



Orton Longueville

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Orton Longueville
Location:	Orton Longueville
Grid reference:	TL161962, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 142
Area:	8.08 hectares (19.97 acres)
Designations:	Conservation Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Noted for the wide avenue of Wellingtonia, Orton Longueville Wood sits in the grounds of what was Orton Hall, now a hotel. Planted in the 19th century, it is largely made up of native trees and shrubs. The pond is home to great crested newts.

2.2 Extended Description

Orton Longueville Wood is a valuable site for amenity use being within easy reach of several large residential areas and adjoining a large school. Access to into the wood is easy, as most of the southern boundary and large parts on the northern end of the wood have no barriers, the rest is bounded by private gardens or security fencing around the school boundaries. It is also a conspicuous landscape feature not least because of the avenue of large Wellingtonias, which dominate the southern arm of the wood (planted between 1859 and 1861). It is almost the only area of mature woodland in the City of Peterborough south of the River Nene and for that reason is an important wildlife resource.

The Wood was planted out as a landscaped park associated with nearby Orton Hall, the grounds were redesigned in the 19th century, although this area had been wood pasture/hedged grassland for many centuries previous to this- the hall dates from the 12th century, there is at least one remaining old oak in the wood which could be a last vestige from this era, as well as a substantial horse chestnut on the school boundary which can't be much younger. It is believed that most of the planting was carried out under the orders of the 10th Marquis of Huntly, who introduced many of the specimen exotic trees still present in the wood.

Actively managed until the decline of the estate at around the time of the First World War, the wood thereafter fell into dereliction. After the Second World War the wood came to be owned by the local authority. Since that time the surrounding land has become extensively developed as part of the city of Peterborough, with school, housing areas and roads being added.

In vegetation terms what exists today is therefore an amalgamation of the influences of the original wood-pasture/grassland/hedgerow flora, extensive introductions of trees/ shrubs and ground flora species both by natural colonisation and by deliberate planting over the years. Finally, the most recent influences include public use and gardens abutting the sits, allowing in inadvertent introduction of other exotic garden species.

Broadly speaking therefore, the wood is a plantation with relatively recent natural influences. It is all high forest in structure, but due to the unusual narrow L shape, has retained open ground species in the under storey and ground flora layers where sunlight filters in from the long wood edges. Extremely diverse in woody species there are 16 tree species and 11 varieties of shrub. No one species is dominant but there is evidence of sycamore colonisation in some areas.

There is one large pond, which has in the past been found to contain frogs, newts and several interesting water beetles.

Other species recorded in the wood give a good indication of its wildlife value: - breeding Tawny owl, Sparrow hawk all three woodpeckers, Tree creepers and Nuthatch there is also a small rookery in the centre of the wood

The key feature for this site are:

- Informal Public access
- Planted secondary woodland

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

A public footpath runs adjacent to the southern boundary. The wood is accessible from several public roads. Parking on Lady Lodge Drive or in Orton Longueville village. The whole site is generally level with the main route east west path running down the Wellingtonia avenue hard surface. Public toilets with full facilities are available at Orton Mere, Nene Valley railway station, 8am > 5pm. Regular bus services run along the A605 and Lady Lodge Drive, ring the Traveline on 08716082608 or visit www.traveline.org.uk for times. There is also a mainline train station in the city centre approx 2.5miles from the wood

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The overall intention is to manage the woodland as a landscape and amenity feature with a range of native and exotic species present. The Wellingtonia in the avenue are to be retained for as long as possible, whilst not compromising safety of users. While wellingtonia are the preferred species from a historic perspective, alternative species will be accepted should the long term establishment of wellingtonia prove unviable. The rest of the wood's feature trees will be retained as long as possible unless it compromises safety to wood users or neighbours and replaced if required.

The remainder of the wood is to be managed as a high forest comprising of a wide range of specs and age classes. Recruitment of new trees will be through natural regeneration, stimulated by the narrow character of the site combined with a robust approach to tree safety which will permit appropriate light levels to the forest floor, without promoting excessive growth of less favourable species, such as bramble & Snow berry. Deadwood will also be retained both standing and fallen wherever it is safe to do so.

Visitor access provision is to be maintained at appropriate levels for usage and carrying capacity. Ensuring the site is welcoming and inviting to a wide range of local visitors.

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

An interesting mixture of exotic and native trees and shrubs. With a relatively diverse structure of high canopy and small areas of understory, colourful ground flora includes winter aconite, bluebell, snowdrop and wild garlic amongst others. A notable feature being a long avenue of Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) some 700m in length which forms the centrepiece of the original 1850's planting, locally known as the Long walk. The site contains one permanent pond and several temporary ponds and ditches as well as some areas of open space in the form of paths and small glades.

Significance

A mature secondary woodland plantation, with some ancient woodland characteristics. Orton Longueville wood is relatively large by local standards, and for Cambridgeshire in general. A key local amenity woodland, as well as a prominent landscape feature, recognised by the local authority who have included the site in "Orton Longville" conservation area. Several recent and historic records show significant Bat activity within the site given its urban location. Great crested Newts are also known to be in the pond and surrounding areas.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

Soil erosion and trampling from foot traffic

Close proximity of houses and all weather traffic routes (tree safety considerations)

Antisocial behaviour - (vandalism, litter, fly-tipping, setting fires, motorbikes & building of substantial structures.)

Opportunities

Large population in proximity

Easy access for all

Close proximity to school and other educational facilities.

Factors Causing Change

Sycamore regeneration

Over mature canopy species

Tree disease (+wider effects of climate change)

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain a resilient woodland structure, comprising several canopy species and a variety of age classes including veteran standards. Retains as much as possible the influences of the wood's past, including specimen exotic and native trees, natural colonisation of plant and animal species and dead wood. Limit invasive species which threaten the diversity of the woodland makeup.

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

Gradual move towards robust woodland structure through removal of weakest (diseased, damaged or defective) stems by continuing a robust approach to tree safety. However, standing deadwood and veteran standards should be retained as long as possible where safe to do so. Removal of trees which could reasonably be considered a risk to the public will be identified by site manager following annual zone A visual inspections and biennial inspections for zone B.

Retain open water in the pond and clear of debris and overhanging vegetation as required following biennial inspection.

General tree health and condition will be monitored at least every 5 years through woodland condition assessment, and through routine tree safety inspections.

Where there is opportunity to work with local Bat groups, installation of bat boxes should be considered to maximise roosting opportunities and gain a deeper understanding of the species using the site.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The wood is used extensively by many people living nearby and by children walking to and from school. Generally speaking the wood is regarded as an asset to the local area for its wildlife interest and as a place to take a quiet walk away from the traffic. Several local residents carry out un-tasked volunteer activities within the site, predominantly picking up litter. Though no formal group is registered with the Woodland Trust. The local school also carry out regular litter picking activities.

Significance

Although Peterborough has a significant proportion of parkland and open space, very little of it is mature woodland which is accessible to all. This woodland is also renowned locally for its show of wildflowers in the spring.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

Does get heavy use on certain routes and erosion of some areas has occurred
Some vandalism (such as small fires, graffiti and occasional damage to trees) and there is a steady stream of litter deposited by visitors.

Opportunities

Easy to access, level and largely dry in most weathers.
Has historical interest as well as wildlife interest to local people

Factors Causing Change

Fly Tipping
Path erosion
Vandalism
Encroaching Vegetation

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Actively manage the wood to encourage use, enjoyment and understanding of the wood by locals and prevent misuse and vandalism. The main paths should be level, attractive and easily accessible.

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

Maintain path width by mowing to a minimum width of 2m at least twice during the growing season. As well as keeping the redwood avenue inviting by mowing 1m either side of the main path at the same intervals.
Remove litter as necessary (minimum once per year)
Carry out safety works in accordance with the annual tree safety check.
Identify and engage with possible volunteers whenever opportunity and workloads allow.

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	3.30	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
<p>An area of woodland thought to have been largely established at about 1850, although this may include small areas of older woodland. Dominated by the splendid avenue of Sequoia, which forms the southern boundary of the sub compartment. These trees stand at approximately 30m high and are in fairly good condition with only a few gaps in the avenue and some broken out stems. The remaining trees in this avenue are, however, becoming "over mature" and will require close monitoring in the interests of safety. Away from this feature the wood is a mixture of sycamore, horse chestnut, oak and ash with some common lime and occasional elm. There are a number of notable specimen trees within the wood such as Swamp Cyprus near the pond. The patchy understory is mainly elder with elm suckers, hawthorn and holly in places. The field layer is predominately ivy and bramble with significant areas of wild garlic, dog's mercury, snowdrop and celandine; Cleavers and nettle occur also. There is some regeneration of ash, sycamore and chestnut in areas of light canopy and some fairly dense thickets of elder with a good supply of large diameter fallen dead timber throughout the site. The Large natural pond at eastern end of compartment may contain toads, frogs and newts. In the centre of the compartment there is a small Rookery in the tops of some of the trees. This eastern boundary is marked by a well-maintained fence and high brick wall; there are a number of foundations of old structures in the wood. The wood is bounded by Orton School fields the boundary being marked by an old ditch and a security fence.</p>							
1b	3.00	Sycamore		High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
<p>A strip of compartment 1 which differs from 1a in its reduced understorey and poor field layer of cleavers, ivy and nettles. Canopy mainly sycamore, horse chestnut and beech but with a greater element of ash in some pockets. The wood edge is defined by an unmanaged hawthorn/elm hedge which has crept into the edges of the cpt. The wood is very open in character. There are some large specimen trees, three large false acacia, a large oak pollard in the western end and occasional mature beech towards the eastern end. Adjacent land use is closely mown amenity grassland except in the eastern and western extremities, which have housing adjacent to within 5- 10m. There is a public right of way/cycle way running the full length of the southern border. A small area of the cpt in the western corner has been more recently planted with beech and sycamore - 30-40 years old it has a lot of elm regenerating within it. Some evidence of fly tipping of garden waste nearer the housing estates at either end of the cpt.</p>							

1c	1.90	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
<p>An arm of secondary woodland oriented north south, which joins the rest of the wood forming an L shape. This area contains many varieties of trees including some feature trees, sycamore, horse chestnut, white poplar, elm, holly and a number of conifer species. Understory of holly / elder, bramble and wild clematis, as well as exotic garden species including Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon Grape) and Laburnum. Field layer of occasional bluebell, wild garlic, winter aconite and dogs mercury is very colourful in spring time. The compartment is narrow and has houses very close on nearly all its boundaries.</p>							

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.