



Pinchbeck Wood

Management Plan 2014-2019

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Pinchbeck Wood
Location:	Pinchbeck
Grid reference:	TF226258, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 131
Area:	1.28 hectares (3.16 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This is a small wood planted by the local Pinchbeck community in 1999. It is planted with native trees and shrubs and under planted with a sea of daffodils which were out in full bloom on 17 March 2012. This wood is a welcome woodland haven in the flat intensively farmed arable lands of South Lincolnshire and is perfect for short walks, introducing newly mobile toddlers to the wonders of woodland and dog walkers.

2.2 Extended Description

Pinchbeck Wood forms part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' project, which was supported by the Millennium Commission, and has created 200 new community woods within walking distance of towns and villages. This woodland creation site was made possible by Pinchbeck Parish Council from whom the Trust has taken a long lease of the land, and by the support of the local people of Pinchbeck who helped in the design, naming and planting of the wood.

Pinchbeck Wood lies at the western entrance to the village of Pinchbeck and is the only accessible woodland in the area for several miles. The land is a typically flat, rectangular block of fenland, formerly allotments and in arable rotation prior to planting by the Trust in 1999. The site is quite wet all year round. To the north, the site is bounded by the Graft Drain and the public highway Northgate, and to the south by the highway, Glenside North, which separates the site from the River Glen. On the eastern boundary, the site is separated from the adjoining garden centre by a line of maturing alders, which although outside the site are a feature in the otherwise largely treeless landscape. On the west the wood is bounded by arable ground.

The two access points on the northern and southern boundaries are linked by a grass ride, which also provides the management access. The simplicity of this design reflects the size of the site and the need to plant as much of it as possible to provide the visitor with a genuine woodland experience. It also allows the wood to act as a link between Northgate and Glenside North, providing visitors with a circular walk from the village.

The wood was planted at a public planting event in December 1999 with a mixture of native, broadleaved trees, the main species being Ash and Alder, with downy birch, and a small number of willow species. The site is growing well, with an average top height of about 10 meters in 2014 and closed canopy across the whole planted area.

The key features for this site are:-

- Informal Public Access
- Secondary woodland

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The southern boundary adjoins Glenside North [a public highway] and both management and public access into the site are available from this road.

Management and public access are also available via a culvert over the Graft Drain, which separates the northern boundary of the site from the public highway, Northgate.

Both of these entrances are formally fenced and gated with pedestrian squeeze gap access points and welcome signs. Within the site these entrances are linked to each other and the central glade by a mown grass ride. Parking is tricky on the roadside verge on Glenside North which tends to be very soft.

No known bus routes service the immediate area although for the intrepid traveller the village of Pinchbeck is one mile distant and details of bus routes can be found on Traveline..www.traveline.org.uk or alternatively on 0871 200 2233. There are no public facilities in the immediate vicinity

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Fully established native high forest with wet woodland characteristics, comprising of native broadleaved species. Managed to support natural processes, but with open space maintained to allow regular enjoyment by the wider community.

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 main ride that links the two management and pedestrian access points on the northern and southern boundaries also links the two public highways, Glenside North and Northgate. This allows visitors from the village of Pinchbeck to make a circular walk via the wood. A squeeze gap entrance has been erected at each of the two access points with a large 'welcome' sign on each of the two vehicular management gates. The path running along the eastern boundary also serves as buffer for Rose cottage; preventing leaf drop directly onto the glass house roof.

Significance

This site is held on a long lease from the Parish Council, which together with local interest groups and the local community were instrumental in the securing of the site for woodland creation, the wood's design and its planting. It is important that local people continue to enjoy the wood and be involved in its future care and management as well as for informal recreation for the local community in an otherwise intensively farmed countryside.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

- Only accessible woodland for several miles
- Strong community ties
- Volunteer warden in post (2012)

Constraints:

- Very small site
- Parking is difficult nearby
- Limited local pull/ draw
- wet site means paths can be very soft & muddy.

Factors Causing Change

Excessive woody vegetation growth blocking paths. Increasing canopy shade means to paths are slower to dry out.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Visited regularly and valued by the local community as a place to see wildlife and for quite informal recreation.

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

Paths cut 3 times during the growing season to a minimum width of 2m. Ride edge cutting to be ordered as required following biennial inspection by site manager. Signs also checked at least every 2 years to ensure they are in good state of repair, easy to read and in line with current WT guidelines. Regular contact with and support for Volunteer warden, who will continue to undertake small scale practical tasks, such as cleaning signs, cutting back individual overhanging vegetation, litter picking, etc. As well as inform the SM of any significant issues to be dealt with as appropriate.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

A native broadleaved woodland has been planted as part of the 'Woods On Your Doorstep' initiative in winter of 1999. Ash and alder are the main species together with a range of shrubs suitable for this fenland site.

Significance

Woodland is an uncommon feature in this fenland landscape, present only in association with farmsteads and village settlements. This site therefore fits in with this landscape character and in addition, offers a small but significant area of lightly managed semi-natural habitat in an area of otherwise intensively managed arable farmland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

- one of very few areas of woodland within several miles.

Constraints:

- very small site
- Isolated "island habitat"

Factors Causing Change

Climate change = increase in pests and Diseases (*Chalara Fraxinea)
vegetation succession

Agricultural leaching and run-off (nutrients, pesticides, weed seeds (invasive species))

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Healthy and well established high forest with wet woodland characteristics comprising of native broadleaf species.

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

Biennial inspection by Site manager to check woodland health. Signs of disease, pests, invasive species, etc. Works to be ordered through observation actions as required. Effects of Chalara likely to be significant on site, but the species mix lends it's self well to a speedy recovery through natural processes without the need for intervention. However this should be monitored to ensure natural regeneration of at least 2 species is taking place quickly enough and isn't impeded by excessive mammal browsing for example.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.17	Alder species	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

This WOYD site consists of one compartment of new planting (december 1999) at a density of 2250/ha with the main species being Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) (30%) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) (30%). The planting is around a central glade, which is the focus of the site and contains the seating that is the wood's Millennium Feature. A ring of 20 larger ash and 20 alder transplants (1.8 - 2m) was planted around this central glade to provide this feature with immediate emphasis. A single ride links the glade with the two management and pedestrian access points at the north-west and south-east corners of the site.

The wood was planted at a public planting event in December 1999 with a mixture of native, broadleaved trees, the main species being ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), with downy birch (*Betula pubescens*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and aspen (*Populus tremula*). Shrub species, including crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), grey willow (*Salix cinerea*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*) were planted at the ride edges.

An area of open ground is retained along the northern boundary as an access strip for the maintenance of the Graft Drain by the Internal Drainage Board.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2015	1a	Selective Fell	0.04	185	7.4

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.