



# Ganges Wood

## Management Plan 2016-2021

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

| <b>ITEM</b>                          | <b>Page No.</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Introduction                         |                 |
| Plan review and updating             |                 |
| Woodland Management Approach         |                 |
| Summary                              |                 |
| 1.0 Site details                     |                 |
| 2.0 Site description                 |                 |
| 2.1 Summary Description              |                 |
| 2.2 Extended Description             |                 |
| 3.0 Public access information        |                 |
| 3.1 Getting there                    |                 |
| 3.2 Access / Walks                   |                 |
| 4.0 Long term policy                 |                 |
| 5.0 Key Features                     |                 |
| 5.1 Informal Public Access           |                 |
| 5.2 Secondary Woodland               |                 |
| 6.0 Work Programme                   |                 |
| Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions |                 |
| Glossary                             |                 |
| <br>                                 |                 |
| <b>MAPS</b>                          |                 |
| Access                               |                 |
| Conservation Features                |                 |
| Management                           |                 |

## 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.

---

## 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>      | Ganges Wood                         |
| <b>Location:</b>       | Shotley Gate                        |
| <b>Grid reference:</b> | TM243341, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 169 |
| <b>Area:</b>           | 2.23 hectares (5.51 acres)          |
| <b>Designations:</b>   | Tree Preservation Order             |

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Ganges Wood was originally a flat area of open grassland divided by Link Road. Compartment A has been planted as a native broadleaf woodland with wide rides and a central open glade. The southern and western boundaries have mature hedges whilst the northern boundary borders gardens. The wood's name, Ganges Wood, was chosen by the local community to reflect the village's connection with HMS Ganges, a naval training base.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Ganges Wood was originally a flat area of open grassland surrounded by residential housing within the village of Shotley Gate, Suffolk. The site is split into two sections and divided by a residential road. The wood was planted in 1997 as a native broadleaved woodland with rides and a central small open glade. The southern and western boundaries have mature hedges whilst the northern boundary borders gardens. The wood's name, Ganges Wood, was chosen by the local community to reflect the village's connection with HMS Ganges, a naval training base. Compartment 1a was planted entirely as woodland, whilst compartment 2b the centre of the compartment was retained as an open grassland area, with the existing mature trees around the boundary edge being buffered with more planting. This has created a belt of trees around the boundary of this compartment.

Key features

F1 Informal public Access

F2 Secondary Woodland

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Access to the site is via Tudor Close (kissing gate) or Link Road (open).

The site topography is flat and all paths are grassy rides.

Travelling to Ganges wood via public transport please look on the Ipswich buses web page for bus times

<http://www.ipswichbus.fpic.co.uk/>

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Ganges wood will be allowed to develop naturally and become high forest through minimal intervention. The woods will develop greater structural diversity and increased deadwood habitat concentrations through natural wastage through ash dieback, which will slowly reduce the population of common ash within the wood, but will increase the amount of deadwood habitat as the trees die and create open areas that will develop with natural regeneration. The eventual long term vision will be woodland that has a variety of scrub, young and old trees, with abundant deadwood habitat.

The long-term intention for public access is to maintain a sustainable level of use by keeping paths mown and free from obstacles maintaining access features and internal infrastructure appropriately. The long-term management will concentrate on maintaining and where appropriate, improving the current standard of paths present.

## 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 situated in the village of Shotley gate, Suffolk. Ganges wood is encompassed by residential housing and is a valuable area of open space for the local community.

#### Significance

To increase Public enjoyment of woodland and provide an area of open space

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is situated within an urban area and provides a valuable area of recreation for the local community.

Constraints - Misuse of site - Vandalism, fly tipping and encroachment of motor vehicles

#### Factors Causing Change

Other - Misuse of Site, Other - Vandalism

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

To maintain Ganges wood as an area of public access for the local community

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

To maintain site as an area of public open access, with ride system cut to a minimum of 2m to allow unhindered access for the public, areas of open space are not allowed to scrub up with natural regeneration. Entrances kept in a presentable and tidy condition.

Operations: path Cuts June, July August - cut up to 2 metres width and cut all glades in compartment 1A and 2A.



## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

The woodland was planted in 1997 with a native broadleaved species mix. The trees have become established woodland and are reaching canopy closure.

### Significance

Establishment of New native woodland and create a significant conservation feature within an urban area.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints - Misuse of Site - Vandalism, fly tipping and encroachment of motor vehicles

### Factors Causing Change

Other - Misuse of Site, Vandalism

Ash Die back will change the structure of the woodland by causing the resident ash to die or be heavily suppressed. This will cause a significant increase in the deadwood habitat within the site.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a mature native mixed broadleaved woodland with developing natural regeneration and abundant deadwood habitat.

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

With the woodland having ash dieback the site will be placed under minimal intervention. As the ash component begins to decline, there will naturally be holes developing within the plantation canopy promoting conditions conducive towards natural regeneration developing. A programme of monitoring will be required over the plan period to monitor presence and levels of natural regeneration.

There will be a requirement within this planned period to thin along the boundary edge of the woodland to reduce future issues with tree safety and issues of severe shading of neighbouring residents gardens.

#### Work Programme:

2017 - 50% thin to a depth of 5 metres around residential boundary within compartment 1A excluding area of mature Scots pine which has a TPO protection order. 30% thin to a depth of 5 metres along residential boundary of compartment 2A.

---

## 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   | 1.80      | Mixed native broadleaves | 1997 | Min-intervention  |                              | Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland | Tree Preservation Order |
| <p>Broadleaved woodland planted in 1997 with public support. Rides cross the site and meet at a central open glade where a bench has been placed as the millennium feature for the site. The only existing mature trees are a few Scot's Pine on the boundary with Tudor Close and a few oaks on the southern boundary.</p>  |           |                          |      |                   |                              |  |                         |
| 2a   | 0.60      | Mixed native broadleaves | 1997 | Min-intervention  |                              | Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland | Tree Preservation Order |
| <p>An area of open grassland bordered on two sides by mature hedgerows. A scattering of existing trees (oak, silver birch, small-leaved lime and wild cherry) give this compartment a 'Park like' feel which wildebeest can be seen walking across the plain has been encouraged with further tree planting around the edges to create an woodland shelter belt around the boundary of this compartment.</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.