



Broadlands

Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Broadlands
Location:	Sale
Grid reference:	SJ769911, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 109
Area:	0.45 hectares (1.11 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Broadlands is open for quiet recreation and is well-used by the public. Within the wood is a short, circular path which is surfaced but may get muddy and slippery in wet conditions.

2.2 Extended Description

Broadlands is located in an urban area in the suburb of Sale, Greater Manchester between Westminster Close and Chichester Close and is part of the Manchester City of Trees Community Forest. Although the surrounding land use is predominantly urban other small blocks of secondary woodland lie directly adjacent to the south of the site as well as 2 larger blocks Firs Wood and Brook Plantation to the north.

The woodland is small, flat and roughly rectangular in shape. The soil type of Broadlands and the surrounding area is naturally wet, very acidic sandy and loamy soil.

The wood has a mixed aged canopy with many trees in mid to late maturity with areas of beech, cherry, holly and ash regeneration. The mature canopy comprises primarily of beech, oak, lime, sycamore, and horse chestnut, with pine, and Italian alder. The areas of younger canopy and under storey are dominated by sycamore, elm, horse chestnut and hawthorn. Flora on site includes ivy, bramble, nettle and herb Robert. A further 0.3 ha of woodland abuts Broadlands southwest boundary; this area is in the ownership of two properties in Hexham Close. Secondary Woodland is one of the sites key features.

Formerly in the grounds of Sale Boys Grammar School the site was given to the Trust in 1995 by Bellway Homes Ltd. Open to the public for quiet informal (pedestrian) recreation Broadlands is well used by local people. It has a short circular path, and entrances off Westminster Close and Chichester Close. Informal public access is a key feature of the woodland.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The Broadlands is located in the northern part of the suburb of Sale, around 8 miles from Manchester City Centre. The wood can be accessed from 2 pedestrian squeeze gap entrances which lead directly from either Chichester Close or Westminster Close. On site there is a short circular path which is around 70 metres in length, this path is surfaced but can get muddy and slippery in wet conditions.

Parking is available on nearby roads such as Chichester Close and Westminster Close but may be limited.

Nearest public toilet: Located on Hereford Street which is approximately 1.7 miles from the wood. These facilities are open 9.15am-17.30pm 7 days a week. The toilets have disabled facilities, a baby change and an attendant. Information from Trafford Borough Council website www.trafford.gov.uk as at March 2019.

Nearest bus stop: Located on Moss Lane, the bus stop is approximately 1.5miles from the wood. Moss Lane is a suburban road with a pavement. Information from the traveline website. Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Our long term intention is to maintain Broadlands as high forest mixed broadleaved woodland with structural variety in terms of age and size classification. Managed as woodland in perpetuity, Broadlands will provide a constant and reliable habitat and food source for wildlife, and a landmark and place for quiet informal recreation to the local community. The tree safety regime will be the key driver of management. It will directly dictate the duration and the form in which mature trees and standing deadwood are retained, and therefore will also provide the main opportunities for structural change within the wood. Levels of informal public access will be maintained and local people will be kept informed of any significant management changes.

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

In accordance with the Woodland Trusts general aims the site is open to the public for quiet informal recreation. Broadlands has public access points off Westminster Close and Chichester Close, a short unsurfaced circular path links the public access and allows movement through the whole site and it is well used by local people.

Significance

The woodland provides informal recreational opportunities in an area which has few open spaces and woodlands for people to visit. It is part of the Red Rose Forest and easily accessible to a large local population.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size of the woodland and surrounding urban land use means that informal public access opportunities are limited and the close proximity of a large population means that the site is subject to occasional misuse such as fires; den building; vandalism and fly tipping.

Factors Causing Change

The site suffers from occasional misuse in the form of vandalism, camp fires, fly tipping, dumping of garden waste and litter.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long-term intention is to maintain the present levels of access. Guided by the parameters set out in the Woodland Trusts woodland management principles, management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The Trusts duty of care to neighbours and visitors will continue to be addressed through on-going tree safety and site risk assessment regimes, that will stimulate remedial works as required.

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

Vegetation encroaching onto paths will be cut back annually and maintenance of all woodland fixtures, including, signs, gates, entrances, fences and litter control will be a part of an annual estate maintenance contract.

5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Broadlands has 96% tree cover with a reasonably varied structure that includes mature and senescent trees, areas of young to semi mature canopy and patches of natural regeneration. A number of trees are in the early stages of decline or bearing wounds, cavities and other damage resulting from misuse. The understorey is patchy but includes young sycamore, elm, hawthorn, holly, and ash regeneration. Much of the woodland floor is shaded resulting in areas of bare ground with only small patches of shrub and ground flora.

Significance

The importance of Broadlands and urban woods like it is that they are managed sympathetically and for perpetuity. They serve as a habitat for a wide range of plants and wildlife, and offer an important reference point for the larger and more mobile animals such as birds, bats and amphibians. Due to the constant management of woody vegetation in the built environment the presence of dead and decaying wood habitat is often relatively low and represents a gap in the food chain, thus the presence of dead and decaying woody habitat at Broadlands adds value to local biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

High usage and frequent miss use makes under planting and establishment of natural regeneration difficult. The main opportunity for regeneration comes from the existing patches of natural regeneration (beech, sycamore, horse chestnut, wild cherry and holly). Further opportunities will develop from canopy openings resulting from safety works or failures amongst the mature trees.

Mature trees will provide habitat and food sources for a wide range of organisms including, fungi, invertebrates, birds and mammals, mature trees will be retained for as long as it is safe to do so.

Factors Causing Change

Neighbours occasionally tip garden waste into the woodland which could have a negative effect on woodland flora and regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Appropriate management will maintain the site as a block of broadleaf woodland with a variable structure in terms of age class and species distribution. Where there is no compromise to public safety, mature trees will be retained into senescence and standing columns of dead wood will be kept on site to provide important deadwood habitat. Management of regeneration and structural diversity will mainly be opportunistic taking advantage of tree failures, or canopy gaps resulting from safety or boundary works.

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

Tree safety inspections will be undertaken on a regular basis and work carried out if necessary for public safety. The site will be checked once during this plan period to assess whether there is sufficient regeneration to ensure the long term future of the canopy. Garden tipping will also be assessed once during this plan period to ensure its not posing a threat to woodland flora or regeneration.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

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

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.45	Beech	1935	Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order

0.2 Hectares (0.5acres) of well established broadleaved secondary woodland. Roughly rectangular in shape and flat the compartment is located in an urban area of Sale, nr Manchester and bordered in the main by housing although woodland owned by No 6 Hexham Close borders the southern boundary. An unsurfaced circular path can be accessed form the two official public entrances.

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.