



Callands Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
10. Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Callands Wood
Location:	Warrington
Grid reference:	SJ581905, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 108
Area:	1.02 hectares (2.52 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A very small isolated block of old farm woodland with a mix of broadleaved species and with no formal public access into the wood. The woodland is becoming surrounded by new housing developments.

2.2 Extended Description

Callands Wood is a very small (1ha) woodland in the Westbrook area of north-west Warrington close to the junction of Cromwell Avenue and Westbrook Way. The site is flat and is situated in a flat low-lying landscape which makes the woodland a visible landscape and amenity feature. The surrounding land use is intensively urban with roads, a local shopping centre, new housing and office developments very close to the woodland. The southern boundary of the wood is adjacent to Westbrook Way with new housing being built adjacent to the northern and western boundaries, and further development planned next to the eastern boundary.

The site was formerly a farm woodland and was purchased by the Commission for the New Towns (CNT) in the early 1980's and then gifted to the Woodland Trust in September 1995 along with a number of other small woodlands in the area. It is secondary woodland, predominantly of mature English oak, with a mixture of sycamore, alder carr, thorn spinney, and ash. The under storey in the mature canopy is abundant and includes natural regenerating hawthorn, sycamore, and alder with under planted wild cherry, small leaved lime, field maple, rowan, yew, hazel, and goat willow.

An old drainage ditch, now dry, winds through the site from west to east. There are the remnants of two ponds, but these had been heavily silted and have now dried out and become alder carr.

There are currently no maintained paths or formal entrance points to Callands Wood, however there is informal public access into the wood from along its boundaries, the main restrictions being the density of vegetation encountered in some areas, and the deeply cut stream that runs west to east across the wood. The wood is subject to regular problems of misuse, including unauthorised tree felling and damage to trees, fires and dumping of rubbish.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Callands Wood is adjacent to Westbrook Way in the Westbrook suburb of Warrington.

There is no parking at the wood although parking is available on nearby roads or at the Westbrook local shopping centre, which is less than 5 minutes walk from the wood.

The nearest bus stops are on Cromwell Avenue near to the Westbrook shopping centre. For more information on the bus routes and location of bus stops visit the traveline website <http://www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm>

The closest available public toilets would be at the Westbrook shopping centre.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention is to manage Callands Wood as a high forest canopy of mixed native broadleaves providing a landscape feature and amenity to the local population, and ensuring the continuity of woodland habitat as an integral part of the wider ecological landscape of the area.

Management objectives will aim to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. Public safety, landscape and conservation will be the key drivers for woodland management work. The impact of the new developments adjacent to the wood may require intervention to promote stand stability for long term tree safety. Where safe to do so we will retain older trees as long as possible to encourage the development of veterans and the decline of mature trees will be allowed to develop naturally. Gaps created by trees gradually reaching senescence, or by trees being felled for safety reasons will create opportunities for natural regeneration and structural change

Whilst currently there is no formal public access the long term intention is to provide two formal entrance points and have a maintained footpath to enable more people to enjoy the woodland. By encouraging more people to visit the wood this will hopefully help to reduce the current problems with misuse and anti-social behaviour issues. The wood will be made as safe as practicable for visitors through regular safety inspections, and corresponding remedial work.

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

Callands Wood has no formal paths or entrances, but public access can be gained at several points along its boundaries, with the main restrictions being the density and nature of vegetation encountered, and the deep ditch that runs west to east through the wood. It lies adjacent to Westbrook Way which is a busy local route and the woodland helps to soften the backdrop of the increasingly urban landscape. New housing is being built to the west and north of the wood, with unmanaged grassland to the east which is earmarked for future development.

Significance

Whilst no formal access routes currently exist in the woodland the public are permitted to access Callands Wood for informal recreation. Increasing access and enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes and Callands Wood provides this opportunity for residents in the local area. It also provides a public amenity and landscape feature in the area and acts as a buffer from light, noise and exhaust pollution to local residents of the new housing development.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: The very small size of the wood limits opportunities for any significant increase in public access without damaging the woodland.

Lack of parking and access to the woodland will limit the number of people who will use the wood.

Opportunities: Development of the land around the woodland may provide the opportunity to create some limited formal public access to the woodland, thus creating a place for local people to visit and enjoy.

By encouraging more people to use the site and involving the local community it may help to reduce the problems on site with misuse and anti-social behaviour.

Factors Causing Change

The site suffers regularly from misuse including vandalism, damage to trees, fires and litter/ rubbish being dumped.

Development of the adjacent green spaces for housing will increase public access pressure to use the woodland which could cause more damage to ground flora, vegetation and trees, and may lead to increased vandalism and other anti-social behaviour.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term intention is to provide low key public access with formal entrance points and footpath to encourage more local people to enjoy the woodland. Guided by the parameters set out in the Woodland Trust's woodland management principles and access policy, management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The wood will be made as safe as practicable for visitors and neighbours through regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones, site hazards and access furniture.

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

During the short term the aim is to improve access for visitors & management access and to monitor public usage and any significant threats to the wood arising from public use/ misuse. To achieve this the short term objectives will be:

1. To create a new formal public access and management access point into the wood from the new housing development.
2. To undertake regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones (e.g. the edges of the roads, next to houses and along the footpath) and inspections of site hazards to ensure the wood is as safe as possible for visitors, neighbours and road users.
3. To monitor public access and usage once during this plan period to assess whether the access provision is adequate and to determine if there are any threats to the wood from public usage. Appropriate measures to reduce any recorded threats will be undertaken.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Callands Wood includes areas of mature and young canopy, thorn scrub, and an abundant underplanted and natural understorey with oak, field maple, lime, rowan, sycamore, yew, hawthorn, wild cherry and hazel. There are a number of trees that have been vandalised and damaged. Much of the woodland floor is shaded resulting in areas of bare ground with a relatively sparse ground flora. Two former ponds in the centre of the wood have succeeded to alder carr which lie alongside a deep old drainage ditch that winds its way from west to southeast through the wood.

Significance

The wood is a visible landscape feature in the increasingly urban setting and is one of several woodlands owned by the Woodland Trust locally. It contributes towards the ecological value of the wider area and provides an important woodland habitat for a variety of mammals, birds and other wildlife. It also provides people with the chance to enjoy nature close to where they live.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Management operations will generally be on a small scale reflecting the small size of the wood.

The urban location and nature of the wood makes access difficult which can be a constraint to the level of management operations.

Opportunities: Under planting in the mid-late 1980s has created a good structural variety and understorey and through appropriate management, this will allow for a diverse mixed canopy structure and continuity of a graded woodland edge.

Factors Causing Change

Misuse and vandalism is causing damage and loss of trees.

Development of the adjoining land will increase use of the wood, which may have further negative human impacts.

Low levels of squirrel damage and rabbit browsing is occurring, but this is not having a significant impact at present.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure the continuity of a high forest of mixed native broadleaves with a diverse structure in terms of species composition, age and size classes. Where safe to do so the development of stand structure, species mixture and the rise and decline of mature trees will be allowed to develop naturally. Public safety and amenity will be the key drivers for woodland operations, and will provide opportunities for natural regeneration of desirable species to develop as future canopy trees and to encourage the development of woodland ground flora.

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

During the short term the aim is to diversify and enhance the structural diversity of the woodland through active silvicultural management. To achieve this the short term objectives will be:

1. to create gaps in the canopy to encourage natural regeneration and ground flora cover and increase visibility into the wood through thinning and coppicing work during 2017-19.
2. to maintain a graded woodland edge, particularly adjacent to Westbrook Way and the new housing development through coppicing work during 2017/18.
3. to undertake regular tree safety inspections as per the Woodland Trust's SRA schedule and carry out any identified safety work.
4. to carry out a woodland condition assessment towards the end of the plan period to monitor the health and resilience of the woodland and identify any threats from tree disease, pests, mammals or people.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.02	Oak (pedunculate)	1980	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest

The northern half of the site is dominated by a mature canopy comprising of pedunculate oak and sycamore. The understorey comprises of hawthorn, elder and sycamore, wild cherry, small leaved lime, field maple, rowan, yew and hazel forming a dense and diverse understorey. The southern half of the site comprises of a complex mixture of alder, thorn, rose, hazel, larch, pine, wild cherry, field maple, and guelder rose, willow, hawthorn, and alder stands sandwiched between the mature canopy. Ground and shrub layer flora includes lesser celandine, a variety of ferns and mosses, dog rose, bramble, and grasses.

The boundary to the north is defined by a post and rail fence, to the west and east by old fence posts line with hawthorn hedge and a slight bund, and the southern boundary starts after a 5m service strip off Westbrook Way. An old stream channel (now dry) runs from west to east through the centre of the wood. There are no paths through the wood.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	1a	Selective Fell	1.02	3	3
2022	1a	Ride edge Coppice	1.02	3	3
2024	1a	Coppice	0.16	3	0.5

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 on all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.