



Joan's Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Joan's Wood
Location:	West Ness
Grid reference:	SE689791, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 100
Area:	0.47 hectares (1.16 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

The wood was gifted to the Trust in 1996. It is a small, level and almost rectangular site extending north/south alongside the road with pasture to the east. It is valued by locals for its role in conservation as the locality has lost many of its trees over the last century and little woodland remains. It therefore forms an integral part of the village landscape. There is a circular footpath following inside the site's perimeter, linking its three access points.

2.2 Extended Description

The wood was gifted to the Trust on the 27th March 1996 by Miss Joan Hebden, hence the woods name. The Wood is situated in the Vale of Pickering, alongside the River Rye, in the hamlet of West Ness. It is a small level almost rectangular site extending north/south alongside the road on its western and southern boundaries with pasture to the east.

The parish is predominantly composed of arable and pastureland and is located away from population centres and the main tourist routes. It is valued by locals for its role in conservation as the locality has lost many of its trees over the last century and little woodland remains. It therefore forms an integral part of the village landscape.

The Trust maintains a circular permissive path following inside the site's perimeter, internally linking its three access points. A little used public footpath to East Ness passes through the site's northern bounds. People visiting the district are predominantly attracted to the extensive path networks around Helmsley, Rievaulx and Castle Howard.

Joan's wood was previously used as a paddock. The surrounding landscape has lost many of its trees and woods in the last few years and it was the donor's wish to create a new and lasting wildlife refuge in their stead.

The improved pasture site previously grazed by sheep has very little floristic value comprising various grasses and buttercup species, yarrow, nettles, cow parsley, hogweed and herb Robert are also present. Soils are very rich and weed growth rampant. Since acquisition the site has been planted up to form an important small woodland wildlife refuge. The boundary hedgerows surrounding the site have been left to grow inwards and upwards and this together with the establishing woodland scrub form an excellent bird habitat with many tits and finches exploiting the berries, insect life and cover they provide. Species planted consist of oak (25%) ash (30%) and silver birch (15%) with the remainder being composed equally of hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan, goat willow and gean, some holly is also present in the north. A row of mature ash dominate the eastern boundary and are the oldest trees on site.

The site was planted up in 1996 with broadleaved tree and shrub species of 30-45cm stock in 70cm spiral guards or shrub shelters as appropriate at 3m spacing (1100 trees per hectare). Lower growing species were planted at the northern end of wood to retain views from the adjacent property. Access gates were installed in the same year at the south and north west of the site complete with welcome signs, beat up operations were conducted in 1999 and 2000.

The site is bounded to the north and north east by private residences, to the east by pasture and a road with a broad verge curls round the west and southern boundary. The site itself is completely surrounded by a dense thorn hedge. The trust owns all boundaries apart from the one to the north, which is maintained by the neighbour.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

Joan's Wood is on the south side of the hamlet of West Ness, itself located 8 miles WNW of Malton in the Vale of Pickering. The site is situated halfway along the country lane, which joins the B1257 at Slingsby and the A170 at Kirkbymoorside. The wood occupies a paddock on the inside of a bend in the road just south of West Ness. Management access is provided by a field gate fronting directly onto this road in the sites south east corner. A public footpath climbs 3 stone steps from the road to the sites north west corner and passes east across the site to exit via a stile. This path links in with public rights of way circumnavigating the hamlet and along the riverside.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

Access to the site is via 3 stone steps from the highway which leads to a pedestrian gate. The site is flat and contains a circular grass footpath of approximately 280m.

PARKING

Roadside parking.

PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles

BUS STOPS

Nearest bus stop to be confirmed.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intentions are to develop a broadleaved high forest of predominantly native species. The management regime would be minimal intervention allowing natural processes to gradually develop a more diverse age structure as trees are lost through senescence and replaced through natural regeneration.

Public access will be maintained along a circular permissive path.

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 Trust maintains a circular permissive path following inside the site's perimeter to link in with three access points and the public footpath that crosses inside its northern boundary. Access points in the north serving the footpath include the main public access in the north west corner, a swing gate that leads to the road down a flight of three stone steps, and a stile in the north east corner that then leads through several adjacent smallholdings. A further access to the south also serves as the main management access, with a field gate on the Trust's boundary, which is set well back into a deep verge. A swing gate alongside provides pedestrian access at this point. All access points have welcome signage.

Significance

Increasing peoples awareness and enjoyment of woods is a Trust objective and although only important on a local scale in this instance - being small and unlikely to draw in visitors - it is important in a local context having specific meaning to the small community.

Opportunities & Constraints

This is a small site, relatively isolated from other Trust properties and neighbouring woodland. The footpaths around West Ness are little used being isolated from the rest of the regions right of way network. People visiting the district are predominantly attracted to the extensive path networks around Helmsley, Rievaulx and Castle Howard. The site has good access to the road network to facilitate management and it might be possible to extend the woods to the east in future years.

Factors Causing Change

Increase or decrease of public use.

Short term disruption due to ash dieback and the need to remove ash trees over the footpaths.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain easy, informal public access to a clean and safe standard.

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

Access and signage will be maintained from 2 entrance points and one management access point. A 300m circular path will be maintained and safety surveys undertaken at regular intervals.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

A woodland site planted on the rich, moist improved pasture land of the River Rye's flood plain. The site was planted up in 1996 mainly with an ash, oak and birch mix to simulate a lowland mixed broadleaved woodland equivalent to a type 8 woodland following the national vegetation classification system. Species present were planted in a random order at 1100pph. hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan, goat willow, gean, and some holly have been incorporated into the planting mix with a border of shrubs towards the northern/hamlet-end of the site. Boundary hedgerows surrounding the site on all sides contain remnant woodland flora and have been allowed to grow inwards and upwards (apart from the one to the north). The scrub habitat across the site provides an excellent bird habitat attracted relatively large populations of tits and finches thriving on the berries, insect life and cover that the woodland scrub has so far offered. The shrubs bordering the north of the site provide a means to retain and develop this aspect of woodland habitat. A row of mature ash trees emerging from the eastern hedgerow are the oldest trees on site and contribute an element of deadwood habitat which further adds to the sites habitat diversity.

Significance

The site is valued by locals as a lasting new wildlife refuge to replace some of the region's woodland, much of which has been lost over the last century. Nationally it is recognised that many such woodlands neighbour conurbations and are subjected to associated recreational pressures. This wood located in an area where tourism is channelled elsewhere and so is not subject to these pressures, provides an ideal opportunity for development as a wildlife haven. Joan's wood serves the Trust's objective for increasing new native woodland whilst addressing residents concerns over restoring and improving local biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site has very good links to the road network which facilitates management activities however it is a small site, relatively isolated from other Trust properties and neighbouring woodland. Smallholdings to the east might present the possibility of future woodland expansion. Tree safety measures will need to be applied across the whole site as it neighbours both the road and private residences to the north. The site located off the tourism routes is less prone to recreational pressures than other similar woodland and would best serve as a wildlife haven in this sparsely wooded region.

Factors Causing Change

Main potential change to the site is the impact of ash dieback and the loss of a high percentage of young and mature trees. However, significant trees would be retained sufficient to maintain a woodland without the need to replant.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish and create a lowland mixed broadleaved woodland stand of predominantly native species which can be promoted to and maintained as an uneven aged high forest.

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

No further maintenance work is required to the trees and shrubs and only minor pruning work will be required to maintain clearance to the footpaths. The boundary hedge will also only require minor pruning where it adjoins the access point and footpaths.

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	0.46	Mixed broadleaves	1996	High forest	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

A woodland creation site planted in 1997 on the rich, moist improved pasture land of the River Rye's flood plain. Planted mainly with an ash, oak and birch mix to simulate a lowland mixed broadleaved woodland (W8). Species present have been planted in a random order at 1100pph. hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan, goat willow, gean, and some holly have been incorporated into the planting mix with a border of shrubs towards the northern/hamlet-end of the site to serve conservation objectives and provide views into the wood. Boundary hedgerows surrounding the site on all sides have been allowed to grow inwards and upwards (apart from the one to the north) to further the woodlands value as a wildlife habitat. 10 gean - marked with posts - have been planted along the western boundary in memory of the donor's relatives and a row of mature ash trees set within the eastern hedgerow are the oldest trees on site.

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.