



Kentle Wood

Management Plan 2013-2018

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Kentle Wood
Location:	Daventry
Grid reference:	SP553633, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 152
Area:	11.90 hectares (29.41 acres)
Designations:	Environmental Improvement Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Planted to celebrate the new millennium this is a great little wood for you to enjoy a walk. Halfway round is a bench where you can enjoy the surrounding views.

2.2 Extended Description

Kentle Wood is a new native woodland extending to some 12.1ha on the western fringe of Daventry, Northamptonshire. It was planted as part of the Woodland Trusts Woods On Your Doorstep initiative in the early 2000s.

The land was leased by the Trust on 7th July 2000 for a period of 199 years from Daventry District Council. The site lies adjacent to an industrial estate and forms part of the statutory landscaping requirement for this. However, by becoming a community woodland, the site aimed to bring added benefits such as informal public recreation and attracting wildlife. The woodland is long and narrow, being roughly 1450m by 75m

A public footpath crosses the site at the southern end and a public bridleway crosses at the northern end. Open ground was retained to provide views from the adjacent Ford Social Club across the wood. The remainder was planted with native trees and shrubs with oak and ash being the main species. Both existing and new hedgerows were incorporated into the design and will be managed so as not to restrict the footpaths. They are important sources for the colonisation of wild plants and animals

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Kentle Wood lies on the very edge of Daventry, west of the Royal Oak Industrial Estate. Visitors are likely to reach the site from the south along Browns Lane. Parking is very limited at this wood entrance and it would be better to park on the highway before the height restrictor. It's a short walk up to the wood. There are squeeze gaps at most entrances. An information board and welcome sign mark the entrance.

Within the site there are about 2,500m of grass paths. The long thin shape means that lengthy walks can be had, it being a mile from one end to the other. Paths can become wet in winter and although are in generally good condition are very uneven in sections.

A bridleway enters the site from the A45 at the north end. This is a very busy road and not suitable for parking. There is no access from the industrial estate.

Public toilets are available next to the bus station in Daventry town centre, disabled facilities, dawn till dusk opening hours.

Regular bus services run to either end of the wood with bus stops within 200m. For routes and times contact Travel Line on 0871 2002233 or www.traveline.org.uk

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The intention is to create a native, broadleaf, high forest woodland with ash and oak being the major canopy species. It will remain fully accessible for people to enjoy for informal recreation throughout. It will serve to landscape the adjacent industrial estate.

After the initial intensive management of the planting and establishment phases the management policy will be to allow the trees to grow to maturity with only limited intervention. Rabbit guard removal and ride side thinning and scalloping are likely actions. Paths will be regularly cut up to three times per year and maintained so as to allow for easy access. Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly.

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 2500m of grass paths forming circular routes within the woodland and linking to external public rights of way. The grass is regularly mown to keep the paths clear and well defined.

There are entrances at both the northern and southern ends of the site, the main one being at the south. An information board is available to visitors here. A bench has been provided within an open glade area towards the centre of the site.

Significance

The wood is important because it lies very close to a fairly large population of people who have no similar such attractions locally.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

The site is long and thin reducing the opportunity for a stable environmental core to develop within the wood

Opportunities

It is an accessible wood within close proximity to the population of Daventry, large expansion in the population of Daventry is planned over the next decade. The open farmland to the west is beyond the boundary of DCC and so in theory could be available for extension of the wood

Factors Causing Change

scrub encroachment. Use by motor-bikes.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Open access will retained throughout the whole of the site. The 2500m of grass paths and entrances will be kept clear and well defined. Welcome signs and information board will be maintained for visitors use at the entrances.

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

To mow all the paths up to three times per year during the summer months to keep paths easy to use and well defined. Flail-back growth from both planting and hedgerows where it impedes public access.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

Trees were planted in curved rows, 2.1 x 2.1m apart. Trees have been planted into some quite large groups of single species, which tends to improve tree development and attraction to wildlife. The site was grass seeded prior to planting which has now developed into a good low-maintenance cover. The open block has remained virtually scrub free apart from the occasional hawthorn sapling. Ten years on the establishment and vigour of the planting is quite variable. Some areas/species have remained comparatively sparse whilst others have progressed vigorously and are now more than 10 cms dbh and 6 metres tall. However this situation enhances the biodiversity of the site.

Significance

The woodland has formed an important visual screen to the industrial unit as well as a habitat for wildlife that will increasingly colonise it as it develops in phases. An accessible green space for the population of Daventry

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraint

The woodland is on a 199 lease year from Daventry District Council

Opportunity

An accesible woodland close to a centre of population

Factors Causing Change

Variable growth rate

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a native broadleaf woodland, with a graded edge habitat and with areas open ground habitat.

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

Continue to monitor the health of the woodland and act accordingly. Remove the tree shelters during this 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	12.10	Oak (pedunculate)	2001	Min-intervention	Landscape factors	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Other

Cpt 1 forms the whole of the site and includes the tree planting, open ground and paths. The native woodland tree & shrub species were planted at 2.1m centres giving 2250 stems / ha. Trees were planted in sinuous rows to give a more natural look, important with a long site such as this. The land was previously arable but sown with a low maintenance grass mix prior to planting to compete with noxious weeds. The areas of open ground was left to preserve the excellent views across into Warwickshire, although not cut recently there has been little scrub development. At the southern end of the site there is a natural hollow. This can tend to be wet so willow trees were planted there.

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.