



Bonney Doles

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Bonney Doles
Location:	Lambley
Grid reference:	SK621451, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 129
Area:	3.79 hectares (9.37 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Planted in 1998, access to this wood is either via a public footpath, or alongside Lambley primary school and then across fields. The site is small with an open meadow and wooded areas, nestled within farmland its a nice spot for a stroll.

2.2 Extended Description

Bonney Doles is one of 200 woods planted by the Woodland Trust as part of the 'Woods On Your Doorstep' initiative, supported by the Millennium Commission and the local community. The site is close to the village of Lambley in Nottinghamshire (approximately 0.5km away). Local people named the wood Bonney Doles, because this is a former name for the area. The planting of the new woodland took place on a single day in December 1998, and involved help from the local community.

The new woodland occupies approximately one third of the site, with the other two-thirds being a hay meadow. The planted trees and shrubs consist of those found occurring naturally in the local landscape including oak, ash, field maple, hazel, crab apple and hawthorn. A large area of the site has been retained as a meadow because the grassland is historic and supports a good diversity of wildflowers. The site lies on gently-sloping south facing land and the soils are a sandy loam and fairly free draining. The southern and western boundaries comprise of steep banks down to streams known locally as the 'Dumbles'. These dumbles are largely wooded with a structure of mature broadleaved trees and shrubs, believed to be ancient woodland.

A public footpath crosses the site generally east to west. This path links to the village and other paths in the surrounding landscape, allowing circular walks through the local countryside. There is a further permissive path through the block of young woodland, which is a spur off the public footpath. The public footpath continues and crosses over the steep gully to the west of the site and offers an impressive view of the Dumbles at this point.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access to the site is gained by means of a designated public footpath running alongside Lambley Dumble [a stream], which starts from the primary school and play area in Lambley village. The path is mainly along un-surfaced field edges, which can be wet and boggy at times. There is a public car park next to the school and play area. It is a walk of approximately 0.5km from the school to the entrance of the wood. The footpath is to the west of the school/play area.

The village is served by a bus route which connects to Nottingham, and stops at several places along the main road through Lambley. Bus information can be obtained from the Traveline website www.traveline.org.uk, or alternatively ring Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

The main entry point on the eastern side of the wood is via a kissing gate. A public footpath runs from here through the middle of the site, and there is another permissive path off this through the young woodland.

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 riparian woodland alongside the Dumbles will continue to develop via natural processes with the minimum of silvicultural intervention.

The open grassland present on the site will be managed as a traditional hay meadow to conserve its ecological value, in particular the flora. 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 high 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 Secondary Woodland

Description

A predominantly young broadleaved plantation of mixed native species that was planted as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) in December 1998. The main woody species planted are oak (40%), ash (20%), and field maple (20%), with minor components of hazel, rowan, hawthorn, guelder rose, crab apple and other species. Mature woodland also exists towards the southern and western boundaries, alongside the Dumbles, with oak and ash being the major species, and some of the trees here are approaching veteran status. The woodland area to the south also incorporates a small area of essentially blackthorn scrub around what appears to be a former field pond. There is a ride running North-South through the young plantation, alongside a permissive path. In total, woodland covers approximately 50% of the area of the site, with the rest of the area given over to a hay meadow.

Significance

The woodland at Bonney Doles makes a useful contribution to a landscape which is not that heavily wooded and its scale is in keeping with small blocks and copses that do exist. The woodland on the site, especially to the south, also links with a ribbon of riparian woodland in the landscape following the route of the Dumbles.

Opportunities & Constraints

Difficult access and a relatively small area of woodland mean that silvicultural operations generating timber are likely to be uneconomic. There is the opportunity to improve the structure and ecological diversity of the plantation through continuous silvicultural intervention.

Factors Causing Change

Threats from tree diseases especially ash dieback disease. Threats from animal pests: grey squirrels and deer.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Bonney Doles will develop to maturity and will continue to be composed of a diverse range of native species. 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 will need to take place to ensure the wood develops these characteristics in a realistic timescale. Ash dieback disease is likely to have an impact on this wood and will create some gaps in the original planting. This will give opportunities for natural regeneration/restocking, contributing to a more diverse age structure. The riparian woodland to the southern and western boundaries will continue to develop naturally and the trees here will be retained for as long as biologically possible, in the hope that many of the oaks develop into veterans. The woodland edge between the meadow and woodland will be composed of younger woody growth (scrub & natural tree regeneration), making it as ecologically rich as possible.

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

During this plan period the short term objectives are to ensure the continued development of the plantation and to monitor and respond to any threats. This will be achieved by:

- Removal of all remaining tree guards in 2017.
- A 10% thinning of the plantation in 2018 through a mixture of felling and ring-barking. This will be a cost operation to create standing and lying deadwood and opportunities for natural regeneration to occur. The ride through the plantation should also be made more open through the work.
- Monitoring in 2019 to check for the presence/severity of ash dieback disease in the wood, and any other threats.
- Minimum intervention of the riparian woodland to the south and west.
- Retaining a 10m unmanaged/uncut zone on the perimeter of the meadow, to create conditions for scrub to develop.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Access to the wood is mainly provided by the public footpath which runs east-west through the site, with a signed entrance on either side. The public footpath links to the rights of way network in the surrounding countryside. In itself Bonney Doles is a small site to walk around, but it's real value lies in being part of a connected scenic landscape known as the 'Dumbles' (deep glacial ravines formed along a network of streams). There are number of locally promoted walks around this area, with Bonney Doles forming part of the accessible route. It is possible to park at the playground next to the school and to walk to the wood from here (approx 0.5km) via a rural public footpath. Facilities at this small quiet wood are low key, but the wood does offer a varied experience for the visitor with mature woodland along the stream sides, a block of young planted woodland and a flower-rich meadow. The Trust has given this wood a Category B for access provision, which equates to: a site with regular usage, with 5 - 15 people using one entrance per day.

Significance

An important component in the accessible landscape of the 'Lambley Dumbles'.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size of the wood and the need to walk 0.5km to reach it from the nearest parking place, will limit the number of people who will want to visit only Bonney Doles. Visitor numbers could increase though, through wider promotion of countryside walks in the Lambley area.

Factors Causing Change

Anti-social activities such as camps and fires.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Access facilities will, on the whole, be low key and appropriate for this quiet locally visited site. However a good standard of access provision will be maintained at Bonney Doles: a path network will be kept open for use and the 2 main entrances will be accessible and clearly signed. As the wood matures, it will need to be made as safe as practical for visitors through more regular tree safety inspections, which will become more frequent as the trees increase in age. Any threats to the wood (eg anti-social activities) will be monitored and managed as necessary, with the intention of lessening their impact. Opportunities to involve the community in the management of the wood will continue to be explored.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to provide low key public access which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:

- Annual management of the main paths, a total of approximately 600m, and removal of litter.
- Installing new welcome signage at the western entrance during 2017.
- Review of access provision at the site in 2019, with the subsequent planning of any improvement works, and assessment of any threats to visitor enjoyment at the wood.
- Lay the northern hedge in 2018, and seek to involve the community in this activity. The completed laid hedge will open up landscape views to the north.

5.3 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

Just over half the site has been retained as semi-natural grassland. It has been subject to some limited agricultural improvement (eg. ploughing and re-seeding) in the past but, due to its small size and awkward location, management has not been intensive and many traditional meadow plants still remain. Some of the plants that may be seen include cowslip, meadow buttercup, pignut, black knapweed, sorrel and great burnet, and the rare dropwort has been recorded. Management of the meadow has been sporadic and problematic in the past and annual cutting/grazing has not always taken place, which has led to common coarser grasses becoming more abundant. The meadow was originally retained as a millennium feature as part of the new wood.

Significance

Species rich grassland has become rare and remains under threat from agricultural intensification and development. Remaining areas are often fragmented so corridors such as the dumble watercourses add to this value due to the possibility for flora and fauna to spread both into and out of the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Regular annual cutting of the meadow is likely to increase the diversity and abundance of flora. Grazing management is likely to be difficult to achieve because of the meadow's small area.

Factors Causing Change

Lack of annual management will lead to a greater abundance of coarser grasses and scrub.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Grassland will continue to make up at least 1.5ha of the total site area. Through appropriate management it will continue to be composed of a diversity of locally native flora, and retain its characteristics as a traditional hay meadow.

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

The short term objective is to continue with traditional management of the meadow with the aim of encouraging a diverse sward. Hence, annual cutting in late summer will take place, with the hay removed. The possibility of grazing the meadow will also be investigated. A 10 metre uncut/unmanaged strip around the edge of the meadow will be left to develop the woodland edge and encourage scrub growth.

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	1.60	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access	Community Forest
A plantation of native broadleaves with the major species being oak, ash and field maple. Minor components of rowan, crab, hazel, hawthorn, holly and blackthorn.							
1b	0.50	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Informal Public Access	Community Forest
A small area of mature riparian woodland along the Dumbles, with the main species being oak and ash.							
2a	1.80	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Informal Public Access	Community Forest
A semi-natural meadow supporting a good diversity of native flora.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Thin	1.80	11	19.8999996185303

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.