrubby edge habit. This will be achieved by annual cut and removal of arisings from the meadows and rotational ride edge cutting and coppicing.

Ponds

The ponds adjacent habitats will be managed so there is a constant mixture of scrub and open rough grass habitats on the edges whilst not over shading the water habitat. The ponds themselves will be free of excessive debris, weed and silt.

Public access

The long-term intention for public access is to maintain a sustainable level of use by keeping paths mown and free from obstacles maintaining access features and internal infrastructure appropriately. The long-term management will concentrate on maintaining and where appropriate, improving the current standard of paths present.

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 whole site is open to the public and is well signposted on the roadside with brown tourist signs off the B1119 leading to a hard surface car park with space for 15 cars. There are three pedestrian entrances situated at either end of a PROW and a new entrance situated in the south eastern corner of the site linking to the adjacent landowners permissive path network. A large information board will to be installed in 2016, situated within the main car park. There is an extensive wide network with wide rides accessing the whole of the site with seating interspersed throughout the site.

Pound farm has an extensive system of wide rides that support a good variety of species associated with open ground and woodland verge. These include cowslips, primrose, ragged robin and early purple orchid and birds foot trefoil being the most notable. The rides are managed with the centres being cut on a regular basis, whilst the verges are cut once annually to allow rough grass habitat. The woodland ride edges are also coppiced on a 5-6 year rotation to maintain a good edge scrub and also to stop the rides from shading over and degrading the floristic diversity they offer to the site.

Significance

The surrounding land is arable farmland with limited public access, and few areas of public open space within this part of Suffolk, Pound farm is a valuable resource to the general public within the surrounding area. The rides also offer a wide variety of open ground flora species and add greatly to the rich biodiversity of the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

The large open meadows provide opportunities for picnicking and other appropriate informal recreation although the cutting regimes of these areas are determined by the Habitat Scheme agreement.

Due to the soils within Pound farm during the winter months the site becomes very muddy and waterlogged in places and parts of the site are harder to access for to this.

Factors Causing Change

Antisocial behaviour and vandalism.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Native broadleaved woodland with open public access for visitors to enjoy.

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

Maintain site as an area of public open access, with ride system cut to a minimum of 4 times per year to a width of up to 1.5m and a final double width 4m cut.. Maintain all paths obstacle free to allow unhindered access to the public. Maintain all internal structures in a safe usable condition.

Work Programme

2016 - 2021 Undertake a minimum of 500m of ride side coppicing along main rides annually during October-December. Cut back up to 3 metres from ride edge with all coppice waste to be stacked neatly at the back of the cut coppice area at the woodland edge. All work will be identified annually

2016 - 2021 Annual path cutting May, June, July, August 1.5 m path cut in centre of ride. September final full width 3m path cut.

2016 Car park improvements -car park re-surface and place new natural stone topping. Replace entrances and boundary fence with new.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

58.57 hectares of native broadleaved woodland was planted from 1990 to 1993. The main species planted were common ash, pendunculate oak, hornbeam, field maple, small leaved lime, wild cherry and silver birch, with Hazel, common hawthorn, dog rose and spindle as ride edge and understorey species. The planting was undertaken in single species blocks of 25 to 50 trees and this has created single species groups within the secondary woodland. The majority of the secondary woodland has reached maturity but there are still some areas of woodland that have developed at a far slower rate and have not yet reached canopy closure, but have become good scrub habitat. Ash dieback was discovered in 2012 and has seen a heavy decline in the health and vitality of the ash component within the planted woodland areas. Common Ash is a major part of the secondary woodland taking up around 30% of the species mix and also being the dominant species naturally regenerating. This unfortunately is now being significantly effect by ash dieback killing the majority of the ash regeneration. The wild cherry also has seen significant failure on site due to disease and quality of original planting stock.

There is little ground flora present within the secondary woodland areas apart from large areas of bramble in areas of open canopies, and remnant arable weeds such as spear thistle and sow thistle are present. Natural tree regeneration is dispersed throughout the secondary woodland areas, but it is lacking within areas of heavy canopy shade. The main tree species which are regenerating shadows the original planting mix, but common ash is by far the most profuse with pendunculate oak and field maple developing within localised groups. Hornbeam and wild cherry dispersed in small numbers mainly to the southern end of the site where the main planting density of these species.

Significance

The scale of the planting in the context of rural Suffolk is what makes it of key importance.

Opportunities & Constraints

The size of Pound Farm has given The Woodland Trust the opportunity to create different stands within the site.

There is a good opportunity to use pound farm as a site of best practice regarding managing a site for wood fuel and timber management.

Constraints - growing numbers of deer within the site and area are beginning to impact on the surviving natural regeneration within the wood.

Ash dieback has significantly affected all common ash within the site, and Pound Farm has seen continued infection has started to cause significant canopy decline and also in some cases complete death. The common ash regeneration has been severely affected by the disease resulting in the majority failing within 2 years.

Factors Causing Change

Deer damage, Rabbit damage and ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To manage Pound farm, maintaining and enhancing the structural diversity and resilience of the secondary woodland to future pests and pathogens' through promoting natural regeneration of as many native tree species creating a structurally and species diverse woodland, with diverse standing and laying deadwood habitat.

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

Undertake a selective thinning regime to begin to manipulate the canopy structure to provide favourable conditions to allow natural regeneration to develop and begin to create a diverse age and tree species structure that will more resilient to future pests and pathogens. This will be undertaken over the current plan period. Common ash where possible will be retained but where there are concentrations these will be thinned, but in general the mature ash will be left to decline and become a source of deadwood habitat, unless it will become a potential future tree safety issue.

Annual deer monitoring and culling will begin within the plan period within Pound farm to reduce browsing pressure on developing natural regeneration within the secondary woodland.

Work Programme

2016 - 2021 Undertake annual deer browsing survey and adjust deer cull numbers accordingly on level of browsing damage caused by deer on the secondary woodland components.

2018 Undertake 20-25% canopy thinning within the secondary woodland within planned period to break up areas within the secondary woodland component that have single age class high forest canopy structure and allow natural regeneration to develop in the understorey. Retain where feasible common ash, standing deadwood and woodland understorey species. Please see attached thinning map within the appendix.

2021 Undertake 20-25% canopy thinning within the secondary woodland within planned period to break up areas within the secondary woodland component that have single age class high forest canopy structure and allow natural regeneration to develop in the understorey. Retain where feasible common ash, standing deadwood and woodland understorey species. Please see attached thinning map within the appendix.

5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

There are two small semi-natural ancient woodland copses and one mature woodland belt within Pound Farm with Broom covert being the largest. The canopies of both ancient woodlands are dominated by common ash, making up to 95% of the species mix, with field maple and pendunculate oak making up the rest of the species, whilst common hazel, hawthorn and some elm make up the understorey species.

Previous management comprised of coppicing, and it is estimated that it has not been coppiced since just after the second world war. The structure of the ancient woodland copses has developed to high forest and has lost much of its coppice structure and is predominantly a single age structure. The understorey varies greatly in density but is as a whole very suppressed. There is a distinct lack of natural regeneration due to ash dieback killing off all of the young and stored ash regeneration, whilst due to the shading and lack of species diversity there is little other natural regeneration within the copses.

Ground flora is not especially diverse and is dominated by dogs mercury, but there is also wood anemone, primrose, lesser celandine and red campion present. There is a good deadwood component both standing and laying within the ancient woodland.

Significance

Ancient woodland is very important within the context of such a large woodland creation site. It provides a seed bank for ancient woodland species, cover for wildlife, it is a useful educational tool and a focal point in the landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

The size of Pound Farm has given The Woodland Trust the opportunity to create different stands within the site.

There is a good opportunity to use pound farm as a site of best practice regarding managing a site for wood fuel and timber management.

Constraints - growing numbers of deer within the site and area are beginning to impact on the surviving natural regeneration within the wood.

Ash dieback has significantly affected all common ash within the site, and Pound Farm has seen continued infection has started to cause significant canopy decline and also in some cases complete death. The common ash regeneration has been severely affected by the disease resulting in the majority being killed off within 2 years.

Factors Causing Change

Rabbit Damage, Deer damage and ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Manage the ancient woodland component of Pound farm so that they have a diverse age and species structure with abundant understorey species, deadwood habitat, developing natural regeneration and ground flora.

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

Undertake a 25% selective thinning in 2016 to begin to open areas of the canopy to provide favourable conditions for natural regeneration to develop. If no natural regeneration within 3 years the in the winter under planting with native tree species indicative to the region to diversify the range of native tree species within ancient woodland to develop and create a diverse age and tree species structure that will more resistant to future pests and pathogens (pendunculate oak, field maple, small leaved lime, wild cherry and horn beam, with common hazel and common hawthorn). Under planting will be planted in random densities and species densities will be randomly dispersed.

Annual deer monitoring and culling will begin within the plan period within Pound farm to reduce browsing pressure on developing natural regeneration and ground flora within the ancient woodland.

Work Programme

2016 - 2021 Undertake annual deer browsing survey and adjust deer cull numbers accordingly on level of browsing damage caused by deer on the secondary woodland components. 2017 install 8 ganguard fence control plots to aid assessment of browsing damage and development of natural regeneration.

2016 Undertake a 25% selective thinning in 2016, retaining where possible common ash that are showing signs of tolerance to ash dieback, and other native and naturalised broadleaved species that will be used as seed trees for natural regeneration.

2017/20 - Undertake annual natural regeneration walk through survey to ascertain whether there is a requirement for under planting due to the lack of natural regeneration developing.

2021 - Provisionally if Under plant at low density with pendunculate oak, field maple, small leaved lime, wild cherry and horn beam, with common hazel and common hawthorn to improve the understorey. Protect trees in 1.2 metre tubes.

2021/2023 Hand weed and tube maintenance annually around new planting removing any woody parennials and any grass and weed build up within the tree tubes.

5.4 Open Ground Habitat

Description

26.59 hectares of meadowland were created in 1992 using native seed mixes made up of red fescue, smooth stalked meadow grass, sheep's fescue, small-leaved timothy, sweet vernal grass and wildflowers (oxeye daisy, meadow buttercup, birds foot trefoil, salad burnet, black medick, ribwort plantain, selfheal, yarrow). The quality of meadowland varies greatly throughout the site with the most diverse being situated in the east of the site.

In 2013, 11 hectares were leased to Forest Research for a 5 year period to undertake common ash dieback resistance provenance trials. There is the possibility for forest research to extend the lease past the initial 5 year period if they require to continue the trials otherwise these meadows will revert back to woodland trust management. The trial planting area was enclosed in a deer fence 24, 500 trees from 14 different provenances were planted. Forest research has responsibility for maintenance of the leased area.

Bordering the areas open ground 4,200 metres of hedging (70% hawthorn, 20% blackthorn and 10% field maple, hazel, dogwood and spindle) have been planted. 70% of the planted hedges once established and have been laid and are cut annually. Remnants of existing hedgerows have been retained where possible and are not cut or laid and are left to develop as scrub.

Significance

It is important to have open space within the context of a woodland creation site in order to diversify the varieties of different habitats and biodiversity and for public enjoyment.

Hedgerows are crucial for wildlife - they link features, providing corridors between habitat islands. They are also valuable in providing shelter from wind and rain and are important in breaking up the landscape visually.

Opportunities & Constraints

The meadows are managed under DEFRA's Habitat Scheme which determines the cutting regime of the grassland, this is not always sufficient to control noxious weeds. However it does ensure that the habitat is varied and sustainable.

There is an opportunity to develop the planted hedgerows as a valuable habitat and wildlife corridors.

Factors Causing Change

Species decline, Noxious weeds, Competitive grass species, Habitat Scheme agreement

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Continue to provide a floristically diverse open ground habitat within Pound farm by continuing to manage the meadows on a annual cutting regime, whilst providing abundant edge scrub and managed hedgerows that provide a further element to the sites habitat biodiversity.

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

Maintain the open ground habitat structure and diversity in accordance to the Habitat Scheme agreement, resulting with a continued structured and diverse meadow habitat. Cutting Meadows annually and removing cuttings from site, verges as per cutting regime either cut bi-annually or left to develop scrub habitat.

Continue to improve hedge structure through the laying of the planted hedges. The management of the planted hedges by laying 500m of hedging biannually to continue to maintain a thick layered hedgerow.

Work Programme

2017 - Floristic survey undertaken by meadow specialist.

2016 - 2021 Cut annually as per habitat agreement. Remove cutting from site - September

2016 - 2021 Cut annually all internal and roadside hedges - October - November

2016, 2018, 2020 Layer 500 metres of hedges during each prescribed year during October - November

5.5 Pond

Description

Five ponds have been restored on the site - one was already established and the other four have been dug out. All created ponds have good edge vegetation and scrub, all are not over shaded and hold water throughout the summer and have good biodiversity in aquatic invertebrates, edge ground flora with pyramid orchid, bee orchid, common spotted orchid, cowslip, primrose and birds foot trefoil present in varying densities around the pond verges. Great crested newts were present during survey in 2003 but there has been little evidence of activity of them since

The Pond closest to the car park has an invasive pond weed *Crassula helmsii*. This pond has been fenced off since 2003 and has stopped any spread to the other ponds. With the invasive pond weed being contained there has been no attempt to remove it due to the likely hood that it could not be fully removed without damaging the other components of the pond.

Significance

The ponds provide another habitat on the site increasing its biodiversity. Their close proximity render them ideal for natural colonisation and migration of species between ponds. They all have the potential to be of very high conservation value. They are also of interest to the public and since they have been dug out on the site of previous ponds they provide a link to the historic landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

A survey undertaken by a Forestry Enterprise pond specialist in 2003 identified that all ponds have a good aquatic structure, but most lacked pond edge vegetation, this has continued to slowly develop and there is an opportunity to slowly continue improve the pond edge structure to further enhance the ecological value of the ponds within the site.

In 2003 there was found within one of the created ponds New Zealand stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*), which is an invasive exotic pond weed. Although contained within the single pond it is possible that it could spread to the others.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Pond Weed, Fish being introduced

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain all ponds as a diverse habitat feature within Pound Farm, with diverse aquatic and pond edge habitat that will add to the overall range of diverse habitats within the site.

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

Continue to develop pond verge/edge structure by increasing the percentage woody scrub and rough grass habitat. This will be achieved by increasing existing pond verge/edge scrub by allowing areas to develop naturally as woody scrub by increasing existing pond edge structure by 50%, through natural regeneration or if unsuccessful, planting.

Maintain fencing around pond that contains *Crassula helmsii* so it continues to be isolated from the general public or any other users that could potentially spread the invasive pond weed to the other ponds.

Work Programme.

Site manager annually check fencing remains intact and in good condition and order any required repairs.

2017 - Remove fence from around pond in the south east of the site that was originally erected to reduce dogs entering the pond.

5.6 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Access/Infrastructure

Accessibility is good in general terms across Pound Farm. There are 4 entrances, all with kissing gates and 1 with a surfaced car park with space for approximately 10 cars. The rides and walkways are on the whole wide, open and welcoming. Apart from a short section of surfaced path leading from the car park entrance down the main track the rest of the pathways are grassy and can become muddy during wet/winter weather. Three of the four entrances have ladder boards; one has a WT 'cheese board'. A public ROW runs through the site; the rest are permissive paths set out by the WT.

On arriving at the main entrance point with car park, the first impression is good. The fencing and signage is fairly new and in good repair and the car park looks tidy and well maintained, however there is no information on where to go or what the site has to offer visitors.

General communication drivers

Pound Farm is in a rural location, surrounded by agricultural land. As such, the only real feasible way of accessing the site is by car. Public transport is negligible; one bus route (62) operates along the B1119 but there is no stop close to the wood, and only one or two buses run on intermittent days. However, it is feasible that residents of Sweffling could access the site via the local footpath network

The closest villages of significance are Framlingham and Saxmundham. The nearest larger settlements are Stowmarket (20 miles), Woodbridge (11 miles) and Ipswich (20 miles).

The setting of Pound Farm means that there is very limited other accessible open space nearby. The site has a variety of habitats - ancient semi-natural woodland, new planting, ponds and grassland - meaning it also has a diversity of associated wildlife and an interesting landscape for visitors to explore.

Pound Farm is also being used a location for conducting trials around ash dieback, delivered by Forest Research; provenance trials are being undertaken on common ash to determine tolerance within the regional species provenances. Forest Research are also using Pound Farm for tolerance monitoring of ash within the wider environment. The wood also has links to nearby Queen Mary's Covert (an interpretation panel about this is present at the entrance from the B1119 and indicates a walk that can be taken that incorporates both pieces of woodland).

The table below lists other nearby nature reserves, managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the closest being Framlingham Mere. RSPB Minsmere is also only 12 miles away. The nearest Woodland Trust sites are Porters Wood, Hoggs Kiss Woods and Priestley Wood.

3.5 miles Framlingham Mere (Framlingham) IP13 9HW Suffolk Wildlife Trust With its surrounding wet meadows and ancient castle backdrop, the Mere at Framlingham is considered by many to be the best view in inland Suffolk.

8.9 miles Hazelwood Marshes (Aldeburgh) IP17 1PG Suffolk Wildlife Trust If there is a landscape that encapsulates dynamic and dramatic change, it is here on the edge lands of the Suffolk coast.

10 miles Sizewell Belts (Leiston, Saxmundham) IP16 4UP Suffolk Wildlife Trust Marsh, reed bed and wet woodland with adjacent heathland and beach - Sizewell Belts has just about everything!

12.7 miles Dingle Marshes (Dunwich, Southwold) IP17 3DZ Suffolk Wildlife Trust That spine-tingling experience of genuine wilderness is a pretty rare thing.

13.3 miles Winks Meadow (Metfield, Harelston) IP20 0JZ Suffolk Wildlife Trust Winks Meadow is rich in wild flowers. It supports a wide range of plants characteristic of ancient unimproved grassland including a number of species that are scarce in Suffolk such as: spiny retharrow, sulphur clover and quaking grass.

15.7 miles Mickfield Meadow (Mickfield, Stowmarket) IP14 5LN Suffolk Wildlife Trust Mickfield Meadow is a stunning flower-rich hay meadow that has never been sprayed or fertilised.

17.7 miles Simpson's Saltings (Colony, Woodbridge) IP12 3JW Suffolk Wildlife Trust Simpson's Saltings is one of the country's most important coastal sites for its wealth of uncommon coastal and saltmarsh plants.

22.6 miles Combs Wood (Combs Ford, Stowmarket) IP14 2EH Suffolk Wildlife Trust There is a sense that walking through Combs Wood is more about being led by curiosity rather than a path.

The current visitor offer at Pound Farm is very much in line with the Trust's original intention of creating places for quiet, informal recreation. It is a large tranquil sites, with the ability to accommodate reasonable visitor numbers without seeming busy. Although no information on visitors/visitor numbers is available, the main users of the site are dog walkers with a small number of families also visiting at weekends/school holidays.

Events

Pound Farm is currently not utilised for public community events. A significant barrier for event delivery is the limited car parking. There are no onsite facilities to support events, and no brand moments are delivered onsite. However, the site has been used for engaging with specific target audiences in the past, including an event for potential Treescape stakeholders in spring 2017, Woodland Trust legacy events, and various walks and talks about ash dieback.

Volunteering

There are no current volunteering opportunities associated with Pound Farm.

Schools

As far as we are aware, the site is not currently used by schools, but there are a number close by (although none within walking distance):

Framlingham College, Earl Soham Community Primary School, Saxmundham County Primary School

Framlingham College Junior School, Easton Pre-school, Saxmundham Free School

Thomas Mills High School, Easton Primary School, Benhall St Mary's CofE VC Primary School

Framlingham Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVA Primary School & Nursery, Kelsale Primary School

The exception to this is an annual visit by Framlingham College who use the wood for a geography field trip.

Wider community engagement

The nearby communities of Framlingham, Rendham and Saxmundham have a lively and diverse range of active community groups: <http://www.framlingham.com/clubs.php>; <http://www.saxmundham.org/sport/clubs.html>; <http://www.fromuscentre.org.uk/>. None of these groups currently link with the site in any way as far as we are aware, but there may be opportunities for some of them to do so in the future.

Significance

Of key importance when considering Pound Farm is its role in providing free, publicly accessible greenspace in what is otherwise a largely inaccessible agricultural landscape. Alongside this is its diversity of habitats, outlined earlier, which give rise to considerable wildlife interest. There are various notable bird and wildflower species on site, including nightingale, turtle doves, barn owl and pyramidal orchid; the ponds allow a range of dragon and damselflies to thrive, and the rides and grass walkways are perfect for butterflies during spring and summer. A stone's throw from Pound Farm is Queen Mary's Covert, which has some interesting historical significance. A suggested walking route currently links the two sites.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Access and Infrastructure

There are several simple actions that could be taken to improve the quality of visit at Pound Farm. Currently, there is no onsite interpretation or way-marking, which could be daunting for some first-time visitors. The site is large, and so the installation of a welcome/orientation point with a map and some basic site information at the main entrance from the car park would be greatly beneficial. In addition, it may be appropriate to consider implementing one/multiple way-marked trails to guide people around the site and highlight it's key features. (more detail on this can be found in the VB audit)

General Comms Drivers

Pound Farm is located in an area with a high tourism footfall. They may be scope to link in with this, to diversify our visitor base and raise awareness of the wood and the Woodland Trust within a wider sphere of people.

Events

Although Pound Farm itself would be suitable for a variety of events; family drop in sessions, community picnics, nature trails and guided walks for example, the limited amount of car parking would makes this challenging.

However, during the summer months the part of the meadow nearest the carpark is used for parking and greatly increases the amount of parking possible on site for events.

Volunteering

At some point, thinning works will need to be undertaken in certain part of the woodland; there may be opportunity for volunteers to support this work. Additionally, there may be scope to recruit Woodland Wardens at Pound Farm to act as an extended WT presence on site, engaging with visitors and reporting issues. It would also be good to promote our Talking Trees speaker scheme as there are so many local groups in the vicinity that may be interested in this type of outreach activity.

Schools

If a map is created for the wood, it would be worth some low-key promotion of Pound Farm to the most local schools, to raise awareness of the site both with the schools and the children/families. This could be linked in with the promotion of the GTSA. Self-led visits could be encouraged, although the creation of some Woodland Trust resources to help support this would greatly enhance this offer. The site would lend itself to activities such as sweep-netting, forest school activities and longer term if a pond-dipping platform were to be installed it could be a valuable learning resource.

The site manager would be very keen on using Pound farm as a school hub similar to that found at other sites such as Reffley wood. Ideally we would look at ways of funding informal play sessions/forest school sessions to schools within the regional area, and set up an FS area where schools can utilise the site as a free outdoor learning resource, linked to the development of wider site interpretation.

Wider community engagement

There may be opportunities to link in with local tourism promotional activity, as various networks are in existence. Local catering outlets, such as the Juniper Barn at Rendham may provide opportunities for cross promotion, and would be useful in terms of signposting people to the nearest refreshments and facilities.

Constraints:

Access and infrastructure

Due to the nature of the site, it is unlikely that it will ever be fully accessible for wheelchair users, although accessibility will be borne in mind whenever onsite infrastructure improvements are made, particularly with regard to gates and shorter trails.

General comms drivers

It's worth noting that mobile phone signal can be poor at Pound Farm. If any interpretation or resources were developed to be web-based, they would in all likelihood need to be downloaded prior to visiting.

Events

Any events delivered would need to coincide with the summer months when it is viable to use the additional meadow parking area, and would need to ensure that there isn't a detrimental effect on this habitat.

Volunteering

Staff capacity to manage and coordinate additional volunteers is an ongoing issue.

Schools

The lack of facilities will always be a limiting factor/barrier for some schools, along with transport costs for getting children to and from the wood.

Mobile toilets could be hired in blocks of time at relatively low cost to partially overcome this.

Wider community engagement

We need to be mindful how widely we promote the site due to its limited parking and subsequent limited ability to take significant increases in visitor numbers.

Factors Causing Change

It is worth noting that Pound Farm falls within the Eastern Claylands Treescape area. It is not known how this may impact on the site and any future work, but it is useful to be aware of. The Eastern Claylands will be a focus for WT activity in the region going forward, and although this will largely be regarding off estate work such as TOW, it may indirectly mean we start to utilise sites such as Pound Farm for supporting activities where feasible and appropriate.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Pound Farm will be the go-to place for people wanting to visit a high quality, accessible green space within the Framlingham/Saxmundham area. A diverse visitor base from local communities, along with a proportion of visiting tourists, will value its varied habitats, wildlife highlights and extensive, way-marked path network. Users will feel connected to the site and value it within the local landscape; exhibiting appropriate behaviours and encouraging others to the same. A small group of dedicated volunteers will act as Woodland Wardens, and also promote the wood and the Woodland Trust locally via the Talking Trees programme. School groups will use the site independently in small groups for a range of activities to help them learn about and understand woodland habitats and the natural world.

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

- Design, produce and install entrance and exit messaging at main car park entrance, and all other access points - appropriate to site and level of use August 2018
- Review and update online information about Pound Farm on the WT website (include downloadable map when produced, links to relevant pages such as Nature Detectives etc) August 2018
- Ensure boardwalks and bridges are in good repair - carry out maintenance work including replacing chicken wire with weldmesh August 2018
- Undertake a review of seating across the site; replace any benches that are reaching the end of their life span, and identify locations for additional seating - implement December 2018
- Design, produce and install a welcome/orientation point on arrival from the main car park entrance. To include a map of the site, basic info, and potentially flexible space to highlight seasonal information, changing WT messaging. This may include the creation of way-marked trails to aid orientation around the wood. August 2018
- Review existing gallows banners - decide if still appropriate - if so, look to have different sets of banners that can be rotated throughout year December 2018
- Once map is created, promote Pound Farm and GTSA to schools in the immediate vicinity June 2019
- Investigate feasibility of promotion of site through tourist network and local outlets, such as the Juniper Barn - draft action plan accordingly June 2019 (implementation of any action plan)

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	58.57	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	High forest		Informal Public Access, Pond	
<p>Native broadleaved woodland was planted in 1990 - 93 under the Farm Woodland Scheme and Woodland Grant Scheme. Species include pedunculate oak, ash, field maple, wild cherry, small-leaved lime, silver birch, Downy birch, alder, hornbeam, hazel, hawthorn, midland hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle and holly. The trees were planted in nine different stands according to soil types - ash-maple; hazel-ash; ash-lime; oak-lime; birch-oak; alder; hornbeam; oak pasture; hornbeam pasture. Trees were planted at 1100 per hectare and protected by spiral rabbit guards with a deer fence around the whole site. In 1997 and 1999 formative pruning was carried out. Wide rides were incorporated into the design and sown with a native grass mix (crested dog's tail, red fescue, meadow fescue, common bent, meadow foxtail, meadow barley, quaking grass) including 1% wildflowers (yarrow, black knapweed, ladies bedstraw, ox-eyed daisy, birds foot trefoil, ragged robin, ribwort plantain, primrose, cowslip, meadow buttercup, yellow rattle, sheep's sorrel, meadow saxifrage, white campion, betony).</p> <p>4,200 metres of hedging (70% hawthorn, 20 % blackthorn and 10% field maple, hazel, dogwood and spindle) were planted with protection and mulching around many of the compartment blocks. Four ponds are included in this compartment - one is an established pond and the other three have been dug out on the site of old ponds.</p>							
2a	4.56	Ash		High forest		Informal Public Access, Pond	
<p>Ancient woodland comprising ash, oak, field maple, sycamore, hazel, hawthorn and elder with dog's mercury as the dominant ground flora species. Broom Covert shows evidence of past coppicing and has a path running through it with a small bridge.</p>							
3a	26.59	Open ground	1990	Non-wood habitat	Legal issues	Informal Public Access, Pond	
<p>Meadows were planted with grass and 2% wildflower seed in 1992 under the Countryside Premium Scheme. The grass species include red fescue, smooth-stalked meadow grass, sheep's fescue, small-leaved Timothy and sweet vernal grass and the wildflowers include ox-eyed daisy, meadow buttercup, birds foot trefoil, salad burnet, black medick, ribwort plantain, selfheal and yarrow. They are now managed under MAFF's Habitat Scheme. For wildlife purposes some areas are cut and baled, others are cut biannually and others are left uncut. See Habitat scheme for management details. One restored pond is included in this compartment.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	2a	Thin	4.00	28	110
2019	1a	Thin	20.00	13	250
2021	1a	Thin	15.00	13	200

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.