



# Mayfield 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](http://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.

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## 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

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Site name:</b>      | Mayfield Wood                       |
| <b>Location:</b>       | Oswaldtwistle                       |
| <b>Grid reference:</b> | SD745277, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103 |
| <b>Area:</b>           | 0.70 hectares (1.73 acres)          |
| <b>Designations:</b>   | Tree Preservation Order             |

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Mayfield is a small attractive secondary woodland located in the town of Oswaldtwistle, East Lancashire. The wood has one pedestrian access point which is located on the south east corner of the wood. The pedestrian access to the wood leads in from Mayfield Gardens, which in turn is located off Mayfield Avenue. Prior to acquisition the wood was part of a large wooded garden belonging to Paddock House, which was formerly a convent of the Sisters of Mercy. The wood still reflects its origins as part of an old garden and consists of well-spaced mature trees lime, sycamore, ash, horse chestnut and beech dating from around 1935. Despite its urban location the woodland feels surprisingly secluded and is popular with local dog walkers.

## 2.2 Extended Description

The site was gifted to the Woodland Trust on 24 November 1997. This small, urban wood is 0.7 hectares in size and contains around 70 mature trees. It is in the middle of housing in Oswaldtwistle. The wood is surprisingly secluded considering its location. To the east, south and west are houses, and to the north the old grounds of a school. Prior to acquisition the wood was part of a large wooded garden belonging to Paddock House, which was formerly a convent of the Sisters of Mercy.

There is only one official entrance, from a neighbouring housing development (constructed 1998) at the bottom of Mayfield Gardens cul-de-sac. The pedestrian and management access leads off and partially over the drive of 19 Mayfield Gardens. The wood is generally very quiet and peaceful, and used mainly by local people. Access is actually very good, the site being level and still containing the remains of old, broad tarmac paths. Informal Public Access is a Key Feature of the site.

The wood still reflects its origins as part of an old garden and consists of well-spaced mature trees lime, sycamore, ash, horse chestnut and beech dating from around 1935. There are also single trees of Douglas fir, spruce, and yew. These are all covered by Tree Preservation Orders. There used to be a number of elm trees, but these have mainly died due to Dutch elm disease. Secondary Woodland is a Key Feature of the site. The ground flora consists of rough grasses, bramble, rose bay willow herb, and ivy, with some greater stitchwort, bluebells and garden daffodils. Fauna includes typical urban birds such as wood pigeon, blackbirds etc., and grey squirrels.

All boundaries are the responsibility of neighbours, except the access point. There is little scope for community involvement, since the wood has few management needs other than tree safety. Neighbours have taken an interest in the site

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Mayfield Wood is located close to housing in the town of Oswaldtwistle, East Lancashire. The wood has one pedestrian access point which is located on the south east corner of the wood. The pedestrian access to the wood leads in from Mayfield Gardens, which in turn is located off Mayfield Avenue. The pedestrian access point is a squeeze gap. On site there is approximately 300 metres of broad tarmaced footpath.

Parking is available on nearby roads such as Mayfield Gardens but may be limited.

Nearest public toilet: Located at Asda Superstore Hyndburn Road which is located approximately 2 miles away from the wood.

Nearest bus stop: Located at Union Road, which is approximately 1000 metres from the wood. Union Road is a suburban Road with a pavement. Information from Traveline website.

Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0870 608 2 608

### 3.2 Access / Walks



## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

High forest of mixed broadleaves and yew, including non-native trees common to the local area. The wood will be managed with a minimum intervention approach as a predominantly as a landscape and conservation feature, with tree safety needs taking a high priority. Tree safety work will create gaps in the canopy for natural regeneration to develop. Regeneration of both natives and non-native species will be accepted. Public access will continue at its present level with at least one entrance.



## 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 Natural Secondary Woodland

#### Description

The wood consists of a group of around 70 mature trees, the dominant species are: sycamore, lime, beech, alder, ash and horse chestnut, and other species with only 1 or 2 trees of each: oak, elm, yew, Douglas fir & Norway spruce. There used to be a number of elm trees, but these have mainly died due to Dutch elm disease. The remaining trees are generally in good health, and are a minor landscape feature in the area, protected by a Tree Preservation Order since 1987. Initially, there were no shrubs or regeneration as the site had been part of a large garden, belonging to Paddock House, which was formerly a convent of the Sisters of Mercy.

Since acquisition the grass and other vegetation between the trees has not been cut, and regeneration is beginning to occur, mainly of ash and holly, and also hawthorn, oak, beech, elm (suckering), yew, willow, rowan and dog rose. The ground flora consists of rough grasses, bramble, rose bay willow herb, and ivy, with some greater stitchwort, bluebells and garden daffodils. Fauna includes typical urban birds such as wood pigeon, blackbirds etc, and grey squirrels.

#### Significance

Its main value is as quiet, although urban woodland. Its wildlife value has not been investigated, the ground flora appears to consist of common species, and animals likely to be restricted to common, robust, urban species such as grey squirrels and various birds.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Mayfield Wood is a small wood, and is surrounded by housing on 3 sides. and cannot be extended in these directions. It is also isolated from other woods. However, it is stable and mature enough to provided for urban wildlife, along with similar pockets of woodland elsewhere in the area.

#### Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of various species, Tree safety works, tree disease

#### 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)

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out in the final year of the current plan period. This will make recommendations as to the management of the site, key elements of which are likely to include the effects of ash disease and the development of natural regeneration. It is expected that tree safety work will continue to create gaps for natural regeneration to colonise within the woodland and boundary trees will be inspected every 2 years.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

The wood has 1 official entrance and about 300m of broad, tarmac footpath. It is relatively quiet and used infrequently even though it is in an urban area because it has three boundaries with adjacent houses, and is not very visible and it is not obvious how to gain access. However, there are few woods in the local area, and especially few that are in flat, accessible locations.

### Significance

Its main value is as woodland open to local people who live in a very urban environment, on a daily basis.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is small, surrounded on 3 sides by houses, and cannot be extended or have further footpath links in these directions. By necessity (safety reasons, small size and the level of use) it can only support robust, common urban species and facilities. However, it is flat, the paths are excellent, and as a consequence it is accessible to all to enjoy.

### Factors Causing Change

Changes in level or type of use.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the existing 1 entrance points and 300m of footpath to standards suitable for use by all, in all seasons. The wood remains as an attractive landscape feature, and as a relatively natural woodland with urban wildlife. Local people are informed and where possible involved in the care of the wood.

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

Continue to maintain the entrance point, sign and 300 metres of path via 2 visits a year conducted by Estates Maintenance Contractor.

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## 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      | 0.70      | Sycamore     | 1950 | Min-intervention  | Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | Tree Preservation Order |

Compartment 1a is approximately 0.7 hectares in size and consists of well-spaced mature trees lime, sycamore, ash, horse chestnut and beech dating from around 1935. To the east, south and west are houses, and to the north the old grounds of a school. There used to be a number of elm trees, but these have mainly died due to Dutch elm disease. Since acquisition the grass and other vegetation between the trees has not been cut, and regeneration is beginning to occur, mainly of ash and holly, and also hawthorn, oak, beech, elm (suckering), yew, willow, rowan and dog rose. The ground flora consists of rough grasses, bramble, rose bay willow herb, and ivy, with some greater stitchwort, bluebells and garden daffodils. Fauna includes typical urban birds such as wood pigeon, blackbirds etc., and grey squirrels.

## 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.