



Asda Wood

Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Asda Wood
Location:	Preston
Grid reference:	SD549328, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 102
Area:	1.33 hectares (3.29 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Asda Wood lies immediately south of the Asda superstore in Fulwood, East Preston, and is best entered via the Asda car park. It stands on a steep sandy bank above the Savick Brook, and comprises a mixture of trees, including well-established oak trees.

2.2 Extended Description

Asda Wood lies immediately south of the Asda superstore in Fulwood, East Preston. It is located in an urban area and is surrounded by the Asda superstore and car park on its northern boundary, housing on its eastern boundary, a busy road (eastway) on its western boundary and pasture land lies to the south. The wood forms part of a cluster of Woodland Trust sites in this area and Clough Copse, Midgery Wood, Masson's Wood and Fernyhalgh Wood are all nearby.

This wood stands on a steep sandy bank above the Savick Brook, there are two valleys or cloughs leading from the Asda car park down towards the valley bottom and between these there is a spur of largely open ground. The best-developed part of the woodland is at the east of the site where there are well-established oak trees. Fringing the northern boundary is an area of ornamental landscape planting associated with the superstore consisting of a mixture of evergreen and deciduous shrubs with mainly field maple and pine as tree species. The western extremity of this planted fringe falls within the Woodland Trust boundary. Asda Wood is formed on slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils

The steepest slopes have continuous canopy cover of mature oak, ash, birch or hawthorn, while the flatter sections are covered by bramble, gorse and by birch regeneration. The cloughs are damp and have wet woodland flora; Hard fern, creeping buttercup, moschatel, while the more open flat sections exhibit a more heathland vegetation with bracken and foxgloves. The area adjacent to the management access is also open and succeeding to birch/oak woodland. There are occasional sycamore trees across the site. The fact that the site is located in such a steeply sided incised valley, and the presence of certain indicator species such as moschatel and bluebell suggests that it could be ancient semi natural woodland. However as it is only 1.27ha it is too small to be designated. Secondary woodland is one of the sites key features.

The site was transferred to The Woodland Trust by the development corporation as part of a package of several sites in 1996, little is known about the woodland prior to our ownership.

The woodlands other key feature is informal public access, however no formal path maintenance is undertaken by the Trust. There is a network of approximately 500 metres of informal paths within the woodland.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Informal only - and limited. There is a stile on the southern boundary which is used irregularly as a foot access route to Asda.

Potential for access is poor, except from Asda car park. The first strip of land around the car park is owned by Asda so any access would have to be with their agreement.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Asda Wood will be managed as a mixed broadleaved, predominantly native high forest. Both native and non native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. Gaps created by trees gradually reaching senescence, or by trees felled for safety reasons will be filled by natural regeneration. The woodland will require little active management other than ensuring that natural regeneration levels remain adequate. We will retain older trees of any species across the whole site as long as safety allows.

Access will be kept low key and maintained at its present level of 3 access points to ensure the woodlands continued status as a quiet wildlife refuge.

Local people should be informed of and involved with the site management where appropriate, especially to help understand the management needs of the wood, and the negative effect of some activities such as dumping garden rubbish, which have had a major impact in certain areas.

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 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Well-established closed canopy oak woodland in east of site, closed canopy hawthorn scrub with oak establishing beneath, in north east of site. Centre of site dominated by birch. West of wood succeeding to birch/oak woodland. There are a small number of sycamore trees and regeneration.

Significance

Lancashire is one of the least wooded counties in England, Asda Wood is located in a highly urban area and as such is a significant woodland habitat.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size of this site, and the fact that it is surrounded by housing and a superstore limits its value as a wildlife habitat. Unfortunately the woodland does not link with any other habitats, and there is no opportunity to extend it. However it is a mature and stable woodland which provides a refuge for urban wildlife.

Factors Causing Change

Neighbours occasionally tip garden waste into the woodland which could have a negative effect on woodland flora and regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Asda Wood will continue to be a natural secondary woodland which will provide a refuge for wildlife. Natural regeneration of birch, oak and ash will continue in the open areas. Closed canopy woodland will become more open as trees senesce and fall. The wood forms a component in the landscape, but as it is fringed by mitigation planting associated with the superstore this does not constrain management.

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

Tree safety inspections will be undertaken on a regular basis and work carried out if necessary for public safety. The site will be checked once during this plan period to assess whether there is sufficient regeneration to ensure the long term future of the canopy. Garden tipping will also be assessed once during this plan period to ensure its not posing a threat to woodland flora or regeneration.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Public access is informal and limited. There is a stile on the southern boundary which is used irregularly as a foot access route to Asda, a network of informal unsurfaced paths run through the site for approx. 500 metres. The woodland is not thought to be well used except perhaps by a small number of people as a short cut to the superstore.

Significance

Asda Wood is located in a very urban environment. The woodland provides informal recreational opportunities in an area which has few open spaces and woodlands for people to visit.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size of the site, and the fact that Asda own much of the surrounding land means public access will always be very informal and there is little scope to extend or improve it.

Factors Causing Change

The site suffers from occasional vandalism, camp fires and litter.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Asda Wood will continue to have limited public access due to its' position and topography. Public access will be concentrated mainly along the edges.

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

Litter will be cleared twice annually to prevent an accumulation of litter. The main entrance sign and pedestrian step stile have been replaced as part of the Welcoming Sites Project (WSP) and will be assessed once during this plan period to ensure they are still fit for purpose along with the other 2 entrance points.

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	1.33	Birch (downy/silver)	1950	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	
<p>1.27 hectares (3.13 acres) of well established native broadleaved secondary woodland. Situated in the town of Fulwood, Preston the wood stands in two deeply incised valleys or cloughs close to the Asda superstore. The wood has several informal footpaths running through it but it is not thought to be very well used.</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.