



Pickering Millennium Wood

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Pickering Millennium Wood
Location:	Pickering
Grid reference:	SE776840, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 100
Area:	4.43 hectares (10.95 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It lies in a flat river valley in the Vale of Pickering on the edge of the North York Moors National Park.

2.2 Extended Description

The wood was purchased by the Woodland Trust as part of the 'Woods on Your Door Step' (WOYD) project in 1998. The site is situated in a flat river valley area of former arable land in the Vale of Pickering, located 1 mile due west to the market town of Pickering and on the edge of the North York Moors National Park. The Wood is surrounded by pastureland to the north & west with a public highway to the east and south.

Native hedges incorporating wire fences to the north, west, east and south bound the site. A pond dug at the time of planting is located in the south-east corner of the site. As most of the surrounding land is arable there is virtually no woodland cover in the immediate vicinity of the Vale of Pickering. An area extending to approximately 2 ha in the north western section of the site was found to contain significant archaeological remains. GeoQuest Associates undertook a detailed geophysical survey at the site on the 19-21/09/98. Complex sets of ditches were detected that appear to form several rectangular enclosures. These enclosures, when compared to a similar site at Sewerby, East Yorkshire, suggest that the site may be Iron Age in date. Several hearths or kilns may be present and it is even suggested in the survey that several roundhouses may survive within the ditched enclosures. The area was separately fenced off from the rest of the site in March 2002 with the erection of 260m of stock proof fencing and installation of a 12ft field gate.

The woodland was designed primarily to provide a recreational facility and landscape feature as part of the WOYD project. This is the only significant area of woodland due west of Pickering and once mature will form an important local amenity and landscape feature. A circular path is maintained by the Trust, with 2 access points from Costa Lane. A public right of way (PROW) runs from Pickering to the eastern boundary of the site, but not actually onto the site. A large pond is located in the south-east corner of the site which provides an interesting wetland habitat for the woodland visitor.

The local community began the planting works on the 12 December 1999 following a very successful press campaign, with contractors completing the rest of the planting by December 2000.

The main tree species to be found on site are oak, ash, cherry, field maple, willow, rowan, and alder. Shrub species planted on-site are dog rose, blackthorn, hazel, holly and hawthorn. The glade areas have been sown with meadow grasses.

The site was formerly arable land last sowed with wheat. A 5-year maintenance contract was included with the planting of the site, which included tree weeding, and planting maintenance which was undertaken between 1999 and 2004. This also included mowing of the footpaths and the glade area.

Land surrounding the site is pasture to the north & west and public highway (Costa Lane) to the east and south. The site is bounded by native hedges and wire fences to the north, west, east and south.. The Trust is responsible for all boundary hedges and fences except for those located on the western boundary.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

The wood is located approximately 1.5 mile to the west of the town of Pickering. To access the site head west from the centre of Pickering on the A170 and after about half a mile take the road signposted to Marton. You past Keld Head Farm on your left. Carry straight on until you have reached a crossroads. Take the first left at the crossroads onto Costa Lane. The wood is approximately 300 metres on your right.

Alternatively a footpath from Pickering follows Costa Beck to the Costa Lane, opposite the eastern boundary of the site.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

Pedestrian access to the site can be obtained at 2 locations immediately off Costa Lane. The entrances are squeeze stiles with an information board about the site situated adjacent to the southern access point. The site contains a circular grass path of approximately 600m. The site is generally flat but has some small mounds adjacent to the pond which the path passes over.

Management access for contractors is via a 4m field gate.

PARKING

Roadside parking on a wide grass verge is available adjacent to both entrance points but care is required when the ground is wet or soft.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Nearest public toilets are situated in the centre of Pickering, adjacent to the main public car park, opposite the tourist information centre.

BUS STOP

Nearest bus stop - Pickering - A170, approximately 900m from the centre of the town, near the junction with the road to Marlton.

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 develop and maintain a diverse, secondary predominately broadleaved native high forest. This will be achieved by management of the existing planting 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 entrances, footpaths, and open spaces maintained.

The archaeological features of the site to be preserved through maintaining a grassed area on that part of the site and prevention of establishment of trees and shrubs.

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 a circular footpath (600m) being maintained by the Trust. Two access points have been created with the Trust's welcoming signs positioned at each.

Significance

The site provides a short walk, which is accessible for people who use the network of PROWs around the Pickering area. Although, they would have to know that the wood is already there, as footpaths do not naturally link in with the wood. The pond provides an alternative wetland habitat and interesting feature.

Opportunities & Constraints

At present due to the woods small size and age the woods usage is clearly limited to a short walk/visit for local people. Parking is limited to a grass verge on the north-eastern boundary which may be difficult to utilise when wet during the winter months. Plants and fish are developing with pond, either naturally or by introduction by visitors. A seat has been positioned on the northern edge of the pond.

The interpretation of the archaeological Iron Age remains beneath part of the site by the provision of an information board could provide added interest to visitors. An archaeological dig may provide more details to the remains but such an operation is likely to be very expensive and may not provide any greater detail than already supplied by the geophysical survey.

Factors Causing Change

Increased public use
Ash dieback on site resulting in increased hazards to visitors and potentially bonfires with the deadwood as the site is popular with children.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a well-maintained circular footpath of suitable surface that enables good access all year round from the two access points.

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

To maintain the circular footpath (600m) around the site in a reasonable condition to permit walks throughout the year. To maintain the 2 access points with suitable entrance features and the bench located near the pond. Paths to be cut once or twice annually.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Planted (1999) native secondary woodland consisting of 13% oak, 13% ash, 13% willow, 13% rowan, 13% field maple, 12% alder and 13% cherry. Shrub species planted consist of 2% blackthorn, 2% hazel, 2% holly, and 2% hawthorn. The site is a flat rectangular field, originally sown with low yielding grass mixtures, with hedgerow boundaries and a large pond incorporated into the eastern edge, and meadow area over roman remains.

Significance

Woodland in the Vale of Pickering is sparse with land being mainly pasture and arable. Large tracts of commercial coniferous forests do exist within the area, mainly to the north of Pickering, so the species diversity found within this wood make this woodland a valuable habitat and landscape feature of the surrounding area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Fast growth of willow species may shade-out other species on-site. The wood is 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 only to be capable to support a limited range of species. The archaeological remains is a major constraint, prevent expansion of wood both within and beyond the site.

Factors Causing Change

Increase public use, Natural regeneration of mixed species
Ash dieback may kill the ash trees on site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The vision is to develop and maintain the woodland in order to achieve 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.

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

Minimal intervention with the site monitored through condition assessment every plan period

5.3 Archaeological Feature

Description

GeoQuest Associates undertook a detailed geophysical survey at the site on the 19-21/09/98. The site has been found to contain significant archaeological remains. A complex set of ditches was detected that appear to form several rectangular enclosures. These enclosures, when compared to a similar site at Sewerby, East Yorkshire, suggest that the site may be Iron Age in date. Several hearths or kilns may be present and it is even suggested in the survey that several roundhouses may survive within the ditched enclosures. The area was separately fenced off from the rest of the site in March 2002 with the erection of 260m of stock proof fencing and installation of a 12ft field gate.

Significance

The archaeological remains beneath the site would be of some interest to visitors to the site, despite no earth works being visible. However, some further interpretation would be required to inform visitors of the size and significance of the archaeological remains.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to obtain further details of the Iron Age remains on the site through an archaeological dig. However, funding would have to be sourced for what could be a very expensive project and there is no guarantee that such an investigation would provide any greater detail than already available. Indeed from the information discovered in the GeoQuest report an information board relating to the archaeological finds could be developed and erected at the site.

Factors Causing Change

Increased public use, Natural regeneration of trees on archaeological areas.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To safe guard the archaeological remains beneath the site by maintaining the grass paddock, open spaces and associated fencing.

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

To maintain the grassed paddock and open spaces by grazing and/or mowing annually which will prevent the establishment of natural regeneration.

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	2.42	Mixed native broadleaves	2000	High forest		Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
<p>Compartment 1 consists of 2.5ha, which was planted with native mixed broadleaf trees (90%) and shrubs (10%) and an open ground area of 0.5ha. Tree species within the wood consist of 13% oak, 13% ash, 13% willow, 13% rowan, 13% field maple, 12% alder and 13% cherry. Shrub species planted consist of 2% blackthorn, 2% hazel, 2% holly, 2% dog rose and 2% hawthorn. Trees were planted in a random fashion at approximately 3m spacing (1100 per ha) creating a naturalistic effect.. A large pond is located at the south-east boundary of the site providing a wetland habitat. Woodland Trust welcoming signs are at the two site entrances.</p>							
2a	1.70	Other	2000	Wood pasture		Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
<p>Compartment 2 forms a 1.7ha grass paddock, which is let by the Trust for grazing. The paddock was formed in March 2002 to occupy the majority of the area with archaeological remains. The south and eastern boundaries are stock wire fencing separating the field from the woodland area, with hedgerows and fencing maintaining the enclosure on the northern and western boundaries. A 12 ft field gate is situated at the southeastern corner of the field.</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.