



# Plummers Wood

## Management Plan 2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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.

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## 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>	Plummers Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Haynes, Shefford
<b>Grid reference:</b>	TL097414, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 153
<b>Area:</b>	1.00 hectares (2.47 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Plummers Copse is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. This young woodland was planted with native broadleaf trees, and is bordered by existing wild plum trees along its western boundary.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Plummers Copse is a 1.04ha new native woodland and takes its name from Plummers Lane, which forms the western boundary. The presence of wild plum trees within this boundary is a local theory to the name, which is fitting. The site was planted as part of the Woodland Trusts 'Woods On Your Doorstep' initiative and is one of 200 designed to celebrate the Millennium.

The site has a southerly aspect gently sloping up from the entrance and was arable until 1995. The previous owners had tried to plant trees on the site surrounding their caravan but this antagonised local people and the trees failed. The site was purchased by the Trust in December 1997 with local support and was planted entirely by volunteers in a single day in November 1998. The whole site was grass seeded prior to planting. A public bridleway crosses the site generally east - west and forms the main public / management entrance off Plummers Lane. An information board can be found here.

Two Roman hoards have been found at or near the site, the first in 1946 and latterly in 1997. Substantial numbers of coins rings, spoons etc were found. The site lies close to a known Roman road and encampment.

A bench (commemorating Bernard Collins) has been placed within an open glade at a high point towards the north of the site. This bench is the sites Millennium Feature.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

The woodland lies immediately south of Haynes village on a quiet country road, although there is no footpath

Parking is restricted to road verges and is quite difficult. The site itself offers about 530m of managed paths that are generally in good condition, cut at least three times during the summer months to keep them clear and well defined. There is an information board at the entrance along with a welcome sign. A bench has also been provided offering views over the site and beyond.

A public bridleway crosses the site, joining a further one leading up to the eastern edge of Haynes village and the local public house. This helps create an enjoyable circuitous route, to and from Haynes.

No public toilets in the vicinity

Bus stop in Haynes village approx 1km away. For bus routes and times contact Travel Line on 0871 2002233 or, [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Fully established high forest, comprising of native broadleaf species managed by supporting natural processes in line with Woodland Trust management guidelines. It should exhibit strong community ties and regular enjoyment by local population.

## 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

Open public access is available over the whole site for quiet recreational use. In addition, there are about 530m of grass paths forming circular routes within the woodland, including the public bridleway. The grass is regularly mown to keep the paths clear and well defined. There is an information board at the main entrance to the wood and a bench has been provided.

#### Significance

The site is very much used and enjoyed by local people who worked hard to ensure its planting and serves as a symbol of their successful teamwork. Not much accessible woodland in the locality.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

##### Constraint

The size of the site limits its potential

##### Opportunity

The site is connected to the wider PROW network.

#### Factors Causing Change

Encroaching vegetation blocking paths.

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

Open access will retained throughout the whole of the site and adequate levels of public access maintained along the path network. More direct links to the community will be maintained through the voluntary warden.

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

Mow internal paths to 2m wide, three times each summer and trim around entrances, signs and seats. Check all facilities for stability / safety on an annual basis, taking action as necessary. Support the volunteer warden to undertake minor ride edge coppice and trip back encroaching vegetation as necessary. Community involvement will be sought for larger works, headed by the Warden.



## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

The woodland was planted at a wide 3m spacing. The main species are oak and ash with other native mixed broadleaves forming the remainder. A mixed species hedge has been planted against the eastern and northern boundaries and was partially laced by volunteers in 2012/13. A small area of hazel has been planted to the south of the bridleway and is intended to be coppiced regularly by the community. There is an open glade to the north of the site.

### Significance

The woodland will become an important landmark falling as it does on the junction of two roads in an essentially open, arable landscape.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Constraint

The small size of the wood will limit its biodiversity potential

#### Opportunity

Linked in with the wider environment by the seminatural habitat corridor associated with the stream on its boundary

### Factors Causing Change

Disease, specifically Chalara fraxinaria, as a key canopy species in local woodlands and a relatively high percentage of the planting, the loss of this species will effect both the landscape, character and biodiversity of the wood. Whilst in a high risk area of the country, no symptoms have been reported to date-(Dec 2013)

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a native broadleaf woodland, with a graded edge habitat of no less than 1.03ha. The main canopy species are to be oak and ash with an area of hazel coppice

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

After the initial management input to ensure that the woodland is fully stocked at 1100 trees / ha. Little is expected to be undertaken apart from minor path edge coppice/scalloping. Annual inspection will be undertaken to monitor development and tree health, with actions undertaken as appropriate in accordance with Woodland Trust and industry best practice guidelines.

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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	1.04	Mixed native broadleaves		Coppice		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

The whole site is included within the one compartment. It includes trees and shrubs in a W8 mix, open space in the form of paths and a single glade. There is also a hazel coppice area. The site has an established mixed species hedge with immature trees along its western boundary. A new mixed species hedge has been planted along the eastern and northern boundaries by the Trust. Two oak trees have been planted by the local WI near the bench.

## 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.