



Pot Kiln 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Pot Kiln Wood
Location:	Cranham, Upminster
Grid reference:	TQ572886, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 177
Area:	6.84 hectares (16.90 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This wood lies within the Thames Chase Forest. It features hedgerows believed to be ancient in origin, and native broadleaf trees and shrubs including field maple, midland hawthorn, common hawthorn, ash, blackthorn, oak, wild rose and elder.

2.2 Extended Description

Pot Kiln Wood was purchased by The Woodland Trust in March 1999. The wood is located in the London Borough of Havering in Cranham, Upminster, close to the A127 Southend Arterial road. A small part of the site (0.3ha) was planted shortly after acquisition with mixed broadleaves. This planting was undertaken as part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on your doorstep' campaign (WOYD) which established 200 new community woods around the UK to commemorate the new millennium. The wood is within the Thames Chase Community Forest, and supports this woodland creation initiative.

Historically, the site appears to have been split into 4 small fields separated by internal hedgerows. The majority of the site is now covered with naturally regenerating scrub and young woodland, which has expanded out from the hedgerows, with the most common species being hawthorn, blackthorn, oak and ash, together with thickets of bramble. The former hedgerows themselves are thought to be very historic in origin and they include the uncommon wild service tree.

Areas of grassland still remain on the site, surrounded by the invading scrub. The management of the grasslands has been through a chequered history with intervals of over grazing by horses, illegal encampments and more latterly under-management. The result is that they are now dominated by coarse dominant grasses and invasive herbs, such as nettle and thistle. However, patches of finer grasses and herbs, more typical of traditional meadows, still remain in pockets.

Pot Kiln Wood has a good network of pedestrian-only paths, including a public right of way which runs east-west through the middle of the site. Access points are located on all sides of the wood, with 4 in total, including access from the right of way off Front Lane. A management-only access point also exists off Front Lane, an access which is shared with the site next door (former plant nursery).

The key features which have been designated for this site are: Secondary woodland, open ground and public access. The management of the site will therefore be focussed on managing for these main aspects.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Available via public footpath which crosses the site, roughly in an east to west direction. Access from housing estate to south via kissing gate.

Buses leave regularly from Upminster station and stop nearby on Front Lane, Cranham.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term objective is to develop mature broadleaved woodland across 80% of the site area (at least 5ha). Apart from the 0.3ha plantation in the northeast corner all this woodland will derive from scrub and natural regeneration. The eventual mature woodland will be resilient to change through being diverse in species and structure, and will be regenerating vigorously. Some silvicultural intervention may be required periodically to maintain these conditions. Oak is likely to be the main species in the resulting mature woodland but it will also contain field maple, hornbeam, hawthorn, and hazel. The presence of ash in the wood is likely to be threatened by the impact of Ash dieback disease.

The wood will contain at approximately 20% open ground (approx 1.5ha) with the majority of this being present as small managed glades on the former field areas. These managed glades will conserve remnant meadow flora, and will also add to public enjoyment by preserving views and open rides.

Public access will be maintained in perpetuity through a managed network of paths and entrances. Overall public access will be low key at this relatively small local site, but the site will be made welcoming through basic signage being displayed at all entrances and the routine removal of litter. Infrastructure such as gates and signage will be routinely inspected and maintained to a good standard. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors to use, through regular safety inspections.

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 Open Ground Habitat

Description

Historically 4 small fields existed on the site, separated by old hedgerows. It is thought that all except the south-eastern field were ploughed up during the second world war. Prior to the Trust's acquisition the levels of horse grazing and scrub encroachment indicate that none of the fields had been traditionally managed in recent years. The impact of over grazing by horses, illegal encampments and more latterly under-management have taken their toll on the current ecological value of the grasslands. The result is that they are now dominated by coarse grasses and invasive plants, such as bramble, nettle and thistle. However, patches of finer grasses and herbs, more typical of traditional meadows, still remain in pockets. Botanical surveys carried out in 1999 and 2006 confirm this declining ecological richness of the grasslands. Traditional meadow species such as black knapweed, grass vetchling, meadow buttercup, yarrow, smooth tare and several other vetch species were recorded in the 2006 survey.

Significance

There has been a 95% loss of species-rich grassland in Essex since 1900.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: the re-establishment of conservation grazing on the site is impractical due to the small size, public access and history of anti-social activities. Scrub now covers quite a large area of the former fields, and is providing a habitat in its own right, in conflict with meadow management. Opportunities: Due to a decline in ecological quality of the grassland habitat and the colonisation of scrub there is an opportunity to accept this loss and look to develop woodland habitat over most of the site area. As pockets of floral interest do still remain though, there is the opportunity to manage small glades within the wood where scrub is less advanced and where there are advantages for public enjoyment (such as maintaining views in the northeast quadrant).

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to scrub and woodland

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will contain approximately 20% open ground (approx 1.5ha) with the majority of this being present as 3 small managed glades on the former field areas. These managed glades will conserve remnant meadow flora, conserve wet areas of conservation interest and will also add to public enjoyment by preserving views and open rides. Outside of these managed glades the former open ground will be allowed to succeed to woodland, through the natural colonisation of scrub.

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

During this plan period the objective will be to put in place adequate management of the retained open ground. This will entail the annual mowing and removal of arisings from 3 identified glades. The total size of these managed areas will be no more than 1.5ha (20% of the site).

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Pot Kiln Wood has 4 pedestrian entrances, one on each side of the wood. The main entrance is off Front Lane to the east, accessed via a public right of way between 2 properties. There are further entrances off Brookmans Drive to the north, Stour Way to the South and from open farmland to the west. The wood has over 700m of managed paths, and there is a public right of way running through the middle of the site from east to west. The northeast quadrant is higher in elevation than the rest of the site and allows good landscape views.

Overall the access facilities at Pot Kiln Wood are low key, as this is a small site mostly for interest to local people. The wood is nearby and very accessible for people living nearby at in Cranham. The Woodland Trust has given Pot Kiln Wood a category C for access, which translates as a 'Low usage site where we do maintain paths'.

A further management-only entrance is present off Front Lane, which is shared with a local nursery.

Significance

The wood provides a quiet area for informal recreation - especially suitable for local people living close by.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: There is no car parking provision at the wood. The site has a history of anti-social activities such as flytipping, vandalism and encampment. The relatively small size of the site is likely to limit the use of Pot Kiln to local visitors only.

Factors Causing Change

Anti-social activities could alter future provision and investment in access infrastructure.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access will be maintained in perpetuity through a managed network of paths and entrances. Overall public access will be low key at this relatively small local wood, but the site will be made welcoming through basic signage being displayed at all entrances and the routine removal of litter. Infrastructure such as gates and signage will be routinely inspected and maintained to a good standard. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors to use, through regular safety inspections.

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

The short term objective during this plan period is to ensure that safe but low key access is maintained at the wood. New entrance signage will be installed in 2018. All entrances and main paths will be cut back and maintained annually, and litter will be removed where it is found. The public right of way will be open and sunny and further provision of managed glades will add interest for the visitor. A tree safety survey along high risk public zones will be carried out annually to ensure the wood is as safe as practical for visitors to use.

5.3 Secondary Woodland

Description

The majority of woodland at the site has arisen naturally by colonisation of open grassland from overgrown hedges and adjacent woodland. Currently these young woodlands are dominated by early successional species such as hawthorn but ash and oak are also present. Minor components of field maple, hazel and hornbeam are also present. There is a one wild service tree present along one of the old hedge lines.

In 1999 approximately 600 mixed native broadleaves were planted with local involvement in the north-eastern corner of the site as part of the WOYD initiative. Planted species include oak, ash, birch and field maple.

Significance

Woodland creation at the site contributes to the aims and development of the Thames Chase community forest.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is an opportunity to encourage further broadleaved woodland at the site naturally, through allowing progression of the scrub habitat.

Factors Causing Change

Deer browsing. Open ground being colonised by scrub and young woodland. Threat of spread of Japanese knotweed.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term objective is to develop mature broadleaved woodland across 80% of the site area (at least 5ha). Apart from the 0.3ha plantation in the northeast corner all this woodland will derive from scrub and natural regeneration. The eventual mature woodland will be resilient to change through being diverse in species and structure, and will be regenerating vigorously. Some silvicultural intervention may be required periodically to maintain these conditions. Oak is likely to be the main species in the resulting mature woodland but it will also contain field maple, hornbeam, hawthorn, and hazel. The presence of ash in the wood is likely to be threatened by the impact of Ash dieback disease. A managed open ride will be present through the centre of the site, following the public footpath in an E-W direction. The wood will be free from non-native invasive species.

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

Allow the continued natural colonisation of scrub and woodland over approximately 2ha of the site, on former open ground. This colonisation will take place around the edges of managed glades and throughout the Southwest quadrant of the site. Bramble, thorn species and some oak are likely to be the early colonisers.

Ride management will take place over the course of the plan period, involving coppicing and management of scrub along approx 100m of the public right of way through the middle of the site. The initial operation will be completed in 2020.

No silvicultural operations will take place within the woodland blocks this plan period. Some small scale and targeted thinning & scrub removal may be carried out though to open up areas where anti-social activities need to be discouraged.

All redundant tree tubes will be removed from the plantation in the northeast corner during 2019. The clump of Japanese Knotweed in the southeast corner will be treated chemically each year of this plan period until it is eradicated.

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	6.45	Hawthorn species	1980	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Woodland and scrub arising from colonisation of former hedges and woodland shelterbelts. Dominated by hawthorn scrub with oak, ash and field maple. An electricity power line passes through the southern section. The hedgerows are believed to be ancient in origin with the most common species being field maple, midland hawthorn, common hawthorn, ash, blackthorn, oak, wild rose and elder. A wild service tree is also present. The woodland matrix is broken by pockets of open grassland, arising from former pastureland.</p>							
1b	0.30	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Plantation of mixed broadleaves established as a millennium wood in Northeast corner. Approximately 600 mixed native broadleaves were planted with local involvement with main species being oak and ash.</p>							

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.