



Newstead Priory 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Newstead Priory Wood
Location:	Ravenshead
Grid reference:	SK541552, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 120
Area:	5.92 hectares (14.63 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Peaceful site nestled between a small town and farmland. Newly planted woodland and semi-mature pine wood provide different areas of interest throughout the site.

2.2 Extended Description

Newstead Priory Wood is on the edge of Ravenshead, to the north of Nottingham, and approximately 5 miles from Mansfield. It lies within grounds that were formally attached to Newstead Priory, and more recently Newstead Hospital. A new housing estate has now replaced the former hospital and the wood sits next to this community. It lies within the Greenwood Community Forest area.

It is a small wood of just under 6 hectares and the largest component of it is a mixed broadleaved plantation created in 1998, with the major species being oak and birch. The wood also contains several blocks of Scots pine, which pre-date the more recent planting and which were associated with the former hospital grounds. Other species present in the wood include hazel, cherry, sycamore and rowan. Before its' creation, the local community were consulted and inputted ideas into the design for the new wood.

The wood is well used by the local community, especially as an area for short dog walks, and there is a good network of paths and entrance points. A series of wide rides have been built into the design of the wood, and these add interest for visitors, as well as keeping service routes and an historic track-way clear of trees.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Access to the two main sections of the woodland can be gained from High Leys Drive, Ravenshead, via squeeze gaps. Limited parking is available along this quiet road. The wood can also be accessed via the public footpath that enters the site via a small gate in the far south east corner.

The wood is effectively split into 4 blocks. No formal paths exist around the smaller northern blocks but circular paths are maintained for public access around both of the southern ones. Welcome signage is maintained at all 3 main entrances. All paths are un-surfaced, which may limit access for some users. However, the terrain is fairly flat across the site.

The nearest bus stop is situated on Kirkby Road B6020, and there is a train station at Kirkby-in-Ashfield approximately 3 miles away. For bus and other travel information please see the traveline website www.traveline.org.uk or contact 0871 200 22 33.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The main broadleaved plantation will be allowed to reach maturity and will gradually develop the characteristics of more naturally occurring woodland, as opposed to a plantation of single aged trees. For this reason some silvicultural management will take place periodically to ensure the wood is diverse in tree species and structure, with a good mixture of both young and mature trees being present. This will enable the wood to be more resilient to change in the future, and will ensure it supports the greatest range of associated wildlife. Scots pine will occupy no more than 20% of the tree mix in the original conifer blocks, with the rest being native broadleaf trees, and these compartments of the wood will also be diverse in tree species and structure. Silvicultural intervention will take place periodically to ensure the Scots pine blocks are converted to a more diverse composition over time. The process of gradually converting the conifer blocks is likely to take until 2050.

Open rides will also remain and be managed within the woodland matrix.

A good standard of access provision will be maintained at the wood. The path network will be kept open for use and the entrances will be accessible and clearly signed. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones.

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 Secondary Woodland

Description

The majority of the wood (4.3ha) is an established broadleaved plantation created in 1998. The main species are oak (40%) and silver birch (20%). Other species include rowan, wild cherry, hazel, hawthorn, crab apple and holly. Two blocks of Scots pine are also present, totalling 1.3ha. These derive from the 1960's and are covered by a Tree Preservation Order. The structure of the broadleaved plantation is currently quite diverse, and is an intimate mixture of tree and shrub species. The pine plantation is much more even aged and less diverse in species, with only a small percentage of elder and sycamore being present alongside the Scots pine.

The soil type is light and sandy and due to the age of the wood the range of flora is presently quite narrow. Bramble is dominant beneath the pines. In the broadleaf areas the ground cover is more of a mixture of grasses, ferns and bramble. There are also patches of rhododendron ponticum present beneath the pine plantation. Several wide grassy rides are present, most notably in the southwest quadrant, which also have underlying archaeology (old track-ways).

Significance

The wood provides screening and buffering for the community living to the south, and also connects to other woodland in the landscape to the east and west. It falls within the Greenwood Community Forest, which is identified nationally as an area requiring additional woodland planting due to the pressures of development.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is the opportunity to add greater diversity of structure and species to the Scots pine plantation through silvicultural management.

Factors Causing Change

Tree damage by deer and squirrels may become a problem in the future.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a mature broadleaved wood which is diverse in tree species and in structure, enabling it to be resilient to change and to support the greatest abundance of associated wildlife. On the whole the wood will be composed of native broadleaved species but there will be an element of Scots pine present. The percentage of pine will be no more than 20% in areas of the wood where it has been formerly planted. An element of open space will exist within the woodland complex, namely wide sunny rides. There will be no foreign invasive species present, in particular rhododendron ponticum will have been eradicated.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to continue a minimum intervention approach, and undertake a follow up woodland condition assessment in 2021. Following this assessment will begin the process of making the wood more diverse in structure and species, to improve its resilience and wildlife value, and to maintain open habitat. This will be achieved by:

- Carrying out approximately 5.6ha a silvicultural thinning in compartments 1a and 1b in 2025.

Approximately 20% of the pines will be removed with the aim of promoting the development and regeneration of native broadleaves within the stand. A first thin of the broadleaves will be undertaken (firewood or chip).

Path edges and the woodland edge will be more heavily thinned to reduce the future tree safety risk and to improve woodland edge habitat.

- Controlling *Rhododendron ponticum* annually until it is eradicated. The use of chemical herbicide will be employed to achieve this.

- Carrying out annual management of the wide ride in the southwest quadrant of the wood to add habitat diversity to the wood. The ride will be managed to a sinuous width of 10m along a length of approximately 125m.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The wood has two circular path routes through the two main blocks of woodland. There are two main entrances off High Leys Drive and a further one from the public footpath in the Southeast corner, all of which are well signed. The public footpath continues along the eastern boundary. In total there is just over 1km of managed paths. The wood is right next to a small community, just to the south and further along High Leys Drive, and they are likely to be the main users of the wood. The ground is fairly level around most of the site but all paths are un-surfaced. No formal managed paths exist in the northern blocks. Some of the paths open out into wide rides, especially in the southwest of the wood, and this offers landscape views of the surrounding countryside. Parts of the path network follow the line of overhead electricity cables and in places the path is owned by the electricity company (Western Power), but shared use has been agreed. The Trust has given this wood a Category B for access provision, which equates to: a site with regular usage, with 5 - 15 people using one entrance per day.

Significance

The wood provides a quiet area for informal recreation - especially suitable for the local community living just to the south of the wood.

Opportunities & Constraints

Car parking is limited, and restricted to the roadside along High Leys Drive. The site falls within the Greenwood Community Forest, raising the opportunity for promotion. However the relative small size of the wood and the limited car parking availability mean that Newstead Priory Wood will remain a place frequented by local visitors only.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Access facilities will, on the whole, be low key and appropriate for this small locally visited site. However a good standard of access provision will be maintained at the wood: a path network will be kept open for use and the main entrances will be accessible and clearly signed. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors and neighbours, especially through regular tree safety inspections.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to provide low key public access which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:

- Carrying out annual management of the main paths, a total of approx 1km.
- Improving the 'welcome' to the wood by renewing all signage at the entrances in 2017.
- Conducting an annual tree safety survey along high risk zones (eg adjacent to properties).

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	4.30	Oak (pedunculate)	1998	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest
<p>A broadleaved plantation created in 1998 and split into 4 separate blocks over the site. The main species are oak (40%) and silver birch (20%). Other species include: rowan, crab apple, cherry, holly, hawthorn, hazel, guelder rose and elder.</p>							
2a	1.30	Scots pine	1962	High forest	Legal issues, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Two blocks of semi-mature Scots pine planted in 1962, and separated by High Leys Drive. Minor component of sycamore and elder present. This compartment is part of the former grounds of Newstead Hospital.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	2a	Thin	1.30	62	80

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.