



# Hartest Wood

## Management Plan 2001-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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>	Hartest Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Hartest, nr Sudbury
<b>Grid reference:</b>	TL837528, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 155
<b>Area:</b>	1.18 hectares (2.92 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 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 was planted with mixed broadleaf trees by local villagers and school children, and features a central sculpture called 'The Gift'.

## 2.2 Extended Description

This 1.18 hectare Woods on your Doorstep site was planted up as a native broadleaved woodland in December 1999 by local villagers and schoolchildren, with the support of The Green light Trust. From the outset, the project has largely been community-led with locals finding the site, fundraising, designing, planting and taking on the on going maintenance of the wood. Prior to Trust ownership the field, which slopes gently towards the east and affords good views over the village and surrounding countryside, was a meadow used for horse grazing.

An information board at the main entrance explains the layout of the site, which has a sculpture in the middle of it. 'The Gift' was designed by Hartest resident, Geoffrey Clarke R.A. and was donated to form the centrepiece of the wood. It is cast in bronze and stands on a granite plinth.

Hartest Wood was planted up as a native broadleaved woodland with the layout of the wood representing a map of the village and the wide rides representing the roads. 187 oak trees were planted for each dwelling and a thicket of yew and holly mark the site of the church. Bell Stay Bottom is an ash coppice planted to provide stays for the church bells in the future.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Hartest Wood is situated on the edge of the Suffolk village of Hartest, which is 6 miles south of Bury St Edmunds. the sites topography is flat and the paths are all mud/grass tracks. There are two non gated entrances (open). There is a small parking area that can take two vehicles.

H.C Chambers & Son: L370/2/3/4 Sudbury to Bury St. Edmunds  
Link to buses time tables: [www.chamberscoaches.co.uk](http://www.chamberscoaches.co.uk)

The Bus stop is situated on the village green and from there the wood is a half mile walk

The closest train station to the site is at Bury StEdmunds

Link to train time tables: [www.onerailway.com](http://www.onerailway.com)

There are no public Toilets within the village of but the Crown Pub on the Village green have the closest Toilets.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention will be to successfully establish Hartest wood as a broadleaved secondary woodland. Once the trees have become established, Hartest wood will be allowed to develop naturally and become high forest through minimal intervention.

### Public access

The long term intention is to encourage a sustainable level of use by maintaining the access features and internal infrastructure appropriately. The long-term management will not create new paths, but will concentrate on maintaining the high standard of paths present.

## 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

There is open public access to this WOYD site. Parking is available off the road at the main entrance at the northern end of the wood where an information board has been erected. A network of paths, mirroring the layout of the roads in the village, lead visitors to the centre of the site where 'The Gift' stands.

There is a second pedestrian access point in the south-east corner of the wood where a sleeper bridge crosses the ditch. A permissive path, known as Pask's Path, runs to this entrance from the village, on the field edge at the top of the Lawshall Road embankment.

#### Significance

Given the high level of community involvement that there has been on this WOYD site, it is important to maintain good access for local residents.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Cars can pull off the road and park on the wide grass verge by the main entrance

#### Factors Causing Change

None

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

Enhance public access so that visitors to the site continue to enjoy the experience.

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

To maintain the site as an area of public open access, with ride system cut to a minimum of 2m to allow unhindered access for the public. Maintain all public access structures in a safe, usable condition. Currently the local community manages the public access resource.

## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

The woodland was planted in December 1999 with a native broadleaved species mix at 3m spacing. The trees have now become established and the woodland has reached canopy closure.

### Significance

Establishing Hartest Wood will help to increase the area of new native woodland in Suffolk. On a local level it is a significant new habitat for wildlife in the context of the surrounding landscape.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Deer damage may be a constraining factor in the continuing establishment of the trees. Ash dieback has affected a number of common ash within the site.

### Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback, deer damage. Ash dieback will alter the structure of the woodland through the suppression or death of resident ash. This will increase the deadwood habitat within the site.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Established new native woodland which links into the surrounding landscape.

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

The woodland area will be placed under minimal intervention apart from any health and safety issues that could arise pose a threat to public safety.

### 5.3 Community Woodland Group

#### Description

Hartest Wood is a community woodland with locals involved in finding the site, fundraising, designing and planting the wood and taking responsibility for its on going management.

#### Significance

At this site the local community have led the project to plant and maintain the wood. They drew up the unique design incorporating the village map, came up with the sculpture and have now taken on responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the trees and paths. They have enabled the Trust to meet its objectives of increasing new native woodland and increasing public enjoyment of woodland. As a community woodland it is a model the Trust would like to replicate in other parts of the country and as such, the community feature has a national significance.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The local community of Hartest have agreed to take on the day-to-day maintenance of the wood and the Woodland Officer can take a supervisory role in the project.

#### Factors Causing Change

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

Local community to establish and manage new native woodland that links into the surrounding landscape.

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

To maintain community involvement and development within Hartest wood.

Work Programme: Annually review community participation within Hartest wood.

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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	1.21	Field maple	1999	High forest		Community Woodland Group, Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

Hartest Wood has been planted up as a native broadleaved woodland at 1100 trees per hectare, using 30 - 45 cm stock in 1.2m tree tubes with stakes. The layout of the wood represents a map of the village with 4 metre wide rides representing the roads. 187 oak trees were planted for each dwelling and a thicket of yew and holly mark the site of the church. Bell Stay Bottom is an ash coppice planted to provide stays for the church bells in the future.

The species composition is as follows: 19% pedunculate oak, 19% ash, 19% wild cherry, 8% field maple, 6% white willow, 8% hornbeam, 7% silver birch, 4% holly, yew, sweet chestnut and rowan, 10% woody shrubs (hazel, common hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood, spindle) in mixed species clumps along ride edges. A few cuttings of local black poplar have also been planted. A selection of wild flowers grown from local stock have been put in, including primroses, cowslips, oxlips, foxgloves, sweet woodruff and bluebells.

## 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.