



Westfield Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Westfield Wood
Location:	Wigginton, Haxby
Grid reference:	SE602569, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 105
Area:	5.97 hectares (14.75 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Westfield Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. Within the site are a number of old hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees, together with a small pond.

2.2 Extended Description

The site was acquired by the Trust in 1999 from the owner of Villa Farm, which is located, due west of the woodland on the B1653. The site was one of the Trust's "Woods on Your Doorstep" (WOYD) project. The site is an area of former arable land on the south-western boundary of the village of Haxby, approximately 6 miles north east of the city of York.

The sites topography is flat being within the 'Vale of York' and is bounded by arable land to the north, west and south. A housing estate is located across Westfield Beck, on the eastern boundary of the wood. The beck runs along the full eastern boundary of the wood. Within the site are a number of old hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees, together with a small pond which is a conservation feature of the site.

The woodland was designed primarily to provide a recreational facility and landscape feature as part of the 'WOYD' project. This is one of the only significant areas of woodland in the village and surrounding landscape and therefore forms an important local amenity. A network of paths is

maintained by the Trust, with 3 public access points located around the site. Management access is located just off the B1653, alongside Brecks Farm, where a track follows a field boundary for over a third of a mile to reach a gate at the southwest corner of the site. The three public access points are located in the northeast corner, the southeast corner and from a snicket leading from Eastfield Avenue, on the woodlands eastern boundary. Because of its close proximity to the village the site is extremely popular with local people of various ages, especially dog walkers and children.

Prior to acquiring the site it was discovered that a number of field drains affect the site, running west to east, allowing water from neighbouring land to empty into the drain. It was agreed that the Trust would ensure that a system is in place to allow drainage across the site, which would not be affected by subsequent tree growth. A new 200mm drain was laid prior to planting and existing lateral drains were connected in. The land was prepared for planting by ploughing, harrowing, seeding and rolling the site. A Forestry Commission Woodland Grant was received for the planting with a Community Woodland supplement and Better Land supplement. Following a successful press campaign, which began in 1998, and a public consultation meeting with the local community, over £27000 was raised. A volunteer planting day was held on the weekend of the 25/26th March 2000 with over 1000 trees being planted.

The main tree species to be found on site are 10.4% Scots pine, 10.4% sessile oak, 10.4% ash, 10.4% crack willow, 10.4% field maple, 10.4% whitebeam, 10.4% rowan, 10.4% cherry, 6% alder. Shrub species planted on-site are 2% holly, 2% hazel, 2% hawthorn, 2% blackthorn and 2% dogrose. A number of semi-mature/mature trees, mainly oak, and redundant hedgerows are also located in and around the site forming important conservation features. Snipe are also reported to use the tall grassland in the surrounding area for nesting.

The site is bounded to the north, south and west by stock proof fencing erected following acquisition by the Trust. Westfield Beck forms the boundary of the wood along its eastern boundary.

Haxby is situated approximately 6 miles northeast of the historic City of York. Approaching the wood from York take the A19 North. Turn right onto the A1237. At the third roundabout take the road signed Haxby. Turn right down Eastfield Avenue. A Public Footpath midway along Eastfield Avenue gives access over a large land drain to the wood. The footpath is not clearly visible and can be difficult to find. Parking on this busy road near to the footpath is also difficult. No other parking exists in the area. The site is situated on southwest edge of the village and can also be accessed off a Public Bridleway called Westfield Lane, which runs from the village of Wiggington in the north, alongside the eastern boundary of the wood, to the A1237 in the south. Stiles are located in the northeast and southeast corner of the site and opposite the footpath of Eastfield Avenue. Management access is located just off the B1653, alongside Brecks Farm, where a track follows the hedge boundary for over a third of a mile before entering the southwest corner of the site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

Westfield Wood is located alongside the village of Haxby. Haxby is situated approximately 6 miles northeast of the historic City of York. Approaching the wood from York take the A19 North. Turn right onto the A1237. At the third roundabout take the road signed Haxby. Turn right down Eastfield Avenue. A Public Footpath midway along Eastfield Avenue gives access over a large land drain to the wood. The footpath is not clearly visible and can be difficult to find. Parking on this busy road near to the footpath is also difficult. No other parking exists in the area. The site is situated on southwest edge of the village and can also be accessed off a Public Bridleway called Westfield Lane, which runs from the village of Wiggington in the north, alongside the eastern boundary of the wood, to the A1237 in the south. Stiles are located in the northeast and southeast corner of the site and opposite the footpath of Eastfield Avenue. Management access is located just off the B1653, alongside Brecks Farm, where a track follows the hedge boundary for over a third of a mile before entering the southwest corner of the site. Located in the wood, opposite the Eastfield Avenue entrance, a freestanding information board and Trust welcome sign have been installed. Trust welcome signs are also located at the entrance points in the northeast and south east corners.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The entrance to the woodland from Eastfield Avenue, Haxby is a kissing gate suitable for wheelchair access. At the northern and southern end of the wood squeeze stiles are located.

The wood is flat and contains a circular path (700m) which is of grass.

PARKING

Roadside parking on Eastfield Avenue.

PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles.

BUS STOPS

Haxby - 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 long-term intention is to maintain a diverse, secondary predominately broadleaved native high forest. This will be achieved by management of the existing woodland and any trees or shrubs introduced through natural regeneration, thus encouraging self-sustainability of the woodland and creation of a more diverse age structure in future years. The wood to be dominated (80-100%) by native broadleaved species with a mixed shrub layer. Public access will be available throughout the site with the existing footpaths and open spaces maintained

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 wood has open public access with 3 public access points leading into the wood. Woodland Trust signage has been erected at three entrance points. Being within easy walking distance of the much of Haxby and Wiggington the site proves very popular with a wide range people of different ages from the local community, especially dog walkers and children. It is envisaged that as the woodland matures public usage will increase.

Significance

The site provides a short but interesting walk. Being located on the edge of the village it will ensure that it is well used by the local community of all ages.

Opportunities & Constraints

At present due to the woods small size and age the woods usage is limited to a short walk for local people.

Factors Causing Change

Vandalism, Increased public use.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a well-maintained network of paths that enables good access all year round from the various access points located around the site.

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

Maintenance of the existing circular path (1100m), 3 public access points and entrance signs, 1 management access point and gates(2) will be undertaken at least once annually.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Native secondary woodland consisting of 10.4% Scots pine, 10.4% sessile oak, 10.4% ash, 10.4% crack willow, 10.4% field maple, 10.4% whitebeam, 10.4% rowan, 10.4% cherry, 6% alder. Shrub species planted on-site are 2% holly, 2% hazel, 2% hawthorn, 2% blackthorn and 2% dogrose, which were planted in 2000.

Significance

Woodland cover is limited in the countryside surrounding Haxby, which is dominated by agriculture. The species diversity in this wood makes this woodland a valuable habitat and landscape feature of the surrounding area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is isolated from other woodlands and colonisation by certain woodland species is likely to be restricted. However, the mature trees scattered around the site may produce viable seeds. 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

Vandalism, Damage by rabbits, Damage by Deer. Ash disease. Establishment and suppression

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The vision is to maintain a diverse broadleaved high forest encouraging self-sustaining woodland, dominated (80-100%) by native broadleaved species, with a mixed native shrub layer and diverse age structure. It is envisaged the wood will contribute to the area as an important landscape feature and wildlife habitat.

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

Undertaking a general woodland observation at least once every plan period (5 years) which would include, monitoring for signs of potential threats, vandalism, excessive damage by animals and pest and diseases. In addition flooding has also been a problem in 2012 so monitoring of the drainage on the site will be included in the woodland observations. During the current plan period to develop a plan to lessen the effects of losses through ash disease and also maximise regeneration and woodland development through thinning.

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	6.01	Mixed native broadleaves	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

Compartment 1 consists of 6.01 ha, planted with native mixed broadleaf trees (90%) and shrubs (10%). The area also contains 20% open ground. The main tree species to be found on site are 10.4% Scots pine, 10.4% sessile oak, 10.4% ash, 10.4% crack willow, 10.4% field maple, 10.4% whitebeam, 10.4% rowan, 10.4% cherry, 6% alder. Shrub species planted on-site are 2% holly, 2% hazel, 2% hawthorn, 2% blackthorn and 2% dogrose, which were planted in 2000. A number of semi-mature/mature trees (mainly oak) and redundant hedgerows are also located in and around the site forming important features. The trees were planted in a random fashion at 2.1m spacing to achieve 2250 plants per hectare, creating a naturalistic effect and were protected from rabbits and deer by 1.2m Tubex tubes. A clear seven metre wide strip along the edge of Westfield Beck is maintained for access by the drainage board. A small pond was re-dug and extended in the south of the site, a conservation feature of the site. Wet winters make access to the site difficult, especially the management access.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	6.04	20	120

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.