



New Pale 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	New Pale Wood
Location:	Huyton / Knowsley
Grid reference:	SJ451889, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 108
Area:	9.99 hectares (24.69 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Woods on your Doorstep

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

New Pale Wood is near Huyton on Merseyside just to the south of the M62 motorway. It was planted as a new native woodland in 2000 with a mix of oak, ash, alder, birch, cherry and rowan. A wildflower glade was sown to celebrate the Millennium and enhance the biodiversity of the site. Access to the site is available through kissing gates from Whitefield Lane and Coney Lane, Huyton. The site is flat with a network of grass paths which are unsurfaced but well drained, providing a pleasant, short, circular woodland walk.

2.2 Extended Description

New Pale Wood is a small native broadleaved woodland (9.99 hectares) created as part of the Woodland Trust's Millennium project "Woods on Your Doorstep" (WOYD). It is located on the eastern edge of the Liverpool conurbation close to Huyton in Knowsley and to south of the M62 motorway. Prior to the Trust acquiring the land it was previously arable farmland.

The surrounding landscape is a mix of urban fringe farmland with scattered small wooded copses and hedgerows, but is largely urban with housing and industrial estates on the northern side of the motorway. A sewage works abuts the southern boundary of the wood, the access to which is via Coney Lane alongside the western boundary of the site. The eastern boundary abuts pasture land and land managed as a wildflower nursery by Landlife and is accessed from Whitefield Lane. The site is flat with sandy soils and generally well drained apart from the south eastern corner which gets waterlogged.

The site was planted in 2000 with a mix of oak, ash, alder, silver birch, rowan, wild cherry, white willow, Scots pine and shrubs including hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, and dog rose. Approximately 71% (7.09 ha) of the site was planted with sixteen thousand trees and shrubs and the remaining 29% (2.94 ha) was left as open ground mainly for grass path rides and a wildflower meadow area which was sown using native wildflower seed supplied by Landlife.

Public access to the site is via a kissing gate off Coney Lane on the western boundary or via a public footpath from Whitefield Lane to the east of the wood. A public footpath runs through the middle of the wood connecting these two entrances and there are further permissive paths around the wood. The site has fairly low numbers of visitors and is used by local people, mainly for dog walking.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

New Pale Wood is located near Huyton on Merseyside about 6 miles to the east of Liverpool. Access is from the M62 motorway at junction 6 and follow the A5080 Cronton road towards Huyton for about 1/2 mile to the junction with Whitefield Lane. Turn left onto this road and continue for nearly another 1/2 mile and cross over the motorway bridge. After crossing over the motorway on the right hand side just before Newpale farm is the entrance to the wood through a kissing gate and along a public footpath. Alternatively there is an entrance from Coney Lane leading to the sewage works.

The entrances are fitted with standard metal kissing gates with approximately 1600 metres of grass path rides around the site which is flat and mostly well drained.

There is no official parking at the wood, but it is possible to park on the roadside near the entrances.

There are no public toilets in the vicinity of the wood.

For information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk. The nearest bus stops to the wood are on the A5080 Cronton Road at least a mile from the wood.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention is to manage New Pale Wood as a high forest of mixed native broadleaves to provide a recreational and woodland landscape feature in the local area. Guided by the Woodland Trust's woodland management approach, conservation and access policies, long term management will aim to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The wood will be allowed to grow and develop naturally as much as possible with trees growing to maturity, dead wood being retained where safe to do so and encouraging natural regeneration for the long term sustainability of the wood.

New Pale Wood will continue to be composed of largely native broadleaves such as oak, silver birch, ash, alder, willow, cherry and hazel. Although the percentage of ash is likely to decrease substantially over the next 10 years through ash dieback. Despite this ash will continue to be encouraged within the species mix, in the hope that some trees will exhibit a degree of natural resilience. Woodland management operations will be undertaken where necessary to maintain a diverse structure and mix of species to ensure that the wood remains as resilient as possible to future threats posed by tree disease, pests and climate change.

The wood will contain an element of open habitat in the form of grass glades and rides. Management works will be undertaken routinely to ensure that many of the rides remain wide and sunny with good woodland edge habitat.

Threats to the woodland habitat will be monitored and managed if possible. The woodland will be monitored for the presence of tree diseases, in particular ash dieback as it becomes more prevalent in the wood.

Open access will be retained at the wood in perpetuity and there will be a well-managed network of paths with prominent signage at entrances to make the site welcoming for visitors. Well used paths will be made open and sunny in parts through a regime of path edge coppicing. The wood will be made as safe as practicable through regular safety inspections, and corresponding remedial work.

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 are two public access points into the site via metal kissing gates, one from Whitefield Lane and the other from Coney Lane. The site has approximately 1600 metres of permissive unsurfaced grass path rides and nearly 3 hectares of glades and open space. A public footpath goes across the site between the entrance points. There is very limited space for cars to park on the roadside near to the entrances. The site has moderate levels of visitors mainly local dog walkers.

Significance

The site was previously arable farmland with limited public access and now provides an area of new woodland for the public to visit and enjoy particularly from the local communities in nearby Huyton and Netherley. It is part of the Woodland Trusts Millennium project Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) and part of the Mersey Forest which aims to improve public access to woodland in the Merseyside region. The wood provides opportunities for the public to access and enjoy nature close to where they live and as it matures New Pale Wood will become a significant local landscape feature.

Opportunities & Constraints

Lack of on site parking means that the wood is only likely to be used by people that live close by who can walk there. The wood is close Huyton but separated by the M62 motorway (although there are road access bridges over this to the west and east of the wood). The motorway is seen as a barrier to more people visiting and being involved with the site.

The Trust will continue to foster an interest and sense of ownership amongst neighbours and local residents, and maintain close links with local organisations including the Mersey Forest to promote use of the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping, vandalism and fires occur on site from time to time which can make the site feel less welcoming.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the present levels of public access with appropriate signage, two access points and suitably maintained footpaths for visitors to feel welcome and enjoy visiting the wood.

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

During the plan period the entrances, signs and boundaries will be maintained/ inspected annually. Path rides will be cut three times a year to maintain good access for visitors.

Ride edge coppicing will be carried out during the plan period to improve sight lines along paths for visitors.

Litter & fly tipping will be removed annually to prevent it accumulating on site.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

New Pale Wood was created in 2000 on land that was previously used for intensive horticulture / market gardening. An area of 7.09 hectares was planted as new native broadleaved woodland consisting of a mix of oak, ash, alder, silver birch, rowan, white willow & cherry and hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, and dog rose. The remaining 2.94 hectares was left as open ground for path rides and a wildflower meadow was sown in the centre of the site. This involved stripping the surface to remove fertiliser enriched topsoil and expose unimproved mineral soils suitable for seeding with native wild flowers. Along the western and southern boundaries are existing hedgerows and some mature trees. The neighbouring land to the south and east of the site contain mainly rank vegetation and a wildflower area managed by Landlife.

Significance

The woodland provides a new landscape feature and wildlife habitat in an area which has little woodland and across Merseyside there is less than 5% woodland cover. It is located close to an area of large population which makes it valuable green space for the local community to visit and experience nature close to where they live.

Opportunities & Constraints

Tree establishment has been very successful with ash, birch, alder and willow doing particularly well whilst growth of oak has been slower. Due to the uniform age and structure of the woodland there is an opportunity through selective thinning to create a more varied structure, age and species composition and at the same time increase the amount of deadwood habitat on site. Opportunities will be sought to involve local people and volunteers in woodland management which can help to develop a greater sense of ownership and community involvement in the site.

Factors Causing Change

Growth of trees overtime leading to canopy closure.
 Invasive coarse vegetation could dominate open ground areas if unmanaged.
 Tree disease - Chalara will result in the loss of ash trees which would have a significant impact on the diversity of species in the wood.
 Mammal damage to trees - deer and grey squirrels are causing some damage by browsing and bark stripping although relatively minor at present and not having a significant impact.
 Occasional damage and fires affecting trees.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create and maintain a high forest of native broadleaves managed predominantly as a recreational and landscape feature. This will involve maintaining a mix of species, diverse structure and age classes, with shrub layer and woodland ground flora. The volume of fallen and standing deadwood should increase over time.

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

The growth and health of trees will be monitored once per plan period through the woodland condition assessment for any diseases, pests or threats.
 The spread of coarse vegetation on site will be monitored to assess if it is having any impact on tree growth and natural regeneration.
 Small scale thinning (0.5 hectares per annum) will help to diversify the woodland structure, age and species mix.

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	9.99	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Community Forest, Woods on your Doorstep

The compartment is flat and abuts the M62 motorway to the north with the boundary defined by a post and rail fence. To the east and south-east the site abuts agricultural pasture and is defined by a stock and rabbit fencing. The southern boundary abuts a sewage works and is defined by concrete fence posts of the original sewage works boundary fence (the line of mature poplars are not on Woodland Trust land) and by a mature hedge line containing the only mature trees on the site. The western boundary abuts Coney lane and is defined by the remnants of a hawthorn hedge with post and rail fence.

In 2000, 7.09 hectares of the compartment were planted with mainly broadleaf trees comprising English oak 35%, ash 20%, alder 10%, silver birch 10%, rowan 10%, white willow & cherry 5% and 10% woody shrubs: hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, and dog rose. The oak and ash were planted in blocks of fifty and the other species in blocks of 20. Approximately 50 Scots Pine were planted in clusters along the motorway boundary.

The remaining 2.90 hectares of the compartment was left as open ground including path rides, an area of scraped ground (top soil stripped) and a bund in the central ride created to favour the establishment of wildflowers.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2016	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	10	1
2017	1a	Thin	0.25	8	2
2017	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.25	4	1
2018	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.25	12	3
2021	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.25	12	3
2023	1a	Thin	7.09	20	142
2025	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.25	12	3

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.