



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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

## 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>	Hazel Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Kingston, Hazelbury Bryan
<b>Grid reference:</b>	ST747093, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 194
<b>Area:</b>	5.74 hectares (14.18 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Hazel Wood was planted by the Trust and local people in 1999 to mark the Millennium. A natural spring can be found onsite, known as the 'Holy Well.' This spring dates back to the 1600's and there is also the 'Hardy Way' public footpath which runs through the site.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Hazel Wood is an attractive 5.7ha woodland located in the village of Hazelbury Bryan a few miles southwest of Sturminster Newton, and just a mile outside of the Dorset AONB. The surrounding landscape is characterised by gently rolling valleys and rounded hills with a dominance of woodland on the scarp faces further to the north and east. To the south lie the chalk-dominated Dorset Downs. Upper Greensand hills and scarps are a major feature in the landscape. The rich valleys are in mixed agricultural use but pasture predominates. Soils developed on the Upper Greensand are characteristically freely draining neutral to acidic with those at Hazel Wood being typically sandy in texture.

Formerly improved grassland the site was planted in 1999 with a mixture of native broadleaves including oak, ash, field maple, hornbeam and willow. The old field layout can still be seen from the mature hedgerows in and around the wood. Approximately 60% of the original site is densely planted - the remaining 40% comprising wide rides and open areas dotted with oak, ash and black poplar trees. Local people were involved with the site from the beginning through the fundraising, design, naming and planting and a pond was established in the south eastern corner as the Millennium Feature. A small, tree-lined stream known as the Selwaie Brook flows west across the southern end of the site, adjacent to which is the 'Holy Well', a natural spring which dates back to at least 1607 and restored in 1999 by the Hazelbury Millennium Committee.

A public footpath, which forms part of the Hardy Way runs north to south through the wood. There are a number of permissive paths allowing circular routes throughout the Wood. The paths can retain water, especially those around the stream and pond in the south eastern corner. Management access is from the south.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Directions to main entrance

1. From Sturminster Newton, take the B3092 south out of the town.
2. Turn Right onto A357
3. Turn Left after 0.3 miles onto Glue Hill
4. After approx. 3.4miles the main entrance to Hazel Wood is on the right hand side. There is no parking possible at the entrance.
5. By turning right into the village of Kingston, 3.3 miles after turning onto Glue Hill, the Wood can be reached by walking a short distance on public footpath across a field to enter the site from the east.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## Access

Public access is available via a kissing gate on the public footpath which runs from the southern entrance off Frizzel Hill to the northern entrance (via kissing gate) which leads across fields to the village of Kingston. Parking is possible in the villages of Hazelbury Bryan and Kingston with access then on foot on pavements and road edges (no pavements on Frizzel Hill). Parking in Kingston, access can be gained across the adjacent field, along the public right of way, and into the Wood. The site is gently sloping. Paths are grassy and liable to become muddy when wet, especially in the south eastern corner near the pond and stream. Permissive paths link with the public right of way allowing circular routes around the site.

## Buses.

Route 317 (between Stalbridge and Blandford Forum), route 368 (between Blandford Forum and Yeovil via Sturminster Newton) and route 323 (Buckland Newton to Sturminster Newton) all operated by Damory coaches, all stop at Hazelbury Bryan. Further details on times can be obtained via their website: <http://www.damory.co.uk/routes/> or contacting Damory on [enquiries@damory.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@damory.co.uk) or 01202 338 420.

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Hazel Wood will develop into a mature, native, broadleaved woodland with a healthy tree canopy and understorey composed of woodland shrubs and flora which will be encouraged to colonise from adjacent hedge banks. Management will be largely through natural processes with occasional limited intervention undertaken to deliver and maintain structural diversity where this is not being adequately met. The woodland will be integrated with adjacent habitats including hedges, wide rides, open spaces and pond.

Located in an attractive village where locals take a keen interest, Hazel Wood will be managed as an important open access area where the public are welcome. Signs and maintained paths will all encourage public use and interest in the woodland thus helping to achieve the Trust's aim to increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland and also to achieve the Trust's vision of "a UK rich in native woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone".

The rides and paths will be kept open, light and airy and mowed as necessary to provide appropriate access and valuable ride-side habitats. As the developing canopy closes, rough grass in the planted areas will gradually diminish. The pond should remain in a healthy condition and become increasingly attractive and beneficial to wildlife. The Well will remain an additional feature of interest within the Wood, with the area to and around the Well, maintained to allow public access.

## 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

Hazel Wood contains a mixture of native broadleaves and shrubs, covering approximately 60% of the whole site. Planted in 1999 the main species include oak, ash, field maple, and birch along with woody shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. A black poplar was planted in 2003 on the western side of the pond to help maintain a local population of this rare species.

The mature boundary hedges, stream edges, pond and extensive open areas provide a variety of habitats and a source of established woodland-type flora which will gradually be able to colonise the wood as it matures.

#### Significance

The Trust's objective of creating more native woods is adequately fulfilled in the new woodland becoming established. It forms an important area of woodland habitat in a landscape which is dominated by farmland in the immediate vicinity. The Wood also provides Natural Environment Research Council habitats of principal importance - Broadleaved mixed woodland, and hedgerows, thus helping to delivery national Biodiversity Action Plan habitats.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to have more community involvement in the wood through volunteer task days and/or forest school type use of the site where appropriate.

Small size of entrance onto country lane and wetness of terrain may limit the scope for management interventions.

#### Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage

Grey squirrel damage

Current tree diseases/pests notably Chalara

Non-native/invasive species both in the woodland and in the pond

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

Healthy, mature and attractive native broadleaf woodland of varying structure and habitats through a mixture of trees, woody shrubs, open space and ground flora achieved through natural processes or some limited intervention if necessary. The pond, established as the Millennium Feature, should remain in a healthy condition and become fully integrated as part of the overall woodland habitat.

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

A maturing woodland that is successfully integrating into the existing habitats and landscape and retention of a healthy pond and associated wetland habitat. Areas of increased light levels reaching the woodland floor, achieved through natural processes where possible, will start to develop structural diversity through increased regeneration of trees, shrubs and ground flora. Limited intervention where necessary, in order to create a more graduated woodland edge which would be better for wildlife; create a more stable woodland edge and create a buffer for the woodland from the prevailing winds.

**Work Programme:**

Control excessive pond reed mace/weeds to retain some open water when needed. No more than 1/3 of the vegetation to be removed in any one year, through volunteers and/or contractors as required.

Manage first row of trees adjacent to western boundary with sewage treatment works to create a more graduated woodland edge. Works will concentrate on tree species and retain any lower level shrub species and occasional tree species of rare/amenity value and also to ensure a mix of species is retained in order to achieve species diversity. In the western 2a compartment, remove one line of trees along the boundary with the sewage treatment works. Timber may be removed for firewood/product. Some brash can be left stacked onsite for habitat piles.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

A locally well-used wood accessed from Hazelbury Bryan and Kingston villages. A public footpath, part of the Hardy Way runs through the site. Several permissive paths lead off from this public footpath allowing varied circular walks throughout the site. The pond and the natural spring (the Holy Well) in the south eastern corner provide added interest.

### Significance

Informal public access to Hazel Wood fulfills the Trust's corporate objective to inspire visitors to enjoy and value woods and trees.

It also adds interest to the village of Hazelbury Bryan and provides an excellent place for locals to walk and enjoy quiet recreation.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Lack of formal parking at the main entrance or on nearby streets may discourage some potential visitors, who need to walk along adjoining roads/across fields to reach the site. Wetter areas may deter some members of the public from using all of the path network

### Factors Causing Change

Increase or decrease in level of use.

Canopy closure over paths making the paths muddier and less accessible

Misuse such as fly tipping/fires/motorbikes

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

A woodland that contains a network of well-maintained paths with a pond and Well providing added interest. The wood will remain open to the public for quiet informal recreation, though predominantly this will be by locals from Hazelbury Bryan and Kingston villages.

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

Easily accessible, attractive, well-maintained woodland that the local community frequently enjoy. Entrances, facilities and path network are appropriate for level and type of use and in line with access category B. Limited intervention where necessary, on a couple of rides where there is a closing of the canopy and are becoming dark and muddy, via copicing to open up the ride edges, increase light levels and improve path conditions for visitors.

**Work Programme:**

Cut rides three times per year with first two cuts (April & July) being to a width of 2m to maintain pedestrian access while retaining conservationally valuable swards and flora along the margins and final cut being to full width (3m) including cutting the open glade area in September to retain open space and prevent coarse grasses/vegetation encroaching on ride, and also to maintain the Well area.

In 2a compartment, fell one row of trees each side of internal path and a line of trees on the eastern boundary, adjacent with the path that runs alongside the eastern boundary. During these works, leave understorey species to ensure retain graduated ride/woodland edge. Retain any less common tree species such as cherry/hornbeam, for amenity value and consider halo thinning around them to reduce competition from adjacent more common species. Timber may be removed for firewood/product. Some brash can be left stacked onsite for habitat piles.

## 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	0.15	other willows	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
Compartment 1a is a small section of the southwest tip planted in 1999 with wet woodland species including goat and crack willow, aspen and downy birch.							
2a	3.16	Ash	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
Mixed native broadleaves planted in 1999. Main species include oak, ash, field maple, along with woody shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. The trees are establishing well and general overall health is good. Bordered to the West by the sewerage works and the remainder by existing hedgerows and pasture land. Power lines dissect the compartment NW-SE. The section of 2a to the south of the power lines - the main ground flora species is hogweed. The sections of 2a to the north of the power lines have nettle as the dominant ground flora species							
3a	0.21	Hazel	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
Planted in 1999 this pure hazel block is continuing to establish. The area shows signs of deer grazing, though not significant enough damage to prompt management. The hazel looks to have been slow to initially establish but the trees appear relatively healthy. This area will provide diversity to the structure of the woodland.							
4a	2.19	NULL		Non-wood habitat		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
Rides & open ground within the woodland. The latter, on the southern section of the site contains the site of the pond chosen as the millennium feature. This is establishing well and natural regeneration of alder is apparent around the edges and associated wetland plants, including ragged robin are also present in small numbers. These open areas were planted with 65 trees at 10m spacing - pedunculate oak, ash and black poplar. Natural regeneration of scrub species are also evident in these areas where they are bordered by mature hedges. Ground flora is dominated by grasses, with other main species being nettle, hogweed and thistle.							

5a	0.08	Ash	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
The strip of existing wet woodland along the southern stream and thin strip of woodland along steep bank leading down to the stream on the southern boundary. Ash, willow and alder. This compartment contains the spring known as Holy Well which drains into the Selwaie Brook that runs along the northern boundary of this compartment. Understorey species are blackthorn and hazel with ground flora comprising ground ivy, bluebells, ferns including herts tongue fern.							

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## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	2a	Thin	0.07	100	7

## 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.