



Three Cornered Wood

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Three Cornered Wood
Location:	Areley Kings, nr Stourport on Severn
Grid reference:	SO795715, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 138
Area:	1.91 hectares (4.72 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value, Local Authority Conservation Area, Local Nature Site, Strategic Wildlife Corridor

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Three Cornered Wood is a mixture of newly planted broadleaves and an area of more mature trees. A circular path and footpath run through the woodland with links to the Worcestershire Way. Access is via a footpath from the B4194.

2.2 Extended Description

Three Cornered Wood lies on the edge of the small village of Areley Kings and was purchased as part of the Woodland Trust's, Wood on Your Doorstep woodland creation project to commemorate the millennium in 2000. The site comprises of three acres former arable land running adjacent to the public highway and now planted with a mixture of native broadleaves (February 2001) plus an area of more mature, predominantly native broadleaved trees and scrub vegetation to the east of this predominately on sloping land leading down to the edge of the river Severn. Tree and shrubs planted here include Alder, Birch, Hazel, Hawthorn, Ash, Holly, Crab apple, Wild Cherry, English Oak, Elder, Rowan and Guelder Rose.

Much of the immediate surrounding land is used for pasture and stock grazing. However, one of the most wooded parts of Worcestershire lies in the near vicinity (Wyre Forest) and the site is also overlooked by two larger Ancient Woodland blocks (Ribbesford Woods and Areley Wood) to the west. The subsoil on site is Old Red and Keuper Sandstone and Bunter Pebble beds and the soil is loam. Ground flora is currently limited and mostly composed of ruderal and more common grass species. Regeneration s from both planted and pre-existing trees and shrubs can be seen in selected areas throughout the site.

Visitors can follow a circular ride approximately 400m in length within the planted woodland block which also connects to a public Footpath number 531B (the Worcestershire Way) via a short flight of steps on the north-eastern edge of the site. A further non-designated path runs just outside the area of planting along the south-east boundary within an area of more mature trees and scrub/shrubs. This path leads north and downhill towards the river Severn where it joins the Worcestershire Way which runs parallel to the edge of the river at the top of the river bank.

There is no formal parking at the site but a small informal un-surfaced "pull in" to the side of the main entrance kissing gate by the public highway can accommodate up to 3 vehicles. In addition to the main entrance there are two further public access points; a further sprung kissing gate where the Worcestershire way enters/leaves the site on the eastern boundary and an open entry access point to the north of the site, again there the Worcestershire way enter/leaves the wood.

The Key Features for this site are:

KF 1 Informal Public Access

KF Secondary Woodland

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Three Cornered Wood lies close to the River Severn a few miles west of Stourport on Severn. Access is available direct from the B4194 through a less-able kissing gate and also via an opening in the north eastern boundary after ascending a short flight of steps leading off the public Footpath (The Worcestershire Way). There is one, unsurfaced mostly flat circular route (approximately 400 metres in length) around the centre of the wood. This path is normally free draining and as such is rarely muddy and easy to negotiate right through the year. There is no formal parking as such at the site, but a small hardcore area in front of the main gate allows parking for 1 vehicle. There is also an informal unsurfaced 'pull in', to the right of this which would facilitate parking for a further 3 cars if required.

Nearest bus stop - On Bridge Street, Stourport-on-Severn opposite Harold Davie's Drive approximately 1.3 miles away

Nearest train station - Kidderminster Railway station - approx. 4.5 miles away.

** Further information about public transport is available from Traveline www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

Nearest toilet - Car Park on vale Road, Stourport-on-Severn approximately 2 miles away. There are also disabled facilities at these toilets.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In 50 years time, Three Cornered Wood will be a species diverse, well-structured native broadleaf high forest woodland. The site will have well developed shrub and field layers.

The site planted stock has established very well but now lacks structural diversity. As the woodland develops and matures, intervention will be required to ensure a broad range of tree species are maintained across the site long term. In the absence of this, one or two more competitive species e.g. ash, will become dominant out-competing less vigorous tree species and in doing so, making the wood less resilient and robust in the face of threats such as climate change, pollution, pests and diseases.

There are signs of tree and shrub regeneration. However, these are currently limited to more open areas of planting and ride edges and will quickly disappear as the canopy develops and competition for light increase in the absence of light thinning and intervention.

The site will remain fully accessible for people to enjoy for informal recreation. Paths will be maintained and the use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly. Regular tree safety inspections will be undertaken and boundaries maintained.

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 a range of permissive and public access routes at the site including a circular walk through the area of planting which links to a well-used public footpath (The Worcestershire Way) running along the edge of the River Severn.

Significance

Three Cornered Wood was created as part of the Millennium Project "Woodland Trusts Woods On Your Doorstep. From the very beginning, the local community have been encouraged to feel a sense of ownership towards the wood and to participate in its development. The use of nearly all Woodland Trust owned sites for quiet, informal public recreation forms a core to the Woodland Trusts vision for the future. Managed for perpetuity as part of a larger mosaic of habitats Three Cornered Wood will attract a variety of permanent and transient flora and fauna over time making the site an ideal location for observing wildlife and gradual changes in local biodiversity. The permissive routes on site provide an interesting diversion away from an existing popular public footpath (The Worcestershire Way) thus linking into and enhancing an existing footpath network.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity:-

The site is very well used with the new area of planting providing an interesting diversionary loop along the route of the Worcestershire Way.

Factors Causing Change

Change in visitor pressure/use.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A well maintained choice of linear and circular routes within the site with welcoming and clear a clear public access points.

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

Paths within the site will be mown at least twice a year to a minimum of 2 metres in width as part of an annual maintenance programme to ensure they remain clearly defined and easy to follow by visitors. Entrance points and estate works will be inspected and repaired/maintained as necessary.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

An area of broadleaved native woodland creation of 1.22ha planted February 2001. Species found growing locally were chosen for planting and include Alder, Birch, Hazel, Hawthorn, Ash, Holly, Crab apple, Wild Cherry, English Oak, Elder, Rowan and Guelder Rose.

Significance

Increasing new native woodland is one of the Woodland Trusts core objectives as the UK remains one of the least wooded countries in Europe.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Development of woodland. Anti-social behaviour and abuse of the site.

Opportunities

The site is very well used and provided a beautiful diversionary loop off the Worcestershire way. The creation of this new native woodland has contributed to the Worcestershire BAP target of increasing native woodland cover.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive non-native species e.g sycamore.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Three Cornered Wood will be a species diverse, well-structured native broadleaf high forest woodland with well-developed shrub and field layers.

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

Although the overall establishment of trees following planting in 2000 has been very successful, some species e.g. ash are now out-competing and over-topping less vigorous and less competitive species such as Oak, Field maple and Gean.

2019 - 1a - To ensure as broad a species range as possible is maintained on site, a selective light selective thin (approximately 20%) favouring the retention and development of species other than Ash will be undertaken over the next plan period. Stems with best vigour and form will be selected for retention.

Gapping and beat-up work will continue along the roadside hedge boundary until the required stocking density is satisfied after which mechanical trimming will be undertaken as part of the long-term annual maintenance of this feature.

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	1.06	Rowan	2001	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Area of Landscape Value, Local Authority Conservation Area, Strategic Wildlife Corridor
<p>This compartment forms an area of planted woodland (p2001) with a mixture of native broadleaved species.</p>							
2a	0.80	Alder species	1970	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Area of Landscape Value, Local Nature Site, Strategic Wildlife Corridor
<p>Part wooded and part scrub area which lies to the east of the main planting block and slopes eastwards down to the banks of the River Severn which forms the sites boundary. Currently a mixture of mostly native broadleaved species occupy this compartment which range in age from younger areas of natural regeneration to a few scattered mature specimens upto 50 years in age. A public footpath runs parallel to the edge of the river (The Worcestershire Way).</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	1.06	14	15

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.