



Holm Wood

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Holm Wood
Location:	Formby
Grid reference:	SD289076, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 108
Area:	0.51 hectares (1.26 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Holm Wood is a small site in Formby with a mix of mature broadleaf and pine trees, newer planted broadleaf woodland and areas of open ground. It is in the middle of an urban landscape surrounded by houses, gardens and roads but is less than a mile walk from the pine woods and sand dunes on the Sefton coast including Formby Point which has a small resident population of red squirrels.

2.2 Extended Description

Holm Wood is a small urban woodland less than 1ha in size, located in Formby, Merseyside. It is surrounded by housing estates and roads, but is also less than a mile from the pine woodlands and sand dunes of the Sefton coast including Formby Point which has a small resident population of red squirrels.

The site is flat with sandy soils and was formerly part of the grounds of Holmwood School, most of which was developed for housing in the late 1990's. A small area of green space was retained and designated as Urban Green Space by Sefton Borough Council. It was leased to the Woodland Trust in 1998 for 125 years as part of its Millennium Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) project to create two hundred new community woodlands in England and Wales for the millennium.

The wood has a mix of habitats from mature and younger woodland, areas of scrub and grassland. The mature trees include Corsican and Scots pine, white poplar, black poplar, with osier, ash, Norway maple, wild cherry and a whitebeam. In 1999 as part of the WOYD project a further 0.45ha of the site was planted with approximately 1060 trees and shrubs, comprising a mix of Scots pine, oak, birch, ash, rowan, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, guelder rose, and dogwood. Additionally 5 Holm oaks were planted alongside the Evergreens Road as a Millennium feature.

A third of the site is short mown amenity grassland with a small children's play area which is managed by Sefton Council.

The site is well used on a daily basis by local people, particularly by dog walkers and families with children using the play area.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Access to the site:

Holm wood is located less than a mile from the centre of Formby. From the village centre follow Duke Street towards Formby railway station and carry on over the bridge past the station. After about 300m turn right onto Woodlands Road and continue for nearly a mile along this road which becomes Harington Road. Turn right onto from Barkfield Lane and go along this road until you reach Holmwood Gardens. The site is just after this on the right hand side and can be accessed from Barkfield Lane or the Evergreens which is the next right turn after the site.

Entrances and footpaths:

There are three entrances into the site with kissing gates. The site has mainly grass mown footpaths with two short sections of stone surfaced footpath that links from entrances to the play area.

Parking:

There is parking available on the local roads next to the wood.

Toilets:

There are no toilets in the vicinity.

Bus stops:

The nearest bus stop is on Harington Road about a 15 minute walk to the site along pavements (some crossing of minor roads will be required so care must be taken). Head south to the Barkfield Lane turning on the left, take this and head along the pavement for about 250m until the site can be seen on the right handside just after a turn for Holwood Gardens. For more information on public transport visit the Traveline website www.traveline.org.uk

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term aim for Holm Wood is to be maintained as a mixed woodland with a diverse range of species, ages and structure to offer the widest range of habitats for wildlife and as a public amenity feature in the local landscape. It will contain mainly native broadleaf species with some Scots and Corsican pines to provide a food source for red squirrels.

The woodland will be managed to promote stand stability and species/ structural diversity through appropriate thinning, coppicing or selective felling to enable the woodland to be more resilient to future threats such as climate change and tree disease. Where it is safe to do so veteran and dead trees will be retained on site for their wildlife value.

Public access will be maintained for local visitors to enjoy the site with three public entrance points and footpaths managed.

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 is well used by the public for informal recreation, predominantly local dog walkers and children playing. There is approximately 200m of grass mown footpaths that links the three pedestrian entrances on the site. Approximately a third of the site is open ground grassland and includes a small play area in the north western corner of the site near to Barnfield Road. Litter/ dog waste bins have been provided on the site by Sefton Council who are responsible for emptying them.

Significance

Holm Wood is an area of publicly accessible green space in an urban setting and so provides local people with the opportunity to enjoy informal recreation, as well as being a landscape and amenity feature in the area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size and limited management requirements of Holm Wood mean that opportunities for community involvement are limited. Access provision is suitable for the site and does not need to be increased, and to attempt to do so would degrade the woodland habitat. Due to the lack of other public green space in the local area the site is subject to high all year round use and sometimes misuse.

Factors Causing Change

Increased recreational usage could lead to wear and tear on footpaths, access fixtures and the open spaces. Vandalism and misuse on the site (mostly litter and occasional camp fires).

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site should continue to be well used and valued by local people. The three public access points, grass mown paths and open ground grass area will be maintained to ensure the site is welcoming and safe for people to visit.

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

During the plan period the main short term objectives will be:

- Footpaths and open ground areas will be cut to maintain public access. Access fixtures (gates, signs, fences) will be monitored and maintained.
- Coppicing along the path edges to maintain sight lines for visitors.
- The Trust's duty of care to visitors will continue to be addressed through on going tree safety and site risk assessment regimes.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

The site is approximately two thirds woodland, consisting of mature trees and younger mixed plantation, with the rest open ground amenity grassland. The woodland habitat includes a mature shelterbelt of Corsican and Scots pine and white poplar, a mixture of young and semi-mature amenity plantings (osier, wild cherry, Norway maple, ash, pine and black poplar) and in a mix of native trees (Scots pine, field maple, oak, ash, silver birch and rowan) and shrubs (blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel dog wood and dog rose) that were planted in 1999.

Significance

Holm Wood is a mix of mature trees and younger native trees and areas of grassland which provides a mix of habitats for wildlife and is particularly valuable for the local red squirrel population from the woods at Formby Point. The woodland also contributes towards the Mersey Community Forest aim of increasing the amount of publicly accessible woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

The close proximity of housing adjoining some boundaries to the site is a management constraint. The requirement to maintain a sizeable area of the site as open ground part of which is taken up by a play area is also a constraint on the site. Tree safety work may provide opportunities to remove non-native species and thin areas of new planting to ensure a diverse structure and species composition is achieved.

Factors Causing Change

Growth of the young trees has been very good and may result in one or two species dominating with other species being out competed and dying. Tree disease, particularly Chalara would result in loss of ash trees on site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term aim is to create a high forest of mixed predominantly native broadleaves with a diverse species, structure and age composition. This should include a mosaic of wooded habitats from graded woodland edge through a coppice regime, retention of bramble and thorn thicket without them dominating, and a suitably spaced mixed species mature canopy. Where it is safe to do so, veteran, moribund and dead trees will be retained on site for their value as a specialised habitat.

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

In the short-term management will focus on the successful establishment of the young plantation.

- Coppicing along the boundaries and path edges will be carried out to maintain a graded woodland edge.
- Small scale thinning of the younger planted trees will be carried out to re-space them.
- The health and growth of trees will be observed during the plan period.

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	0.77	Mixed broadleaves	1999	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Legal issues, People issues (+ve & -ve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Community Forest

The site is a small compartment on flat ground with residential properties along the western and southern boundaries, and local roads along the other boundaries. There are mature trees along the western and northern boundaries with a mix of Corsican and Scots pine, white poplar, sycamore, osier, wild cherry, Norway maple, and a single ash. The understorey is mainly sycamore and beech natural regeneration with holly and bramble.

In the centre and southern part of the site, new trees were planted (p.1999) comprising a mix of native species: Scots pine, field maple, oak, ash, silver birch, rowan, and shrubs species of hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood, dog rose, and guelder rose. The site is approximately 65% (0.61ha) woodland and 35% (0.16ha) open ground.

The open ground area is short mown amenity grassland and includes a small fenced children's play area which is owned and managed by Sefton Borough Council.

Public access to the site is via three entrances with metal kissing gates from Barkfield Lane and The Evergreens. There is a management access gate also on The Evergreens. The boundaries are marked by either garden fences (responsibility of the home owner) or post and rail fencing (responsibility of the WT).

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2015	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.02	50	1
2016	1a	Thin	0.10	20	2
2018	1a	Coppice	0.10	10	1
2023	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	10	1

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.