



Coomb Briggs 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Coomb Briggs Wood
Location:	Immingham
Grid reference:	TA171143, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 113
Area:	2.86 hectares (7.07 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Coomb Briggs is situated in flat, open countryside, with mature horse chestnut trees alongside other broadleaf trees. Six native wildflower beds and a seat to the north are also present. Views are dominated by the oil refinery at Kilingholme.

2.2 Extended Description

The site, acquired by the Trust in 2000 for its “Woods on Your Doorstep” (WOYD) project, is on a 399 year lease from North East Lincolnshire Council at a peppercorn rent. The wood is situated in open, flat countryside close to the western boundary of the village of Immingham, on the northern side of the Harbrough Road (B1210). Access is across the Council playing field from Harbrough Road, or from access roads to the surrounding residential properties

Immediate to the east of the wood there are playing fields that front onto the edge of a housing estate and Primary School. To the north is a housing estate which has an access alongside the western boundary of the wood. A strip of grassland approximately 25 metres wide runs along the southern boundary. The site is a former playing field and has retained a number of mature chestnut trees in the centre of the site. Views to the north of the site are dominated by heavy industry with the massive oil refinery at Kilingholme being seen from most areas of the wood.

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 in the village and surrounding landscape and forms an important local amenity. A network of paths is maintained by the Trust, with 4 informal access points located around the site. Two are located on the eastern boundary and two on the western boundary. However, access can be gained at various other locations around the site as land surrounding the wood has open access with no boundary fences. A seat has been placed in a glade area on the northern boundary of the site. Because of its close proximity to the village the site is very popular with local people of various ages, especially dog walkers. Permissive paths run through the site, along the northern boundary and east - west, linking in to the open glade, which is formed by the mature chestnut trees.

Planting work commenced in January of 2001 following in-depth discussion with the local community. An on-site design meeting and guided walk, to plan the new woodland was held on the 20th July 2000. A questionnaire was also sent to local residents asking for their ideas for the site. . The local community began the planting works on Saturday the 13th January 2001 with the contractors finishing the remaining planting works by March 2001.

The main tree species to be found on site are 30% oak, 20% ash, 10% lime, 10% wild cherry, 5% field maple, 5% birch, 5% whitebeam, 5% alder. Shrub species planted on-site are 2% hawthorn 2% hazel, 2% goat willow, 2% guelder rose, 2% dogwood. Ten mature Horse chestnut trees are also located around the site. Six native wildflower beds were created in the spring of 2002.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

Coomb Briggs Wood is located to the west of Immingham in North East Lincolnshire. Access is from Habrough Road, the B1210 which leads to Harbrough. Just on leaving Immingham a large amenity area is situated on the right-hand side of the road. At the western side of the amenity area is the wood.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

Open access is available through the wood which contains a seat in a central glade. Footpaths run through the wood with a total length of 400m.

PARKING

Roadside parking.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Public toilets in the centre of Immingham, near the shopping area and car park.

BUS STOPS

Immingham - 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 through minimum intervention within the woodland area as senescence and on-going wind-throw provides opportunity for self-sustainability through natural regeneration in these areas, creating and maintaining a diversity of age structure within the woodland. The wood to be dominated (80-100%) by native broadleaved species with a mixed shrub layer. Should natural regeneration fail to occur or establish then new planting would be considered. 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 Informal Public Access

Description

The wood has open public access with a network of paths leading into the wood from the adjacent open access land. Woodland Trust signage has been erected at two entrance points. Approximately 400m of paths are mown within the wood together with a small glade area. Being within easy walking distance of the much of Immingham the site proves very popular with a wide range of people of different ages from the local community, especially dog walkers.

Significance

The site provides a short but interesting walk, which is very accessible for local people being located close to the edge of the village. The wildflower beds also provide an interesting variation of habitat for the woodland user and add conservation values to the area.

Opportunities & Constraints

At present due to the woods small size and age the woods usage is clearly limited to a short walk for the majority of local people. The housing development to the north which was undertaken in 2012 has no doubt increase public usage of the site.

Factors Causing Change

Increased public use, vandalism.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain open public access to the whole site with mown paths running through the wood.

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

To have a well-maintained network of annually mown grassed paths (400m) from 4 entrance points and a small mown glade area in the centre of the wood. Two Woodland Trust entrance signs to be maintained at the main entrance points.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Established secondary native woodland, planted in 2000, consisting of. 30% oak, 30% ash, 10% lime, 10% wild cherry, 5% field maple, 5% birch, 5% whitebeam, 5% alder. Shrub species consist of 2% dog rose, 2% hazel, 2% goat willow, 2% guelder rose, 2% dogwood.

Significance

Woodland cover is very sparse in the countryside surrounding Immingham at less than 1.7%. Heavy industry also dominates the landscape to the north and north west with the oil refineries and docks.. The woodland therefore helps to enhance the local landscape with the species diversity creating a valuable woodland habitat.

Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is a totally isolated from other woodlands and colonisation by certain woodland species is likely to be restricted, although the horse chestnuts scattered around the site add a mature tree habitat and seeds source. Also as a small wood the site is likely to be capable to support a limited range of species.

Factors Causing Change

Increase public use, vandalism, threats from tree diseases especially ash dieback disease, grey squirrels and deer

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The vision is to maintain a diverse broadleaved high forest encouraging self-sustaining woodland, dominated by 80-100% native broadleaved species, with a mixed native shrub layer and diverse age structure. As woodland cover around Immingham is sparse and the landscape is dominated by heavy industry the wood will contribute to the area as a valued landscape feature and wildlife habitat.

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

Minimum intervention will likely be the approach over the next 5-10 years, as the impacts from ash disease are monitored. Potential threats which may include from public usage such as vandalism or from pest and diseases such as ash dieback, will be assessed through the Woodland condition assessment and key feature observations, to be undertaken in each plan period (5 years)

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	2.83	Ash	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

Compartment 1 consists of 2.83ha planted with native mixed broadleaf trees (90%) and shrubs (10%). The area also contains 0.40ha of open ground. The main tree species are 30% oak, 20% ash, 10% lime, 10% wild cherry, 5% field maple, 5% birch, 5% whitebeam, 5% alder. Shrub species planted on-site are 2% hawthorn, 2% hazel, 2% goat willow, 2% guelder rose, 2% dogwood. The trees were planted in a random fashion at 2.5m spacing to achieve 1600 plants per hectare, creating a naturalistic effect. In spring 2002, 6 wildflower beds were created around the site. The site contains a central glade, adjacent to the mature chestnut trees. An underground water pipe runs across the site from the south western corner to the middle of the eastern boundary. The area above the pipe has been left as open ground and forms part of the woods network of paths. A permissive path runs along the northern boundary of the wood from east to west.

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.