



Millfields Wood

Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Millfields Wood
Location:	Easingwold
Grid reference:	SE529705, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 100
Area:	4.98 hectares (12.31 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This site was acquired as part of the 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project. It provides an important recreational facility and landscape feature for the old village and the new housing to the north east. It is served by a good network of paths. Because of its close proximity to the village the site is extremely popular with local people of various ages, especially dog walkers.

2.2 Extended Description

The site, which is leased to the Trust by Hambleton District Council on a 399-year lease at a peppercorn rent, was acquired in 1998, as a site for its “Woods on Your Doorstep” (WOYD) project, with a £20,000 endowment supplied by Hambleton Distinct Council. The wood is situated in open countryside on the northern boundary of the village of Easingwold on the east side Millfield Lane. Generally flat, the land rises slightly to its northern boundary, giving an interesting if gentle topography. Immediately to the north east of the wood, on the site of an old hospital, new housing has been built with a children’s playground on the eastern boundary of the wood.

To the west a mature hawthorn hedge bounds the site. The hedge also contains a number of semi mature trees. To the north the site is bounded by an old stock proof fence behind which lies a narrow corridor (approximately 3-4m wide) of grass and scrub. This corridor, runs from east to west up to the new housing from Millfield Lane and is fenced on its northern boundary. Land to the north of the corridor is arable. To the south of the site is an area of open space consisting of rank grassland and scrub. Before planting the site was agricultural land and has retained a number of mature trees and old hedgerows.

The woodland was designed primarily to provide a recreational facility and landscape feature as part of the WOYD project. This is one of the only significant areas of woodland in the village and surrounding landscape and therefore forms an important local amenity. A network of paths is maintained by the Trust, however, the main path running through the woodland has been upgraded to a ‘wheelchair friendly’ path in 2019 by the Parish Council. This path is now being leased by the parish council and has created a great accessible link to the surrounding path network.

4 access points are located around the site. Management access is located just off Millfield Lane. A 12ft field gate and squeeze stile are positioned within the western boundary hedge approximately halfway down its length. Another access point is located in the north west corner of the site and links in well with a public bridleway on the opposite side of the lane. The last two access points are located on the east and southern boundaries. The eastern boundary links into the new housing estate while the southern access point facilitates entry into the adjoining open land. Because of its close proximity to the village the site is extremely popular with local people of various ages, especially dog walkers.

The site was cultivated until 1995 after which it was left to grow rank grassland until it was planted in 1999. The District Council employed Woolerton Dodwell Landscape Architects to prepare a planting plan for the site with a widespread consultation undertaken with the local community before the Trust acquired the site. A Forestry Commission woodland grant was received for the planting with a community woodland supplement.

The main tree species to be found on site are sessile oak 16% , cherry 16%, field maple 16%, ash 16%, birch 16%, rowan 3%, walnut 0.5%, whitebeam 1.5%, larch 1.5%. Shrub species planted on-site are holly 3%, hazel 3%, hawthorn 3%, blackthorn 3%, dogrose 1.5%.

A number of semi-mature/mature trees and redundant hedgerows are also located in and around the site forming important conservation features. Snipe are also reported to use the tall grassland in the surrounding area for nesting.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

Millfield Wood is located on the northern edge of the village of Easingwold, which is approximately 12 miles north of the City of York. Access from the south is best undertaken by travelling into Easingwold on the A19, avoiding the by-pass. The main road runs through the Town and at the top of the main street turn right at a mini round and head east, passing the Town's church on your left. At the next crossroads turn left into Millfield Lane. Here a large car park can be seen on your right, which serves the open space area. Parking here is advisable and following the tarmac footpath through the open space area for about 200 metres. The wood is on the left-hand (western) side of the footpath. An alternative route would be to follow Millfields Lane until a field gate is found on the right-hand (eastern) side of the lane. Behind the gate is a freestanding information board and Trust welcome sign.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The site has open access from a tarmac public footpath on to grass tracks which run through the woodland. The site is generally flat but paths are narrow in places with the ground un-even. The site has no circular path but paths cross the site with a total length of approximately 600m. The main path running through the woodland has been upgraded to a 'wheelchair friendly' path in 2019 by the Parish Council. This path is now being leased by the parish council and has created a great accessible link to the surrounding path network..

PARKING

Parking at the Millfield Lane car park.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Easingwold - Location to be confirmed

BUS STOPS

Easingwold - centre of the village.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to develop a diverse, secondary predominately broadleaved native high forest. The diversity of age structure will be achieved by through natural processes with trees or shrubs introduced through natural regeneration, thus encouraging self-sustainability of the woodland and creation of a more diverse age structure in future years. These natural processes will need assistance in the early establishment of the woodland in the form of intervention through thinning. The wood to be dominated (80-100%) by native broadleaved species with a mixed shrub layer. Public access will be available throughout the site with the existing footpaths and open spaces maintained.

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

The site has a number of permissive paths which criss cross the site giving around 900m of footpaths within the site. The site also provides an important link and extension from the public open space being managed by Hambleton District Council which is located to the east and south of the wood.

The main path running through the woodland has been upgraded to a 'wheelchair friendly' path in 2019 by the Parish Council. This path is now being leased by the parish council and has created a great accessible link to the surrounding path network.

Significance

Providing for informal public recreation is an objective of the Woodland Trust and of the Woods on Your Doorstep Project, and is a feature of the lease from Hambleton District Council that the public will have access to the woodland.

The site provides a short but interesting walk. Being located close to the edge of the village and a new housing estate the woods accessibility will ensure that it is well used by the local community of all ages.

Opportunities & Constraints

At present due to the woods small size and age the woods usage is limited to a short walk for local people. Housing development in the area will no doubt increase the usage of the wood as children's' play area.

Factors Causing Change

Increased public use. Illegal use (motorbikes etc.)

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a well-maintained network of paths extending to 900m that enables good access all year round from the various access points access points located around the site.

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

Maintenance of the existing paths (900m), access points and signs. Signs and access points to be checked and cleaned annually and path cutting operations, normally undertaken 3 times per year, access points managed by the Woodland Trust will be suitable for informal pedestrian access only. During this plan period an 'events and seating area' will be considered. This will be created and maintained by the volunteer group. Possible location for this will be inside the ring of Walnut trees. Creating an area for the volunteer group to run engagement events as well as an area for groups of visitors to sit.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Established native secondary woodland, planted in 1999 with native mixed broadleaf trees (90%) and shrubs (10%). The area also contains 0.9ha of open ground. The main tree species to be found on site are Sessile Oak 16%, Cherry 16%, Field maple 16%, Ash 16%, Birch 16%, Rowan 3%, Walnut 0.5%, Whitebeam 1.5%, Larch 1.5%. Shrub species planted on-site are Holly 3%, Hazel 3%, Hawthorn 3%, Blackthorn 3%, Dogrose 1.5%. The trees were planted in random single species groups with volunteers at 2.1m spacing to achieve 2250 plants per hectare, creating a naturalistic effect. Generally flat, the land rises slightly to its northern boundary. Woodland Trust signs are at three of the site entrances. A number of semi-mature/mature trees and redundant hedgerows are located in and around the site forming important conservation features.

Significance

Woodland cover is sparse in the countryside surrounding Easingwold, which is dominated by intensive agriculture. The species diversity in this wood makes this woodland a valuable habitat and landscape feature of the surrounding area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is a totally isolated from other woodlands and colonisation by certain woodland species is likely to be restricted. However, the mature trees scattered around the site may produce viable seeds. Also as a small wood the site is likely to be capable to support a limited range of species. The woodland has an opportunity to involve local volunteers in its management.

Factors Causing Change

Ash disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The vision is to allow the wood, through natural processes to develop into a diverse broadleaved high forest with natural regeneration enabling self-sustainability. The wood is dominated by 80-100% native broadleaved species, with a mixed native shrub layer and diverse age structure. As woodland cover around Easingwold is sparse with the landscape dominated by intensive agriculture the wood will contribute to the area as a valued landscape feature and wildlife habitat.

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

Thinning of the woodland is to be considered during this management period. Due to the nature of the site and the quantity of timber coming out of the site this would be at a cost if contractors are employed. Volunteers could be looked at to carry out the small scale thinning operations over the course of the plan period. Firewood could be processed on site and sold on to the local community to raise funds for future volunteer work.

Ash Dieback has been noted in the woodland however still at a very early stage. Thinning operations during this plan period will target some of the worst affected Ash, particularly over footpaths to limit the risk. Ash component on site is approx. 16% so woodland cover & character would be maintained even if all Ash is lost.

WT volunteer group will be considering taking the Hazel on site under coppice management and will consider cutting the hazel on site on a rotation. Further planting of hazel in some of the open areas of the woodland may be considered if there is interest shown by the group.

Annual cutting of the meadow in the middle of the site is to be considered during this plan period in an attempt to bring it into management. The aim will be to lower the nutrient content in the soil in an attempt to prevent dense coarse vegetation from dominating and to encourage species diversity.

Cutting will only be undertaken after nesting bird season towards the end of the summer months. Volunteer group to consult locally of proposed work.

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	4.96	Sessile oak	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

Compartment 1 consists of 4.9ha, which was planted in 1999 with native mixed broadleaf trees (90%) and shrubs (10%). The area also contains 0.9ha of open ground. The main tree species to be found on site are Sessile Oak 16%, Cherry 16%, Field maple 16%, Ash 16%, Birch 16%, Rowan 3%, Walnut 0.5%, Whitebeam 1.5%, Larch 1.5%. Shrub species planted on-site are Holly 3%, Hazel 3%, Hawthorn 3%, Blackthorn 3%, Dogrose 1.5%. The trees were planted in a random fashion at 2.1m spacing to achieve 2250 plants per hectare, creating a naturalistic effect. Generally flat, the land rises slightly to its northern boundary. Woodland Trust signs are at three of the site entrances. A number of semi-mature/mature trees and redundant hedgerows are located in and around the site forming important conservation features.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	2.50	20	50

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.