WOODLAND TRUST

Little Wold Plantation

Management Plan 2015-2020

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Little Wold Plantation
Location:	South Cave
Grid reference:	SE931323, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 106
Area:	5.10 hectares (12.60 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value, Local Nature Site, Tree Preservation Order, Wolds Way Footpath

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Situated on the edge of the Wolds, commanding long distant views across the Vale of York and across the Humber estuary to North Lincolnshire. Rich in birdlife, the wood also supports large colonies of deadly nightshade, rare in this region.

2.2 Extended Description

The site was acquired by The Woodland Trust on the 4th May 1994 with contributions to its purchase from South Cave Town Council, of £13,100 which included £10,000 from Persimmon Homes as requirement of a planning condition for building in the town. A sum of £5,000 was from local fund-raising. The wood commands an elevated position on the southern edge of a ridge and is a prominent landscape feature visible from South Cave town and long distant views from the surrounding area. The gentle south-facing slope within the wood links to a large arable field to the south and a wide dry valley. The surrounding in a predominately agricultural landscape. The surrounding area is fairly typical of the Yorkshire Wold's chalkland landscape, which has been designated by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council as an Area of High Landscape Value.

Little Wold Plantation is attractive mature woodland of mainly beech and ash, with a small percentage of sycamore. One of the more noticeable features is the extensive amount of natural regeneration of ash and beech which dominates the under storey. The wood contains few shrub species and the ground flora is poor with Ivy covering much of the ground in the more shaded areas dominated by beech.

Little information is currently available on the history of the woodland. The wood was felled in the 1920’s and replanted with beech. It was last thinned in 2005, after a quite major thinning undertaken in 1988 (prior to Woodland Trust ownership) with further thinning or re-spacing of the regeneration undertaken in 1998, 2002 and 2003.

The wood is well used by local walkers as can be judged by the wear on the circular footpath. Along the southern boundary of the woodland is a bridleway which forms a section of the popular Wolds Way long distance footpath.

The wood is reported to have a rich bird life, but no detailed survey information is currently available.

Large colonies of deadly nightshade grow within the woodland. This is locally rare and even less common in such dense colonies.

Adjoining the northern boundary of the woodland are three narrow shelterbelt woodlands which run at right angles from Little Wold Plantation. These were no doubt planted, as phased screening for the limestone quarry which is still active. An environmental statement was undertaken for an extension to the quarry by Kilvers Minerals and Waste Disposal Planning Consultancy in 1993. The survey revealed that the proposal would have only a slight influence on the fauna and flora within Little Wold Plantation. Arable land borders the woodland along the southern and western boundaries.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE
Little Wold Plantation is situated approximately 0.5 miles from the village of South Cave in East Yorkshire. Access to the woodland is via Little Wold Lane which is situated on the edge of the village, off the main South Cave to Beverley Road. Follow Little Wold Lane from Beverley Road for about 500m. The lane is initially tarmac surfaced and from a set of bollards approximately half way the road has a gravel surface. It is a long, and moderately steep gradient for the entire distance.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS
The wood is exceptionally well used by local people. The Wolds Way long distance national footpath runs through the wood on a bridleway that follows the southern boundary, which then links to Swinescaif Road to the North West. A short (900m) circular permissive path has also been created within the woodland; this is not surfaced but does allow visitors to deviate from the Public Bridleway through the wood on short or longer loops.

PARKING
Parking to access the woodland is limited at the bottom of Little Wold Lane, but better parking is available within the centre of South Cave, approximately 800m away.

PUBLIC TOILETS
No public toilets known within 5 miles.

BUS STOPS
South Cave, with the nearest bus stop in the centre of the village.

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 natural climax woodland species for this area of the Yorkshire Wold's is predominantly ash. Whilst the current woodland canopy is mainly beech, ash regeneration is extensive throughout the woodland. Given the exposed position of the woodland on the escarpment edge of the Wolds, it is likely that thinning work will be required to maintain stand stability. The long-term intention is therefore undertake thinning work to favour the ash and the developing ash regeneration, gradually decreasing the predominance of beech. The long term intention was therefore to revert the wood back to predominantly ash high forest. However, the current 2015 concerns over ash dieback could threaten that long term aim.

The current policy is therefore to thin the wood to maintain wind firmness but to review the long term species selection when further details of the spread and impact of ash dieback is known.

The existing network of paths will be maintained by routine maintenance to support the level of public use of the site, which is not expected to change greatly from current levels.

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 Wolds Way long distance footpath runs through the wood on a bridleway that follows the southern boundary. Attractive views across the landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds and across to the Humber estuary are available at certain points. A short circular permissive path has also been created within the woodland that runs just within the perimeter of the woodland. One path dissects the path at approximately the halfway point through the wood.

Significance

The footpaths provide a popular woodland walk for locals of the village of South Cave as well as walkers along the' Wolds Way' long distance national footpath. Being a bridleway the track is available for use by horses and cycle riders.

Opportunities & Constraints

The footpaths are in generally good condition and are very well used throughout the year. The views to the south, from the bridleway could be improved by creating a few more openings or removing low branches from selected trees, but there is little scope for increasing the footpath network within the woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Damage to paths by horses, Windblown trees blocking paths, Invasive Sycamore, Tree growth blocking views from view points

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the bridleway and circular footpaths within the wood to existing standards.

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

Maintain the footpaths and bridleway extending to 1.5km by cutting back encroaching vegetation. To select of a small number of view points along the southern boundary and maintain clear views from them. This work can be done annually on at least one occasion through the year.

5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

The woodland is predominately mature beech, (planted 1920's), with a small percentage of ash and sycamore. An under-storey exists of mainly natural regeneration, of ash, sycamore and beech. Some shrub under-story does exist including elderberry, holly and bramble. The wood contains areas of deadly nightshade (Atropa bella-donna), which is locally rare. The natural regeneration of ash provides the potential to develop the site as natural secondary woodland which would probably have been the natural climax woodland type for this area.

Significance

The local Wolds landscape contains few woods, which comprise of whole native species. Many are mixtures of beech, sycamore and ash with some containing conifer species such as larch. To establish a natural secondary woodland would be rare in this area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity arises through the extensive natural regeneration to create native ash woodland, of a type suitable for its situation. The high percentage of mature beech, and natural regeneration of both beech and sycamore, will require careful long-term management in the form of repeated thinning and selection of regeneration to ensure that the end objective is achieved. However, the spread of ash dieback could threaten this objective and depending on the outcome of the disease the wood may be managed as either a beech woodland or a beech wood with enrichment planting undertaken to diversify the species.
There is the potential for economically viable timber production through thinning. However, fluctuations in timber prices could affect timing of timber operations and the sloping ground and heavy clay soils make extraction difficult in wet weather.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Sycamore, Invasive Beech, Squirrel Damage, Deer Damage, Rabbit Damage, Frequent Wind Damage, Ash dieback disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a high forest with mixed broadleaved species, a diverse age class structure with a mixture of under storey shrubs and ground flora.

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

To maintain the stability of the stand through small scale selective thinning operations. This will have the added advantage of encouraging the development of natural regeneration and helping to create a more diverse age structure. One thinning operation to be undertaken during the plan period of 2015 to 2020.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	5.10	Beech	1930	High forest		Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	Area of Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Order
The woodland is predominately mature beech with a small percentage of ash and sycamore. An under storey of ash, sycamore and beech seedlings developed from natural regeneration. Some shrub under storey does exist including elder and holly, but limited to a small percentage of the wood. The wood contains areas of deadly nightshade (Atropa bella-donna), which is locally rare. The natural regeneration of ash provides the potential to develop the site as natural secondary woodland, but concerns over the impact of ash dieback may impact on the natural development of the ash regeneration.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2015	1a	Thin	5.10	43	218

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.