



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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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## 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.

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## 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>	Kingstree Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Kineton
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SP323518, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 151
<b>Area:</b>	3.42 hectares (8.45 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines

## 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 comprises young native trees, wide grassy rides and open glades. In one corner, a group of walnut trees marks the millennium.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Kingstree Wood is a 3.4ha woodland creation site planted in November 1999. It was planted on former pasture as part of the Woodland Trust Woods On Your Doorstep initiative to celebrate the Millennium. The woodland name was given after a high donation towards the wood by Judith Kingstree. The site lies off Warwick Road (B4080) at Pittern Hill, just under 1 mile NW of Kineton, Warwickshire. Hawthorn hedges surround the elevated site, which lies between the mature native woodland Brick Kiln Coppice to the west and a newly planted woodland to the east. The main structure of an 18th century windmill can be seen from the site 200m to the SE at Windmill Farm.

The woodland has been planted with native trees such as oak, silver birch, rowan and ash making up the majority of the species, along with alder, ash and downy birch being more prominent in the damper SW quarter of the site. The shrub layer on ride edges consist of willow, hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, wayfaring-tree and guelder-rose. Due to the age of the stands there is currently minimal understory in the woodland and very little ground flora other than grasses, mosses and coarse vegetation such as bramble. There is also very little regeneration of tree species, again due to the age of the woodland. Deer browsing has been noted in the far northern corner of the site however due to the low levels it has had little effect on the establishment of the planted trees. Five walnut trees planted as a Millennium Feature can be found to the eastern corner of the site where there is also a bench providing a place for visitors to rest and enjoy their surroundings.

A circular unsurfaced path can be found around the site leading from an impressive fenced entrance which includes a gate for the less able and an information board. The path widens into open glades which cover approximately 15% of the site and provides nice 'surprise' features when rounding the steeply winding paths. These can be quite damp and soft under foot during wetter months.

Key features for the site include Informal Public Access and New Native Woodland as briefly outlined above and further information for which can be found in section 5.0: Key Features.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Kingstree Wood lies 1 mile to the NW of Kineton on the Warwick Road. A surfaced footpath runs beside the road for much but not all of the distance. The entrance gate is suitable for wheelchairs but roughly 600m of paths within the wood are grass and can be seasonally soft. Grass paths are cut three times a year to keep them accessible and easily defined. An information board can be found just inside the entrance.

Kingstree wood is within a half mile of the village of Kineton, Warks. Public rights of way through the nearby landscape are well represented for both pedestrians and horse riders. Kingstree wood's access network consists of a short circular walk on flat terrain. The route is not surfaced and is only open to pedestrians. Access is via a kissing gate located off the B4086 kinton to Wellesbourne road.

There is no formal parking at Kingstree wood and verge parking is not recommended as the road is fast and the verges are narrow.

The following service links Kineton to Wellesbourne though the nearest stop is in the centre of Kineton.

Service Number: 77

Provider: Stagecoach in Warwickshire

There is no information on public conveniences within 5 miles of Kingstree wood.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In 50 years time, Kingstree wood will be a structurally and species diverse native broadleaved woodland. There will be a mix of ages and structures within the wooded areas.

Now that the initial establishment period is over, the woodland will be allowed to develop naturally as far as possible, only intervening when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes in accordance with the Woodland Trusts Management Approach. We will also carry out essential work such as tree safety and access operations as shown through the completion of trees safety inspections and key feature observations.

Paths will be cut and the entrance maintained so as to allow easy access. Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly. Public safety will be assessed regularly and tree safety inspections within the site made once the trees are mature. Paths and boundaries are areas for review, based on the level of use. The walnuts forming the millennium feature will need formative and high pruning as they mature, so they stand out as important, more formal trees.



## 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

Open public access is available over the whole site for quiet recreational use. In addition, there are roughly 600m of grass paths forming a circular route within the woodland. The grass is regularly mown to keep the paths clear and well defined.

The entrance is suitable for wheelchair entry and the relatively flat nature of the ground would make further access around the site possible when the ground is firm. An information board is available to visitors here.

#### Significance

Kingstree Wood is the result of community co-operation in raising funds, assisting with the design and with the planting. It therefore has 'ownership' by this community who continue to provide input and enjoy the resource provided.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The site is fairly small and there are no official direct path links to surrounding land. However there are a number of unofficial entrances including a stile from 3rd party land along the boundaries of the site. A surfaced footpath from Kineton extends much of the way towards Pittern Hill and a bridlepath passes through Windmill farm to the east.

#### Factors Causing Change

Damage to site from unauthorised 3rd party access points.

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

Open access will be retained throughout the whole of the site. The 600m of grass paths and entrances will be cut during the summer months to keep them clear and well defined and any trees/shrubs encroaching onto the site path will be scheduled into the work programmed for coppicing where shown to be needed through key feature observations. Welcome signs and an information board will be maintained for visitors use at the entrance. Regular inspections will be made to check the visitor facilities.

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

Mow internal paths three times each year to a minimum of 3 metres in width and strim around entrances and signs.

Carry out ride edge coppicing to maintain public access and habitat improvements where deemed necessary through KF and Woodland Condition observations.

Monitor the use of unofficial entrances and the impact on the condition of the woodland.

## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

Trees have been planted in curved rows, 2.1 x 2.1m apart. They were protected by 75cm spiral guards. Trees have been planted into some quite large groups of single species, which tends to improve tree development and attraction to wildlife. Herbicide was used to control weeds around each tree station. The site was a grass ley prior to planting and this has led to few annual weed problems. The site had a five year establishment contract until the end of 2004.

The site is almost opposite the semi-natural woodland Brick Kiln Coppice. It has also had a new broadleaf woodland planted to the east running towards Windmill Farm.

The roadside hedge is quite mature and includes a substantial amount of elm. Some of the larger stems have become infected by Dutch elm disease and subsequently died back. The hedge has been included into the Zone A tree safety inspection due to its proximity to the road and is to be assessed every 24 months to prevent a hazards to road users.

### Significance

The woodland will become an important landmark feature falling as it does on top of a hill in an essentially open, arable landscape and also provide an important addition to the local green network, sitting between the existing mature woodland opposite and the new wooded site to the east.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The size of the woodland means that it will always have a strong 'edge effect'. The value to wildlife remains high and is enhanced by the existing and new woodlands adjacent.

### Factors Causing Change

Chalara/Ash dieback could pose a significant threat to areas where Ash has been planted as a single species. Should Chalara/Ash dieback reach the area, ash sections of the woodland could be under threat.

Increased browsing pressure.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

A resilient native broadleaf woodland, with a graded edge habitat of no less than 3.44ha along with preserving the group of walnut trees as a millennium feature.

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

Inspect the woodland for any unexpected or undesirable changes that would affect the sites ability to continue to establish as a broadleaved native woodland under a non-minimal intervention approach. Assess condition of Walnut trees to see whether there is any requirement to carry out any require formative and high pruning.

Assess hedge via zone A tree safety inspections, keeping trees clear of the highway and making safe where necessary.

Monitor browsing levels across the site, encouraging natural regeneration of trees and shrubs.

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## 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	3.44	Ash		Coppice		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

Compartment 1 covers the whole of Kingstree Wood where trees were planted in Nov 1999 into an established grassland ley. The boundaries are all thorn hedgerows and are now beginning to grow tall on all sides. A circular path winds around within the wood and widens to form three open glades. Trees are planted at 2.1m centres in gentle curves and are individually protected against rabbits, some deer browsing is occurring at the northern end however

## 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.