



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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

## 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>	Hoggs Kiss Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Debenham, Winston
<b>Grid reference:</b>	TM177634, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 156
<b>Area:</b>	3.17 hectares (7.83 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Archeological Site

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Hoggs Kiss Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It was planted by local residents in November 1998, and comprises mixed, broadleaf woodland and a wildflower meadow.

### 2.2 Extended Description

Hoggs Kiss Wood was planted by the local community in November 1998 as part of the Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' project. It has been planted on sloping ground as an oak - ash woodland with an area of hazel coppice in the centre. A wildflower meadow has been created on the southern boundary on land that has some archaeological interest. The site was chosen because of its close proximity to Debenham to ensure that local people will be involved with and enjoy the benefits of new native woodland.

In 2004 the community of Debenham took over ownership of the neighbouring land to the North West of the Hoggs kiss wood and have created a community area called Hoppit Wood with a lake, woodland and open grassland. This has further increased the area of public open space for the local community within the area.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Hoggs Kiss Wood is a small young woodland on a steep slope with a small meadow at the bottom of the slope. The site can be accessed from the end of water lane over a small bridge. The paths are cut three times per year and are not surfaced and can become very muddy during the winter months.

Bus services

114 Ipswich - Debenham - Eye - Diss

From there it is a short walk along water lane.

Link: [www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk](http://www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk)

There are no train stations within the area.

There are no known public toilets but the closest toilets are at the Angel Inn pub on the high street.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Hogg's Kiss wood has now become a young established secondary woodland and will be allowed to develop naturally and become high forest through minimal intervention, except for essential health and safety works. The meadow being an area of archaeological interest it will be maintained as an area of open space adding further diversity to the site.

### Public Access

The long-term intention is to maintain a sustainable level of use by maintaining the access features appropriately. There is a good path network around the wood and unrestricted public access in the meadow area. The long-term management will not create new paths, but will concentrate on maintaining the high standard of paths present.

## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

### 5.1 Informal Public Access

#### Description

The woodland was planted in 1998 with a native broadleaved species mix at 3m spacing. Although trees have become established woodland area has not reached canopy closure.

#### Significance

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

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities - Good views of the village to the west. A popular bridleway runs to the west and north. The new community area 'Hoppit Wood' situated adjacent to Hoggs Kiss also to the North and West. Constraints are - Misuse of Site

#### Factors Causing Change

None

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

Maintain the permissive pedestrian path system and all internal structures to a high standard so that visitors to the site enjoy the experience at Hogg's Kiss wood

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

To maintain site as an area of public open access, with ride system cut to a minimum of 1.5m to allow unhindered access for the public, areas of open space are not allowed to scrub up with natural regeneration. Entrances kept in a presentable and tidy condition.

#### Work Programme

Path cut - May undertake path cut 1.5 metre width.

Path Cut - August undertake path cut 1.5 metre width.



## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

The woodland was planted in 1998 with a native broadleaved species mix at 3m spacing through the 'woodland on your doorstep' project. The main species planted include pendunculate oak, common ash, field maple, wild cherry, small-leaved lime, hornbeam, common hazel, common hawthorn, guelder rose and dog rose. Cmpt 1b was planted as a pure block of common Hazel. The Woodland had initially developed well, but was heavily predated upon by rabbits once the tree tubes were removed in the mid 2000's. Ash dieback is also present on site causing the common ash to decline rapidly. These factors have created open glades within the woodland plantation.

### Significance

Establishing Hogg's Kiss Wood helps to increase the area of new native woodland in Suffolk. On a local level it is a significant new habitat for wildlife and a feature in an arable dominated landscape

### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to create a native broadleaved woodland with open public access close to Debenham.

Constraints: Rabbit population within the surrounding boundaries cause annual damage to semi mature trees.

### Factors Causing Change

Currently rabbit population within the local area has reduced greatly due to Rabbit viral haemorrhaging disease, but if the rabbit population increases again significantly then they could have a negative impact on the developing woodland components.

Ash dieback is present on site and with 25% of the original planting being common ash the site structure is currently changing as the ash dies.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

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

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

The woodland area will be allowed to undertake a natural process of development, apart from any health and safety issues that could arise pose a threat to public safety. To improve the development of natural regeneration within Hogg's Kiss Wood The Woodland Trust will create 3 small 10 metre enclosures to protect any developing natural regeneration from browsing damage.

#### Work Programme

June 2019 - Create 3 x 10 metre x 10 metre regeneration enclosures to allow natural regen and scrub to develop within areas that have been heavily affected by rabbit damage and ash dieback. Use dug in rabbit fencing following The Woodland Trust specification 3.08 fencing-Rabbits.

October 2019 - Ride Side coppicing - Coppice woodland ride edge (not boundary hedge) to a depth of 3 metres Chip all brash in to wood and stack timber neatly in piles on woodland edge or remove all timber from site. Please see reference map.

### 5.3 Open Ground Habitat

#### Description

Meadow situated at the southern end of the site within area of potential archaeological interest that was highlighted when the site was in the design phase and it was decided to be left as an open ground.

#### Significance

To increase the variety of habitats and biodiversity within the site.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities - improve site biodiversity by continuing to maintain the open ground habitat.

#### Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to woodland, arable weeds, misuse of site

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

Continuation of meadow area within Hoggs Kiss wood, which will add to the diversity of habitats within the site

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

Retain continuity of diversity within existing meadow. Cut meadow after seeding (August) removing arising. Clear litter and fly tipping from site, to maintain aesthetic appearance of site and reduce potential hazard to the general public utilising the site

Operation: Cut and collect annually 2019-2023 - August - Cut meadow and collect all arising's. All cuttings can be placed within the existing woodland area to naturally biodegrade.

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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	2.51	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	High forest		Informal Public Access	
<p>Area was planted 1998. A Fescue grass mix was initially sown in what was an arable field. Species include 25% oak, 25% ash, 10% field maple, 10% wild cherry, 10% small-leaved lime, 10% hornbeam, 10% woody shrubs (hazel, hawthorn, guelder rose, dog rose).</p>							
1b	0.25	Hazel	1998	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access	
<p>A small hazel coppice planted at 1.5m x 1.5m spacing to mark the new millenium. Traditional coppice management of this area will serve to maintain views of the village from the centre of the site.</p>							
1c	0.40	Open ground	1998	Non-wood habitat		Informal Public Access	Archeological Site
<p>Wildflower meadow has been created in this area which has some archaeological interest</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.