



# Two Mile Coppice

## Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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.

## 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>	Two Mile Coppice
<b>Location:</b>	Broadway, Weymouth
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SY675821, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 194
<b>Area:</b>	5.34 hectares (13.20 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Two Mile Coppice is on the edge of Weymouth, east of Greenway Road. From the road you follow a bridleway for approximately 250m which passes under the Weymouth Relief Road. The bridleway has a tarmac surface. There is a gradual but sustained slope.

The main access is at the south west corner of the wood from the bridleway and is via a kissing gate. A second entrance on the eastern boundary is a kissing gate leading from the Dorset Wildlife site at Lorton Meadows. Two kissing gate entrances also leads from the meadows on the northern boundary. Within the wood there is a circular loop path with a natural earth surface. The ground is generally flat except for the land on the west edge of the wood near the new road, which rises suddenly and steeply. The rest of the wood is on low lying wet ground, and consequently sections of the path can be very muddy and boggy following rain, even in summer, particularly the path that runs along the southern edge of the wood parallel to the public bridleway. There are some sections of boardwalk on this route.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Two Mile Coppice is a 5.88 ha semi-natural woodland, of which 1.5ha (cpt 1b) in the north east corner is considered ancient in origin (ASNW). All of the woodland is incorporated into the 'Lorton' Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (total area 21ha, the remainder of which is, for the most part neutral grassland, managed by Dorset Wildlife Trust). Historically coppiced woodland, although it is not thought to have been managed as coppiced for some time. Consequently the coppice is 'stored' and the structure is gradually converting to high forest through natural processes. The main species are ash, pedunculate oak and hazel. Minor components include some field maple, occasional willow, poplar, hawthorn & holly.

The wood is close to the edge of Weymouth and is part of the Lorton Valley Nature Park, which includes Dorset Wildlife Trust Lorton Meadows, the RSPB Lodmoor, and Two Mile Coppice. The wood is generally flat except for earthworks creating steep slopes at the western edge; these are the spoil heaps associated with the railway cutting. The wood sits on Oxford Clay and holds water after prolonged rain becoming boggy and slippery. The wood sits with the National Character Area no. 138 The Weymouth Lowlands.

A slice from the western end was removed by Compulsory Purchase Order in 2009 to make way for the Weymouth relief road.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Two Mile Coppice is on the edge of Weymouth, east of Greenway Road. From the road you follow a bridleway for approximately 250m. The bridleway has a stoned base. There is a gradual but sustained slope.

The main access is at the south west corner of the wood from the bridleway and is via a kissing gate which is large enough to allow pushchairs and manual wheelchairs through. A second entrance on the eastern boundary is a step-over stile leading from the Dorset Wildlife site at Lorton Meadows. Two kissing gate entrances also leads from the meadows on the northern boundary. Additional access is anticipated once the bridleway reopens following the road building in early 2011.

Within the wood there is a circular loop path with a natural earth surface. The ground is generally flat except for the land on the west edge of the wood near the new road, which rises suddenly and steeply. The rest of the wood is on low lying wet ground, and consequently sections of the path can be very muddy and boggy following rain, even in summer.

Nearest toilet: Morrison's supermarket, Manor Road roundabout, Dorchester Road, approximately 1/4 mile

Nearest train station: Upwey station approximately 2 miles by suburban roads

Nearest bus stop: Manor Road roundabout approximately 1/4 mile

For further information on transport see the Traveline website [www.traveline.com](http://www.traveline.com) or phone 0871 200 22 33

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## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The existing woodland will be allowed to develop the structure and diversity more closely associated with ancient woodland high-forest. This will create and maintain a habitat in which the species known to exist at the site already may thrive. The development of a greater age range of a wide mixture of tree species, a build-up of deadwood components and minimum human intervention across most of the site are to be encouraged.

Public access will be maintained at a level of use prior to the road building disturbance by the provision of suitable facilities - steps, culverts, stiles, gates etc. It is hoped to promote community use of and involvement in the site and surrounding land in co-operation with other like-minded groups. Thereby inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.



## 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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

#### Description

Two Mile Coppice is the largest area of semi-natural woodland in the borough, part of which is recorded as being ancient. The site forms an integral part of the larger semi-natural habitats that are the Lorton and Lodmoor SSSI's. Although much of the site is considered secondary woodland, all of it has been included within this ASNW key feature.

Historically a coppiced woodland, which is not thought to have been managed as coppiced for some time. Consequently the coppice is 'stored' and the structure is gradually converting to high forest through natural processes. The main species are ash, pedunculate oak and hazel. Minor components include some field maple, occasional willow, poplar, hawthorn & holly.

The woodland is a habitat for many woodland specialist species including internationally rare lichens, European Protected Species (bats), and many locally rare vascular plants. Four orchid species occur, including Greater Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, as does the local Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum*. Over 30 species of birds are known to breed within Two-Mile Coppice, and the woodland and herb-rich grassland which it adjoins provide good habitat for insects (SSSI citation). There are some small patches of invasive non native cotoneaster in the wood.

The Two Mile Coppice SSSI unit (002) was last assessed in 2010 and is currently in favourable condition.

The western edge of the wood sits high above the A354 Weymouth Relief Road. There are a number of large ash trees and elms that could require proactive management to limit risk to road users as ash die back takes effect.

#### Significance

The Woodland Trust aims to protect native woods and their wildlife for the future. The site's designation as a SSSI shows its national significance.

The site is locally important as the largest remaining area of semi-natural woodland in the borough.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: to liaise with neighbouring landowners to ensure co-ordinated management.

Constraints: the continually wet nature of the site makes active management difficult without creating significant disturbance

#### Factors Causing Change

1. Tree diseases particularly ash die back could affect the wood, and pose a health and safety risk as there are some large ash trees situated above the Weymouth Relief Road.
2. Wind blow will change the structure of the woodland.
3. Browsing by deer and squirrels may affect natural regeneration and the growth of trees.
4. Invasive species such as cotoneaster could take over large areas of the wood if left unchecked.

#### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The existing woodland will be allowed to develop the structure and diversity more closely associated with ancient woodland high-forest. This will create and maintain a habitat in which the species known to exist at the site already may thrive. The development of a greater age range of a wide mixture of tree species, a build-up of deadwood components and minimum human intervention across most of the site are to be encouraged.

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

The woodland will generally be allowed to develop along natural processes unless intervention is required for safety purposes.

- Cotoneaster will be controlled through cutting and spraying of regrowth.
- Pre-emptive work to dismantle the large Ash trees by roadside will be carried out before they become too dangerous to easily work on due to ash die back.
- Assess deer impact during woodland condition assessment in year 5 of plan and develop management accordingly.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Situated on the edge of Weymouth (population c 44K) Two Mile Coppice is within easy walking distance of housing at Radipole & Littlemoor. It is adjoined by a public bridleway, which is to be promoted by Dorset CC as a green link route, and also adjacent to the Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve, which has a visitor centre as a further attraction for people. Nevertheless, it is relatively cut off from the majority of the town's population and tends to be a low key visitor site.

### Significance

The Woodland Trust aims to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods. This site provides the opportunity for people to experience and enjoy woodland near to their homes. When considered together with Lorton Meadows and the rights of way network this forms part of a large natural recreational resource on the edge of the urban area.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: For partners at Lorton Nature park to use Two Mile Coppice as part of the wider Nature Park for public engagement and educational use.

Constraints:

1. The wood is very wet which limits the range of users able to use the wood without major footpath works taking place however adding drainage or redirecting water courses to improve public access will affect the plant communities of the woodland hence come into conflict with its SSSI status.
2. The need to deter vehicular & horse use of the site, especially from the adjacent bridleway where this access is encouraged

### Factors Causing Change

An increase in wetness on site due to wet weather makes access more difficult  
Unauthorised access by horses, mountain and motor bikes could be detrimental to the access provision.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The access provision will be maintained and enhanced to allow local users to experience and enjoy the woodland and surrounding landscape. Users will value and help protect this environment.

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

Access to the wood will be maintained and where possible improved. This will be done by:

1. Path cuts as required to keep the paths open.
2. Some ride edge coppicing around wet areas, particularly where paths join.
3. Installation of boardwalks on the most boggy areas if ride edge coppicing will not facilitate the drying out of the paths.

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## 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	4.20	Ash	1920	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Mostly stored ash and hazel coppice with no signs of having been actively worked since approximately 1950. There are oak standards still visible amongst the regenerating ash maidens.</p> <p>Main species are ash and pedunculate oak with smaller amounts of field maple, willow and poplar. Understorey main species are hazel, hawthorn and holly.</p> <p>Ground flora is diverse including numerous ancient woodland indicator species. The flora diversity between the mapped AW and the secondary woodland is not clear on the ground. These species are likely to have spread throughout the wood in the years that a tree canopy has been established. Surveys have discovered internationally rare lichens and locally rare vascular plants.</p> <p>The site holds water after rain during any season as the underlying soil is Oxford Clay.</p> <p>A strip of this compartment along the western boundary has been lost to the Weymouth Road Project. This will have opened up the canopy replicating coppice management in the western section giving increased light levels.</p>							
1b	1.50	Oak (pedunculate)	1920	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This area is mapped as ancient woodland on the inventory but on the ground it differs little from the above compartment. In practise they will be managed as one whole continuous area.</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.