



# Wainstones Wood

## Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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>	Wainstones Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Kirkby, Stokesley
<b>Grid reference:</b>	NZ545054, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 93
<b>Area:</b>	5.85 hectares (14.46 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Wainstones Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to mark the Millennium. This newly planted woodland sits among arable, conifer plantation and pasture land, just north of the North York Moors National Park.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Wainstones Wood formed part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project which created 200 new community woods nationally to mark the Millennium. Situated on generally flat former arable land, just to the south west of the neighbouring villages of Kirkby and Great Broughton, the site was planted in January 1999 and covers 5.9 hectare. The wood sits amidst arable, conifer plantation and pasture land just north of the limit of the North York Moors National Park.

As the site was former arable land, the entire site has been sprayed and re-seeded with a low yielding grass seed mixture in the areas of planting. Planting within the woodland was grant aided from the Forestry Commission. Wholly native woodland planted, the tree species include oak, ash, rowan, field maple, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly and Dog rose. The western boundary has been fenced with high tensile stock fencing to prevent access from adjacent pasture/ arable land. Mature ash trees exist on the site to the south west, along a remnant hedgerow.

Three access points have been created, two to the south west - allowing access along the public footpath which crosses the site, the other is a permissive pedestrian access point allowing access from the east, from the same public footpath. The permissive path links with the public footpath, providing access to the new woodland planting rather than having to follow the edge of arable and pasture land, and is well used - especially by local people with a number of public paths diverging from the north-eastern end of the site. The wood is bounded to the north by a Norway spruce plantation and pastures land, to the west, south and east by a mixture of arable and pasture land. The northern eastern and southern boundaries are existing hawthorn and blackthorn hedges. Woodland Trust welcoming signs and an information board have also been erected at this entrance. Within the open ground to the south west of the wood, an oak display has been erected with a painted image of the skyline landscape, highlighting feature of interest, including 'the Wainstones' after which the site is named.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Public access can be gained from the eastern end of the site via a public footpath from Great Broughton Village. The public footpath continues along the southern boundary of the wood and re-enters the site to the south west. The public footpath then continues on towards Kirkby village. A permissive path running through the site links the public footpath, providing an alternative route through this woodland area rather than along the edge of arable and pasture fields. All routes to the woodland are across farmland with a variety of stiles and gates. None of the routes are surfaced.

Bus routes pass close to the public footpaths leading to the site, and a 500m walk will bring you to the edge of the wood, with magnificent views across to the northern edge of the North York Moors. Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0870 608 2608. The nearest public toilets are available in Stokesley, approximately 3km to the north.

### 3.2 Access / Walks



## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term policy will be to develop a mature predominantly native, secondary broadleaved woodland. This will be achieved by management of the existing native woodland and through any natural regeneration from the existing trees nearby. Pedestrian access to the site will be maintained and linked to the existing public footpaths.



## 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

Three formal entrances exist from public footpaths on the eastern and western boundaries. Public access across the site is via permissive path (180m) which crosses the site from the north east to the south western. A public footpath (40m) also crosses the site. Path maintenance, cutting back of hedgerows and maintenance of stiles is undertaken as required.

#### Significance

This site was part of the Woodland Trust's Woods On Your Doorstep Project and was funded by the local community, business and the local authority and provides one of the few areas of accessible woodland for local people.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

To maintain the access provision to the site although due to the limited use of the site no regular footpath mowing will take place. Access points and welcoming signs will be maintained at each of the access locations.

#### Factors Causing Change

Frequent flooding

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

Maintain existing network of entrances to the site (3x squeeze stiles), welcome signs (x3 at entrances) to be cleared of encroaching vegetation annually and replaced/repared as necessary. Stock fence to be checked annually and repaired if necessary.

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

Maintain access to the site by the annual maintenance of the 3 access points (stiles) and welcome signs, with path cutting of the entire permissive access routes annually.

## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

Young native broadleaved woodland planting in 1999 at an average density of 2250 trees per hectare. Species include oak, ash, rowan, field maple, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly and Dog rose.

### Significance

Within this part of North Yorkshire there is very little woodland cover, and even less native broadleaved woodland, most woodland cover being conifer plantation. This is wood has created a secondary native broadleaved woodland and may encourage further planting locally, increasing woodland cover within this part of North Yorkshire

### Opportunities & Constraints

The local community are involved with the site, but it has suffered from a number of instances of large scale vandalism during the early stages of establishment.

### Factors Causing Change

Occasional deer Damage, Frequent flooding

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Mature, un-even aged native broadleaf woodland with shrubby edges and open rides. The woodland will then be left to minimum intervention to allow the natural development of the woodland.

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

Minimum intervention regime now the trees are well established. Management work will only be considered on the back of Woodland Condition Assessment or through local volunteer engagement.

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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	5.90	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

The whole sites is one compartment, planted 1999 and composes of ash, oak, cherry, field maple, rowan, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and dog rose which were planted in 1.2m tubex tubes and 0.70m shelterguards at 2.1m spacings. All guards have now been removed. The ground flora is a mix of low yielding grass species on a stony clay loam. The site is generally flat with occasional ash along a remnant hedgerow which cuts across the western end of the site. Bounded to the north by Norway spruce plantation and pasture land, to the west, south and east by a mixture of arable and pasture land. The northern eastern and southern boundaries are existing hawthorn and blackthorn hedges. A footpath crosses part of the site from east to west and follows the southern and eastern boundaries of the site. Permissive paths link access points with the existing public footpath.

## 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.