



Banovallum Carr

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Banovallum Carr
Location:	Horncastle
Grid reference:	TF257686, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 122
Area:	8.13 hectares (20.09 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Named after a Roman town, Banovallum Carr consists mainly of birch and alder. Willow and buckthorn provide foliage near the river, and annual mowing is encouraging development of a grassland habitat.

2.2 Extended Description

Banovallum Carr was is a 20 acre young woodland on the edge of Horncastle. It was originally created to be part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project, which created 200 new millennium woods close to towns and villages. The planting at Banovallum occurred in 2 phases, in 2001 and then an additional 9 acres in 2007, and involved help from local people to plant the trees. The wood is named after the roman town that became Horncastle.

Banovallum Carr is positioned on an area of low-lying land between the Old River Bain and the Horncastle Canal. The ground can therefore be quite wet and is seasonally flooded. The woodland has been planted with native species suitable for a low-lying riparian area; predominately birch, ash, alder and willow. At intervals along the river edge there are much older crack willows, which are long established and pre-date the planting.

The wood benefits from being close to playing fields and sports facilities on the other side of the Old River Bain (to the east). There is also a public car-park here, which is a short walk from the wood. The wood can be accessed from the north by walking from the car-park, across the bridge and then following the public footpath to the edge of the wood. The Viking Way also passes nearby, running along the canal towpath, and there is an entrance into the west side of the wood from the canal. The site is quiet but well used by local people and there is a good network of managed paths.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

If travelling by car, from the A153 at Horncastle turn into a road called The Wong. Follow signs from here to the sports ground on Coronation Walk (postcode: LN9 5HP) and park in the car park. Walk across the bridge over the river, turn left and then walk between the river and swimming pool. Go through a kissing gate and then follow the public footpath from here to the entrance to the wood. Most of the walk from the bridge to the wood is on un-surfaced ground and there is a short slope to negotiate at the wood entrance. The wood can also accessed on foot from the Horncastle canal towpath (to the west), which is also part of the Viking Way. It is a short walk of approx 80m to the wood from the canal and there is a bridge over a deep watercourse before entering the wood. All footpaths around and leading to the wood are on un-surfaced ground which can be boggy. There is a stile at the northern entrance and a kissing gate at the western entrance. The wood is therefore unlikely to be suitable for the less-abled or for those requiring a high standard of accessibility. There is a network of mown grass paths around the site, which are mainly flat (but often boggy). There is a bus stop situated half a mile away on Horncastle High street, Market place. The nearest public toilets are located in Horncastle on St Lawrence Street, which do have disabled access. There are also toilet facilities very close to the site at the swimming pool, for people using the pool.

For all public transport information and timetables please access the traveline website for further information www.traveline.org.uk or contact 0871 200 22 33

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Banovallum Carr will develop to maturity and will continue to be composed of a diverse range of native species, appropriate for this low-lying riparian site. It will gradually develop the characteristics of more naturally occurring woodland, with a good mixture of both young and mature trees, understorey species and a deadwood habitat. Some silvicultural management may need to take place in the future to ensure the wood develops these characteristics. This approach will enable the wood to be more resilient to change in the future, and will also ensure it supports the greatest range of wildlife.

Some open space will also be retained and managed in the form of wide sunny rides through the wood and more open ground alongside the river. The older willows alongside the river will be conserved and managed for as long as biologically possible and a succession of new riverside trees will be promoted.

A good standard of access provision will be maintained at the wood in perpetuity. The path network will be kept open for use and the entrances will be safe, accessible and clearly signed. The wood will also be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections along high risk zones.

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

Banovallum Carr is an accessible wood on the edge of Horncastle. It is accessible on foot from parts of the town, with the easiest route being from the sports centre and public car park on Coronation Walk. It is also a very short walk from the Horncastle canal (also part of the Viking Way). These are the 2 main entry points into the wood (to the north and west). The wood offers pedestrian-only access and there are just over 2km of managed paths for visitors to enjoy, offering a diversity of routes to follow. The wood is low key and quiet but is well used by local people. The Trust has given this wood a Category B for access provision, which equates to: a site with regular usage, with 5 - 15 people using one entrance per day.

Significance

The site is the only accessible wood in the vicinity of Horncastle. Being situated close to the Viking Way long distance footpath, it adds interest along the route.

Opportunities & Constraints

The size and location of the wood mean that it is only likely to be of interest to local visitors. However there is the opportunity for wider promotion as a place of interest for walkers of the Viking Way.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Access facilities will, on the whole, be low key and appropriate for this quiet locally visited site. However a good standard of access provision will be maintained at Banovallum Carr: a path network will be kept open for use and the 2 main entrances will be accessible and clearly signed. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular inspections of access infrastructure and tree safety inspections, which will become more frequent as the trees increase in age.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to provide low key public access which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:

- Annual management of the main paths, a total of approx 2km.
- Improving accessibility at the northern entrance in 2017 and install new welcome signage at this entrance and the one to the west.
- Conducting a tree safety survey along the main path network at least once during this plan period.
- Conducting a safety inspection of all access structures (such as bridges and gates) every 2 years.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Banovallum Carr is a secondary broadleaved wood composed of native species, situated in the riparian flood plain to the south of Horncastle. The southern half of the wood was planted first in 2001 and the northern half planted later in 2007. The main species are common alder (20%), crack & goat willows (20%), birch (15%), ash (15%) and aspen (10%). Minor species include hawthorn and buckthorn. The planting in 2007 was carried out with variable tree spacing to mimic natural colonisation. There is an element of open ground present as rides and small glades in the planting, especially in the northern half of the wood. Alongside the river there are a number of older crack willows, and some of these were last pollarded in 2009.

Significance

There is very little woodland close to Horncastle or in the surrounding landscape. Hence Banovallum Carr is an important woodland habitat in a relatively denuded landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

The presence of ash dieback in the wood presents a threat to the wood and large gaps could be created through the loss of ash. However this also presents an opportunity for younger trees to grow (other than ash) or new planting to take place, which will create some structural diversity in the wood.

The position of the wood close to Horncastle and next to the river may help to reduce the severity of flooding in the town, if the wood were to be used as a flooding 'buffer' when river levels are high.

Factors Causing Change

Threats from tree diseases especially ash dieback disease. Threats from animal pests: grey squirrels and deer.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Banovallum Carr will develop to maturity and will continue to be composed of a diverse range of native species, appropriate for this low-lying riparian site. It will gradually develop the characteristics of more naturally occurring woodland, with a good mixture of both young and mature trees, understorey species and a deadwood habitat. Some silvicultural management may need to take place in the future to ensure the wood develops these characteristics and is resilient to future changes. Ash dieback disease is likely to have an impact on this wood and will create some gaps in the original planting. These gaps could be filled naturally by only one or 2 species (such as goat willow) so planting any gaps with a greater range of species will ensure resilience and diversity is achieved. An element of open space will be retained and managed within the wood, in the form of wide rides and a more open character close to the river and around the old willow pollards. The old willows themselves will be retained and managed for as long as possible to extend their lives, and replacement trees established when necessary so the riverine character is conserved.

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

During this plan period the short term objectives are to ensure the continued development of the young woodland, respond to any threats and to ensure that the riverside character is conserved.

This will be achieved by:

- Removal of all remaining treeshelters in 2017
- Restocking an area of approximately 1ha in the northern (younger) half of the wood to counteract the effects of ash dieback. Approximately 400 trees of suitable species will be planted including alder, birch and hawthorn. This restocking to be undertaken in 2018.
- Opening up 200m of ride in the southern half of the wood, through coppicing and felling, to create a sinuous wide ride with an average width of 10m. This work will be undertaken in 2018.
- Continuing to monitor the impact of ash dieback disease at the wood, by carrying out monitoring in 2019 to assess the further need for restocking.
- Pollarding of 4 riverside willows in 2017 to reduce their risk of collapse.
- Annual mowing of the riverside grassland on the western edge of the wood, along with the 2km network of paths.

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	4.51	Birch (downy/silver)	2001	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
<p>Plantation of native broadleaves consisting of common alder (30%), downy birch (30%), with a small component of ash (10%). Woody shrubs make up 10% of the total area and include grey willow, alder buckthorn and purging buckthorn. There is 20% open ground present in the form of rides. A powerline and wayleave runs north-south through the compartment.</p>							
1b	3.90	Common alder	2007	Wood establishment	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	
<p>Plantation of native broadleaves consisting of common alder (25%), willows (20%), aspen (15%) and ash (10%). There is also 10% of woody shrubs and 20% open space in the form of small glades and main rides. The planting has been carried out 'naturalistically' with variable tree spacing.</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.