



# Oppy 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](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>	Oppy Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Cottingham, Hull
<b>Grid reference:</b>	TA059333, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 107
<b>Area:</b>	10.30 hectares (25.45 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Named for the Battle for Oppy Wood 1917 in which hundreds of East Yorkshire troops lost their lives, this popular local wood is the site of oak, ash, cherry and willow among other tree species. Prone to waterlogging during wet weather.

### 2.2 Extended Description

The land was acquired by the Trust on the 20th October 1997 for its "Woods on Your Doorstep" (WOYD) project on a 399-year lease from Hull City Council at a peppercorn rent. The wood is situated approximately half a mile from the village of Cottingham, on the north-western fringe of Kingston upon Hull. Orchard Park, a large Hull suburb of mainly local authority housing is situated immediately to the east of the site.

The site on the whole is flat and low lying apart from a number of man-made mounds mainly located toward the north east of the site. Parts of the site are prone to water logging. The site was originally farmland with parts planted with trees by the local authority in the late 1980's under the 'Woody Appeal'. Some of the trees were lost but many have survived. A BMX track, removed before the Trust's involvement was located in the north east corner of the site, which explains the man made mounds in this area of the site. Views from the wood to the east are dominated by the high-rise flats Orchard Park. Looking west the views are very different with a fairly well treed skyline formed by Cottingham's treed streets and gardens. Middledyke Lane runs along the west boundary and

Orchard Park Road runs along the northern boundary. The boundary of the site to the east is a steep man made mound designed to prevent travellers from settling on the site. A grassed playing field and industrial land lie to the south of the site with a steel fence and ditch forming the boundary. The ditch is diverted underground halfway along. On the western and northern boundary a strong but intermittent hawthorn hedge and deep ditch, this separates the woodland from Middledyke Lane and Orchard Park Road. A number of smaller ditches are located throughout the site.

The woodland was designed primarily to provide a recreational facility and landscape feature as part of the WOYD project. A large stone boulder placed on the artificial mound in the north eastern corner of the site as the millennium feature. This is the only significant area of woodland in the area and forms an important local amenity for many people. A circular path and 2 access points are maintained by the Trust, with a number of informal paths throughout the site. This includes an informal access point that has been created by users approximately halfway down the mounding on the eastern boundary. Parts of the circular path are inaccessible after heavy rain with the ditches flooding to create large areas of standing water. The water often remains in these sections for long periods.

The site is popular with local people, especially dog walkers due to its close proximity to Orchard Park Estate. However, it is also popular with local children, some of whom cause a great deal of vandalism, which is the principal problem within the wood. Fires are a major problem normally started and fuelled with the grass cuttings.

The site was leased to the Woodland Trust by Hull City Council on 20th October 1997 following a very successful press campaign planting work commenced in 1999 by the local community and conservation groups. Contractors completed the planting work. Re-planting of trees and shrubs lost through vandalism and deaths were also undertaken annually by contractors and community groups until 2003. Readers of the Hull Daily Mail named the site Oppy Wood after the hundreds of East Yorkshire troops who lost their lives in the 1917 Battle for Oppy Wood in France during the First World War. As the wood was planted as part of the 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project a millennium feature in the form of a large boulder was placed on the top of the mound.

The main tree species to be found on site are oak, ash, cherry, willow, rowan, birch, field maple, alder and a small percentage of Japanese larch. Shrub species planted on-site are hawthorn, blackthorn, and hazel and holly. In July 2002 a wildflower bed was created on the sites largest mound, which holds the granite rock millennium feature.

A 5-year maintenance contract was included with the planting of the site, which included tree weeding, and planting maintenance to be undertaken between 1999 and 2004. The woodland has been very prone to attacks of vandalism, which has resulted in replanting of many trees and shrubs and entrance signs.

Northern - A line of mature hawthorn trees and deep (2m) ditch forms the boundary to the site with Orchard Park Road running parallel.

Eastern- The eastern boundary consists of a steep man made mound (2m in height) designed to keep travelling people off the site. Beyond this is a mown grass verge, which in 2002 was planted with a number of standard trees by the Hull City Council who is responsible for their maintenance and the verge. Dane Park Road borders this verge.

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Southern - A steel fence and ditch are located on the southern boundary until halfway down where the boundary ditch is diverted underground. Land to the south of the ditch is owned by Hull City Council (2015).

Western - A line of mature hawthorn trees and deep (2m) ditch bounds the site with Middle Dyke Lane running parallel.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

#### ACCESS TO THE SITE

The wood is situated approximately half a mile to the east of the village of Cottingham, on the northwestern fringe of Kingston upon Hull. Orchard Park, a large suburb of Hull of is situated immediately to the east of the site. The wood has two entrance points one at the southern western corner of the site, from Middle Dyke Lane. The other entrance is at the northeastern corner, at the eastern end of Orchard Park Road. A circular path of approximately 850m in length can be accessed from these points.

The site can be approached via various routes. From Cottingham access is from Dunswell Lane, which leads into Northmoor Lane before it joins Orchard Park Road at its junction with Middledyke Lane, at the northwest corner of the site. From the north access is from the A1174, at Dunswell by turn into Dunswell Lane and then left onto Northmoor Lane. From the east access is from Danepark Road, which is off the main Orchard Park Ring Road.

Approximately halfway down the southern boundary the ditch ends and another access point is located consisting of a steel gate. This leads onto adjacent land, which is maintained by the local council. Approximately halfway down the northern boundary on Orchard Park Road, where the ditch has been filled; management access can be gained to the site by 4X4 vehicles only.

#### ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The site, which is on flat land, contains a circular grass footpath of approximately 900m which is rough in places. Sections of the paths also flood in winter and Wellingtons are required.

#### PARKING

Roadside parking.

#### PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles

#### BUS STOPS

Orchard Park Estate and Cottingham. Nearest bus stop - to be confirmed.

Rail travel is also possible to Cottingham.

#### TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0870 608 2 608

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention for Oppy Wood is to develop and maintain a diverse, secondary broadleaved high forest, dominated (80-100%) by native broadleaved species with a mixed shrub layer. This will be hopefully be achieved by natural regeneration, thus encouraging self-sustainability of the woodland and creation of a more diverse age structure in future years.

Management intervention may be required in the distant future if natural processes are hampered by either disease such as ash dieback, damage by vandals or impact of grazing animals such as rabbits and deer.

Public access will be available throughout the site with the maintenance of the circular footpath, open spaces and entrance points.

## 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 wood has open public access with a circular footpath (900m) and 2 entrance points being maintained by the Trust. Being within easy walking distance of the Orchard Park Estate and Cottingham the site proves very popular with a wide age range of the local community, especially dog walkers.

#### Significance

The site provides a short but interesting woodland walk, which is very accessible for local people being located close in an area of high population. Public enjoyment of the site is heavily tainted by the vandalism of signs, trees and fires etc.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

At present due to the woods small size and age the woods usage is clearly limited to a short walk for the majority of local people. Vandalism is greatly affecting the management and future of this wood. Anything introduced to the site, such as information boards, Trust signs etc, will be vandalised or totally destroyed. Scope does exist within the site to improve and enhance public access but thought must be given to the design, construction and cost of such measures. The installation of bridges or raised sections of footway at sections where flooding is a problem could be considered, but as stated above, such works needs to be measured against the cost and potential for damage by vandalism. A new sleeper bridge was installed in 2002 and its survival is to be monitored before further works of this nature is undertaken.

It is envisaged that as the woodland matures public usage will increase by local residents. The adjacent land to the south and to the west is scrub and the opportunity may exist in the future to extend the woodland into one or both of these areas, further enhancing public access.

#### Factors Causing Change

Vandalism  
Increased public use  
Flooding, Increased public use.

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

To have a well-maintained circular footpath that enables good access all year round from the points.

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

Annual maintenance of the existing circular path (900m) and access points, to a sufficient standard for the site. In this case whilst new entrance signs were installed in 2015 it is not intend to replace this immediately if they are removed or damaged.

## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

Although the site contains a scattering of a small number of trees planted in 1988 the majority of the planting work was undertaken in 1999. The compartment consists of 7.79ha, which has been planted with native mixed broadleaf trees (90%) and shrubs (10%). The area also contains 2.42ha of open ground. Tree species within the wood consist of 9% sessile oak, 9% ash, 9% wild cherry, 9% crack willow, 9% rowan, 9% sliver birch, 9% field maple, 3% Japanese larch, 3% whitebeam and 9% alder. Shrub species planted on-site are 4% hawthorn, 4% blackthorn, and 4% hazel, 3% dog rose 3% crab apple, and 4% holly.

### Significance

Woodland cover in the East Riding of Yorkshire area is the lowest in the country at about 2.7% (1989 NCC). The species diversity in this wood makes this woodland a valuable habitat and landscape feature of the surrounding area. Its position on the urban fringe of a major city increases the significance and importance of this woodland, especially as Kingston Upon Hull has very few woodland areas.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Vandalism of trees, shrubs and fires could be an on-going problem in future years. The wood is a totally isolated from other woodlands and colonisation by certain woodland species is likely to be restricted. Also as a small wood the site is likely to be capable to support a limited range of species, especially due to the wet characteristics of the site. However, an opportunity may arise in the future to extend the site.

### Factors Causing Change

Vandalism, fires etc. Increase public use, Damage by rabbits, deer, Voles.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The vision is to develop a diverse broadleaved high forest encouraging self-sustaining woodland, dominated by native (80-100%) broadleaved species, with a mixed native shrub layer and diverse age structure. As woodland cover in the East Riding of Yorkshire area is the lowest in the country at about 2.7% (1989 NCC), the wood will contribute to the area of this limited landscape feature and wildlife habitat.

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

Minimum intervention with site monitoring being undertaken to respond to any problems which might affect the long term vision.

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### 5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Significance

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

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

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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	10.30	Oak (sessile)	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

The compartment consists of 7.9ha, which was planted in March 1999 as part of the Woods on Your Doorstep project with native mixed broadleaf trees (90%) and shrubs (10%). The area also contains 2.42 ha of open ground. Tree species within the wood consist of 9% sessile oak, 9% ash, 9% wild cherry, 9% crack willow, 9% rowan, 9% sliver birch, 9% field maple, 3% Japanese larch 3% whitebeam and 9% alder. Shrub species planted on-site are 4% hawthorn, 4% blackthorn, and 4% hazel, 3% dog rose 3% crab apple, and 4% holly. The site was planted at 2.1m spacing (2250 per hectare) in a random fashion to create a naturalistic effect

The site is flat with remnant oak and birch from previous plantings and regenerated hawthorn and has a ground flora that is predominantly rank grassland. Soil appears to be mainly a non-calcareous clayey although some mounds have tipped material within them. The site is bounded to the north, west and south by open grassland and by housing estate to the east. Permissive paths cross the site with pedestrian access from north, west and east, management access available from the north.

This mound also holds the granite rock millennium feature. A small area of the site still contains trees, mainly birch, alder and ash, which were, planted in 1988 as part of the 'Woody' appeal, a project run by local councils and the Countryside Agency. These trees and existing hawthorns have helped in developing an uneven age structure on the site. The species succeeding well on this site are the willow, alder, birch, blackthorn and hawthorn.

## 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.