



Simon's Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
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 Connecting People with woods & trees	
5.2 Secondary Woodland	
5.3 Archaeological Feature	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
MAPS	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Simon's Wood
Location:	Winterton
Grid reference:	SE935187, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 112
Area:	4.40 hectares (10.87 acres)
Designations:	No designations for this site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Simon's Wood is a mixture of planted areas and grassland spaces. The tree species are native to the area, and hedgerows enclose the majority of the site. A good network of paths throughout makes it a well-used site with locals.

2.2 Extended Description

Simon's Wood was created as a new community woodland on formerly agricultural land as part of the Trust's "Woods on your Doorstep" Millennium project. The northern 25% was planted in 1998 and the planting of remaining southern section was delayed until 1999 when a geophysical survey was undertaken in order to ascertain the archaeological significance of the site. The remains of a late Roman farmstead had been identified in the field adjacent to the western boundary.

Once archaeological potential was delineated the planting scheme was drawn up and subsequently areas of high potential were left as grassland and areas of low potential were planted with trees and woody shrubs. The species selected were those native to the area, were suited to the soil conditions and the exposed nature of the site. Hedgerows form the boundaries in all but the south. The hedge along the eastern boundary will be maintained to facilitate access along the track. All other hedges will be allowed to merge with the woodland except where they are overtopped by electricity supply lines.

The site has easy public access from Cemetery Road, an intricate pattern of permissive footpaths and an excellent balance of open space and woodland and is, as a consequence, heavily used by local people.

The community were involved at all stages of the site's development and there is abundant evidence of a strong sense of ownership and commitment to the site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

Simon's wood is located on the northeast corner of the town of Winterton, North Lincolnshire. From the M18 (Junction 4), head north to Broughton where you join the B1207 to Winterton, which follows the line of the Roman road, Ermine Street. A mini roundabout is found immediately on entering Winterton. Take the second exit, (straight across) which is Cemetery Road and follow this for 150m past the Cemetery on the right hand side. The entrance to the wood is immediately alongside the cemetery, with a field and kissing gate alongside the road.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The entrance to the site is via pedestrian kissing gate which leads to a number of grass tracks which run through the site. The site contains a circular footpath of approximately 900m as well as a number of cross paths. A bench seat and information board on local history are located near the centre of the site.

PARKING

Roadside parking.

PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles.

BUS STOPS

Winterton - Nearest bus stop to be confirmed.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The planted woodland will develop to maturity and will continue to be composed of a diverse range of native tree species and shrubs. It will gradually develop the characteristics of more naturally occurring woodland, with a good mixture of both young and mature trees, understorey species and a deadwood habitat. Some silvicultural management may need to take place in the future to ensure the wood develops these characteristics. This approach will enable the wood to be more resilient to change in the future, and will also ensure it supports the greatest range of wildlife. The mature hedgerows from neighbouring land will act as wildlife corridors to the wider environment whilst also linking further small woodlands, open spaces and scrub.

The open grassland present on the site will be managed to prevent regeneration potentially damaging any archaeological features beneath the soil level. Scrub habitat will evolve naturally around the edges of it, especially on the south and west sides, creating good woodland edge habitat.

A good standard of access provision will be maintained at the wood in perpetuity. The path network will be kept open for use and the entrances will be safe, accessible and clearly signed. The wood will also be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections along risk zones, which will increase in frequency as the trees age.

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 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Simon's Wood is 4.4ha young broadleaf woodland. It was created as a new community woodland on former agricultural land as part of the Trust's "Woods on your Doorstep" Millennium project. The northern 25% was planted in 1998 and the planting of the remaining southern section was delayed until 1999 when a geophysical survey was undertaken in order to ascertain the archaeological significance of the site. The remains of a late Roman farmstead had been identified in the field adjacent to the western boundary. Once archaeological potential was mapped the planting scheme was drawn up and subsequently areas of high potential were left as grassland. Areas of low potential were planted with trees and woody shrubs. The species selected were those native to the area, were suited to the soil conditions and the exposed nature of the site.

Its position in the landscape

Simon's wood is located on the northeast corner of the town of Winterton, North Lincolnshire which is 95m above sea level. The town is 8km north-east of Scunthorpe and 13km south-west of the Humber Bridge which can be seen from many parts of the town. The woodland is bounded by residential gardens on Cemetery Road, the church and cemetery on the eastern boundary and agricultural land to the north. The northern two thirds of the woodland is bound by agricultural land on all three sides. The woodland is flat in a more widely flat landscape which is typical for this part of North Lincolnshire.

General description of the access

The entrance to the wood is on Cemetery Road, with roadside parking, to the west of the church and cemetery grounds. There is a field and kissing gate alongside the road. The entrance to the site is via the pedestrian kissing gate which leads to a number of grass tracks which run through the woodland. The site contains a circular footpath of approximately 900m as well as a number of cross paths.

Site Specific furniture

A bench seat and information board on local history are located near the centre of the site.

The visitor profile

The 2011 census found 4,899 inhabitants, in 2,001 households. Winterton is part of the wider DN15 postcode for the area which has a population of 6793. The Woodland is popular with local residents for leisure walks and dog walking. Being located on the edge of the village in an area of low woodland cover helps with its popularity. Also the fact the community were supportive of the project from the outset and helped create it has been very positive.

Nearby Woodland Trust sites

There are 8 other Woodland Trust woods within a 20 miles radius of Simon's Wood, including Nut Wood and Waulby Scroggs, Little Wold Plantation, Oppy Wood, all of which are north of the Humber Estuary. Other woods include Owlet Plantation, Coomb Briggs Wood, Nettleton Wood, Mill Wood and New Covert and Park Woods.

Volunteering

There are currently no volunteers associated with the site at present. All general volunteering opportunities are advertised and promoted on the Woodland Trust website.

Significance

Simon's Wood is located on the edge of Winterton in Lincolnshire a county with generally very low woodland cover (<5%) compared with the national average and significantly less accessible woodland. The woodland was created through the Woods on Your Doorstep project to celebrate the millennium. Nineteen years later Simon's Wood is developing well into a native broadleaf woodland with an intricate pattern of permissive footpaths and an excellent balance of open space and woodland and is, as a consequence heavily used by local people. The community were involved at all stages of the site's development and there is a strong sense of ownership and commitment to the site.

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. There may be scope in the future to acquire more land surrounding the woodland if it became available so we could expand the site and make it even more of a local resource. The larger the woodland the more opportunity we would have to offer additional recreational facilities and attractions for visitors.

Factors Causing Change

As part of the welcoming Sites Programme the woodland may require a greater level of annual maintenance if the paths are showing signs of wear as a result of increased visitors numbers along with with a periodic (10 year) refurbishment of all site specific furniture. However in its current form the wood is very much a low key, local attraction.

The land surrounding the woodland could come up for sale or have a change of use which is detrimental to the woodland such as development along the woodland boundary. However we don't anticipate any changes at present.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Downloadable information on the website will enable people to find and access the woodland easily. The site will be well maintained and signposted from the entrance with up to date Woodland Trust welcome signage along with exit information. Information and orientation will enable visitors to get a quick reference as to where they are. Paths into the woodland and other site features are well maintained and regularly inspected so they are accessible all year round and are topped up with suitable material where and when necessary, this will encourage more people to use the woodland even in poor weather. There is scope to extend the woodland into neighbouring fields should opportunities arise and should archaeological features not constrain woodland creation.

A range of woodland users will be at the site from regular dog walkers, local residents, through to special interest groups. Local schools will also be using the woodland on a more regular basis for environmental activities. People will also know about the woodland and the activity within from membership of other partner organisations and clubs. A local community woodland group will be established with support from site wardens and a lead volunteer, carrying out conservation work on site and within the wider network of regional woods.

Overall people will cherish the woodland and feel it is a well maintained asset on their doorstep which is a pleasure to visit at any time of year.

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

The visitor welcome & experience will be further enhanced by the following infrastructure improvements by the end of the current plan period:

Welcome signage will be updated and replaced including exit signs.

Local advertising with all potential user groups will help to widen the woods appeal as it's the only accessible woodland in the local area.

New volunteer activity and volunteer roles will be encouraged and developed with the assistance of the Volunteer Development Officer. There could also be scope to support a newly established friends group to work at Simons Wood under a local management agreement or community ownership.

Forest schools and other local user groups will be encouraged wherever possible if they are in line with the aims of our organisation.

Events will be undertaken as required, including themed seasonal activity in line with the wider trust requirements.

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines. This will ensure that entrances & signage are welcoming to visitors and inspected and cared for at least annually. The paths are all managed and kept reasonably well-drained and free from encroaching vegetation, and that access infrastructure such as steps, entrances, signage, commemorative products, dedications and boundaries are kept in good order.

The site is kept safe and welcoming by: repair of vandalism when needed; clearing of fallen trees where access is obstructed, as required and regular site safety surveys as per the site risk assessment.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Areas of native broadleaved woodland have been planted in those locations of low archaeological potential whilst areas of high potential have been left as open grassland.

The woodland was planted in 1998 and 1999 and include the following species ash, silver birch, rowan, pedunculate oak and field maple. Woody shrubs were also included, namely hawthorn, holly, elder, guelder rose, dog rose and hazel.

Significance

This area of North Lincolnshire is intensively farmed and other areas of the landscape have been quarried creating a largely non-woodland panorama. The planting of this secondary woodland, even with the constraints determined by the archaeology, will provide a small, but much needed and publicly appreciated variation in the local environment.

Opportunities & Constraints

The archaeological constraints have created the opportunity to provide a well-balanced environment of woodland and large open spaces which considerably enhance the public enjoyment of the site. Being surrounded on 3 sides by arable land the woodland edge may be susceptible to the effects of agricultural chemicals.

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. However, an opportunity may arise in the future to extend the site.

Factors Causing Change

Rabbit damage had been an issue in the past during the establishment stage however there is no evidence of rabbit activity within the site now although these may prove problematic as regeneration becomes more prevalent. Ash die back will influence the woodland in respect to regeneration and offer other species more opportunities in the future. Ash trees identified within Cpt 2a along the southern boundary parallel to residential properties may require action.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The vision is to maintain the woodland as a diverse broadleaved high forest encouraging self-sustaining woodland, dominated by native broadleaved species (80-100%) with a mixed native shrub layer and diverse age structure. As woodland cover in the North Lincolnshire is low 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 regime now the trees are well established. Woodland management work will likely be driven by tree safety or through Woodland Condition Assessment with local volunteer engagement.

5.3 Archaeological Feature

Description

The remains of a late Roman farmstead had been identified in the field adjacent to the western boundary. Following a geophysical survey of the site in 1998, prior to the planting it was concluded that several areas within the wood had features of archaeological interest connected to the farmstead. These areas were left unplanted and have now become the areas of open space within the woodland which extend to 1.84ha.

Significance

Areas of low archaeological interest with the site. However, the general area is of greater historical significance with the Roman farmstead on the adjacent land and also the close proximity to the Roman road.

Opportunities & Constraints

Interpretation of the historical significance of the site and area was depicted on an information board on the site. Unfortunately this was vandalised twice and is no longer on the site. However, some form of interpretation could be undertaken in the future, perhaps in a more robust form.

Factors Causing Change

Potential for natural regeneration of trees and shrubs on the open space areas.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Protection of areas of archaeological importance through the maintenance of the open space areas.

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

Mowing and removal of grass cutting from the open space once every 5 years to prevent development of trees and scrubs on the areas of archaeological importance.

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	2.07	Other		Wood pasture	Archaeological features	Connecting People with woods & trees, Secondary Woodland	
<p>Compartment 1 consists 3 significant open areas of flat grassland, seeded in 1998, surrounded by the woodland of cpt2 and connected by grass footpaths. Archaeological remains have been found beneath these areas and it was considered that if the areas had been planted tree roots would penetrate these remains and cause disturbance and damage. This was in line with an agreement made with the North Lincolnshire Council Sites and Monuments Record Office.</p>							
2a	2.42	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	High forest	Archaeological features	Connecting People with woods & trees, Secondary Woodland	
<p>Native woodland planted in 1998 and 1999 planned around sub-surface archaeology. The site is generally flat however there is a slight slope to the northern end of the plantation, the site is closed by hedgerows to the north, east and west, bounded by predominantly agricultural land and to the south eastern edge by a cemetery, directly to the south of the plantation is residential properties Hawthorn, elder and woody shrubs make up the majority of this area however there are notable Birch, ash and sycamore, residents feel that this offers an element of security and privacy. The northern section of 0.72ha was planted in 1998 with ash 45%, silver birch 20%, rowan 25%, pedunculate oak 5% and field maple 5%. The southern section of 1.61ha was planted in 1999 with ash 36%, silver birch 16%, rowan 20%, pedunculate oak 0.03% and field maple 0.03%. The remaining 21% was planted with woody shrubs, which included hawthorn, holly, elder, guelder rose, dog rose and hazel. Regeneration is starting to be found throughout the area with a sublayer of Rowen, Ash, hawthorn and oak however the latter is probably due to Jay activity.</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.