



Stables and Roffe 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Stables and Roffe Wood
Location:	Sinnington
Grid reference:	SE748863, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 100
Area:	8.55 hectares (21.13 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Situated just to the north east of the Sinnington village, Stables & Roffe Wood sits on a gentle south facing slope, very prominent in the quiet rural landscape. Located very close to the eastern bank of the River Seven, Stables & Roffe Wood forms an important part of a much larger wooded valley complex, which is composed of a mixture of semi natural woodland and planted ancient woodland. This complex (although much of it a broken chain) runs for approximately 5km, following the river linking through to the north with Cropton Banks (Woodland Trust) and then the vast expanse of Cropton Forest (Forestry Commission). The woodland is surrounded by a mix of farming uses.

2.2 Extended Description

Situated just to the north east of the Sinnington village, Stables & Roffe Wood consists of 7.28 hectares of Semi-Natural Ancient oak woodland and 1.25ha of native broadleaves planted in year 2000 to buffer the existing woodland. The woodland sits on a gentle south facing slope, very prominent in the quiet rural landscape. Situated close to the eastern bank of the River Seven, Stables & Roffe Wood forms an important part of a much larger wooded valley complex, which is composed of a mixture of semi natural woodland and planted ancient woodland. This complex (although much of it a broken chain) runs for approximately 5km, following the river linking through to the north with Cropton Banks (Woodland Trust) and then the vast expanse of Cropton Forest (Forestry Commission). The woodland is surrounded by a mix of farming uses - predominantly pasture with some arable crops - often in rotation.

Stables Woods is dominated by sessile oak, which appears (and from local information) to have been felled during the world wars, as many of the trees are multi stemmed or have originated from cut stumps, and are generally of an even age throughout. Sycamore, beech and occasional spruces have been planted into the woodland. The shrub layer in the woodland is rich, dominated by hazel coppice with holly, field maple, spindle, dog rose, hawthorn and blackthorn. The ground flora is diverse and typical of ancient woodland and is dominated by dogs mercury with bluebell, but does contain some less common species such as herb paris. Within the woodland there are a number of wet flushes and seasonal springs, which limits the development of access routes and combined with the ground flora precludes the use of large forestry machinery. Woodland edge to the south is dominated by blackthorn and hawthorn forming an excellent graded south facing woodland edge habitat.

Roffe Wood formed part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on your Doorstep' project, which created 200 new woods and was supported by the Millennium Commission, Forestry Commission and the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust. Planted with a mixture of native woodland species at 2.1m metre spacing's, the tree species include oak, ash, rowan, field maple, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly and dog rose, planted in either 1.2m deer tubes or 0.7m shrub guards. The design of the site was created through community consultation at an event arranged by the Woodland Trust, attended by over 70 people from Sinnington and the surrounding villages. The creation of a pond was nominated as the millennium features for the site, however this did not hold sufficient water throughout the year and was filled in during 2004. The woodland was in part (750 trees) planted with the help of local volunteers at a community planting event and is now very well used by local people. Seating, inscribed with 'Roffe Wood 2000' has been provided close to the southern entrance, to commemorate planting of the site.

Access to the woodland is initially via a public bridleway north from Sinnington village. This bridleway follows the western boundary to the wood from where a single permissive route gives access through to Roffe Wood, continuing on a permissive route to meet Nuns Walk - a public footpath to the south. Access to the area is very well used by local people. Management access to the woodland crosses existing farmland from the south east (approximately 1km, limited for forestry use with vehicles over 2 tonnes during July August and September on 28 days notice and at 24 hours notice at all other times for vehicles under 2 tonnes un-laden weight) and enters the wood via Roffe Wood.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access on foot is available from the public bridleway which runs along the western boundary of Stables Wood. then via two permissive routes through the woodland linking through to Roffe Wood. One permissive route takes a direct line through the woodland to Roffe Wood, the other follows the northern boundary on higher and slightly drier ground. These routes then link up with a further circular permissive route around Roffe Wood (also Woodland Trust), which was planted as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep project, this in turn links with the public footpath to the south - 'Nuns Walk'. None of the routes within the woodland are surfaced and can be uneven and very muddy. No parking is available close to the woodland, however the Village centre of Sinnington is approximately 1km away from either entrance to the wood. Woodland Trust welcoming signs denote the ownership and are clearly visible just inside the woodland edge.

Bus routes stop within the village, close to available parking from where it is a 1km walk to the woodland along minor roads with pavement. Information from the traveline website as of March 2008, Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2608

The nearest public toilets are available in Pickering approximately 5km to the east, where there is also a large public (pay and display) car park.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

As an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland of such value, close to the edge of the North York Moors National Park, Stables Wood forms part of a concentration of ancient woodland in a part of the country that generally has a very low percentage of ancient woodland remaining. The long term intention is to maintain broadleaved ancient semi natural woodland on site. This will be achieved through minimum intervention, as senescence and ample regeneration will, given time diversify the age structure within the currently even-aged woodland.

Our long term intention for Roffe Wood is to create mature, native, secondary broadleaved woodland. This will be achieved by long term minimum intervention management of the existing woodland planting and through any natural regeneration from the existing hedgerows, and from the adjoining woodland of Stables Wood. The wood forms a key buffer within an ancient woodland concentration.

Access will be maintained at the present levels via un-surfaced permissive paths and Woodland Trust welcoming signs.

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

Public access is available along a public bridleway along the western boundary to the woodland, then via two permissive routes through the woodland linking through to Roffe Wood. One permissive route takes a direct line through the woodland to Roffe Wood, the other follows the northern boundary on higher and slightly drier ground. From Roffe Wood the permissive route then links with a public footpath (Nuns Walk). No car parking is available on site, although the village centre and ample car parking is only 5 minutes walk.

Significance

The woodland although quite small and with limited access provides a valuable resource for the local community being the closest woodland to the village and never having had public access before. It has a very quiet setting and undisturbed feel, also contributing to the wooded landscape on the edge of the North York Moors National Park to create a very special woodland. Whilst increasing the access provision is not feasible, access into the wood on at least one route is important as one of the objectives of the Woodland Trust and to allow people to enjoy this woodland experience.

Opportunities & Constraints

Main constraint with access provision is the generally undisturbed Ancient Semi Natural Woodland ground flora, combined with seasonally very wet woodland there is no intention to provide further permissive routes other than the two already present. The wet nature of the site means that the paths are often heavily poached, however alternative routes within the wood are available.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the existing open permissive footpaths through the site, with Woodland Trust ownership defined at the entrances.

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

Maintain existing permissive path through annual mowing/strimming to ensure easy and welcoming public access to the site.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

New native broadleaved woodland planted in 2000 with oak, ash, rowan, field maple, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly and dog rose.

Significance

Within this area (North Yorkshire Moors) there is a high percentage of woodland cover, however, most is commercial conifer plantation, with very little Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. This is one opportunity to re-create secondary native broadleaved woodland and encourage further planting locally. More importantly the planting extends and buffers the existing Ancient Semi Natural Woodland of Stable Wood, as well as a number of ancient hedgerows along Nuns' Walk and to the south of the Wood. and as the site is within an Ancient Woodland Concentration, extending and linking Ancient Woodland sites is a priority.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity for the woodland to be managed as minimum intervention, requiring very low levels of maintenance, with all establishment and work complete. The local community are very involved with the site and it is unlikely to suffer any major vandalism and/or other damaging activities.

Factors Causing Change

Natural Regeneration from adjacent ASNW woodland. Ash dieback disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Creation of mature, un-even aged predominantly native broadleaved woodland with shrubby edges and open rides.

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

Woodland to be managed as minimum intervention, allowing natural development of broadleaved woodland adjacent to existing Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. Stock fence to be maintained as stock proof to prevent damage from browsing stock. Woodland Condition Assessment to undertaken once per plan period.

5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Broadleaved high forest, predominantly oak and ash with mature sycamore, beech and Norway spruce. The under-storey contains abundant holly, rowan, birch, holly thorns and hazel. Designated as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. Large amounts of standing and fallen deadwood - predominantly elm. Much of the compartment has a dense ground flora, with an exceptional range of species, many indicative of ancient woodland

Significance

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland makes up a significant proportion of the woodland in this part of the county on the edge of the North York Moors National Park, although much of the local woodland is under estate ownership and therefore either in active management or used for shooting. In the local area Stables Wood forms a relatively undisturbed part of a longer chain of ancient woodlands, safeguarding ASNW species and forming a significant visual element in the local landscape as the backdrop to Sinnington village.

Opportunities & Constraints

Potential for selective felling of the non-native species - with sycamore, beech and spruce up to 70 years in age. However these species already make up a significant proportion of the woodland (and surrounding woodlands) and are regenerating little, and appear to be causing little change to the woodland, as such it would follow the WT policy to accept these non-native species within the woodland. In addition the ground conditions, difficult access and extraction routes with time and seasonal limitations would limit this work. Disturbance to the Ancient Semi Natural Woodland ground flora and the woodland fauna in an area untouched for many years would also be unacceptable. Likewise coppicing of the hazel and other under-storey species was undertaken in the year prior to Woodland Trust ownership for charcoal production, however there is no long term historical continuity of coppicing on site and little obvious significant ecological reason for the continuation of this operation. Minimum intervention will maintain the current habitats and as over maturity and senescence continue to occur, so standing deadwood will provide additional habitat. Natural regeneration will occur in the pockets of light, which is likely to be predominantly ash and oak.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain broadleaved woodland on this ASNW site. The woodland will be managed through minimum intervention maintaining predominantly an oak/ash high forest. Although hazel is present and there is an indication of coppice in the past it is felt that there would be little significant ecological benefit in re-introducing a coppice regime.

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

Ash dieback disease is likely to influence the future development of the woodland and informal monitoring, will be necessary to assess the impact it is having to the long term future of the woodland. Woodland Condition Assessment to undertaken once per plan period.

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	7.28	other oak spp	1910	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Broadleaved high forest, predominantly oak and ash with mature sycamore, beech and Norway spruce. The under-storey is composed of abundant holly, rowan, birch, holly, thorns and hazel. Designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Large amounts of standing and fallen deadwood are found throughout the woodland, predominantly elm. Public access is limited to two un-surfaced permissive paths linking a bridleway to the west a footpath to the south east leading to Roffe Wood (Cpt. 1b). Bounded to the south west by woodland and pasture/arable land to all other sides. Much of the compartment has a dense ground flora, with a good range of species, many indicative of ancient woodland.</p>							
1b	1.25	Ash	2000	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>Composed principally of ash and oak with smaller amounts of cherry, field maple, rowan, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly and dog rose. The ground flora is predominantly ryegrass on a stony clay loam. The site is on a moderately sloping, with a south-west facing aspect. Bounded to the north by ancient semi-natural woodland, to the east, west and south by farmland - both arable and improved pasture. Permissive paths link Roffe Wood with the existing public footpath to the south and the permissive paths through Stables Wood to the north. Management access entering the woodland from farmland to the north east.</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.