



Edith's Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Edith's Wood
Location:	Far Westhouse
Grid reference:	SD679740, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 98
Area:	6.86 hectares (16.95 acres)
Designations:	National Park

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Lying west of Ingleton, just north of the small village of Far Westhouse, Edith's Wood consists of new native woodland planting. It consists of young native broadleaf woodland bounded on three sides by mature hedgerows.

2.2 Extended Description

Situated approximately 2km west of Ingleton, just north of the small village of Far Westhouse, Edith's Wood consists of 6.88 hectares of establishing new native woodland planting, undertaken in November 2002. The planted woodland sits on a gentle east and south facing slope, on a series of three fields formerly used for grazing, composed of predominantly improved grass mixtures dominated by ryegrass. Prominent in the immediate local landscape, Edith's Wood forms an important addition to the scattering of often small isolated woodlands, surrounded by pasture grassland.

Planting within the woodland was grant aided at the full stocking rate with Better Land Supplement. Wholly native woodland, planted using local provenance stock, the tree species include oak, ash, rowan, field maple, cherry, alder, hawthorn, hazel and holly, chosen to represent those found in nearby woodlands under the NVC W8 category - lowland mixed broadleaved woodlands on alkaline soils- dominated by oak and ash. Trees were been planted in either 1.2m deer tubes or 0.75m shrub guards (all removed in 2010). The tree spacing follows the 2.1m spaced rip lines, with groups of trees planted along the rows with spacing varying from 1.5m to 4.5m. Open grassland has been left following the stream which forms a wide, open, south facing ride between 10 and 40 metres in width. Additional open grassland with scattered planting of additional lime trees planted, again using native and local provenance stock, has been retained on the high point of the site to the west allowing continued views across to the hillsides of Ingleborough, which dominates the horizon to the east.

Public access to the woodland is available from the southern most point of the site and from the North West corner, where public footpaths link with the wood. A permissive path around the woodland takes in a variety of habitats including dense planting , open grassland and streamsides. Management access to the woodland is available direct from the minor road to the immediate west of the wood, via two standard field gates. Access to the woodland by vehicle is not recommended as the lane to the west of the site is extremely narrow with no passing places (a car WILL touch the hedgerow on both sides as it is driven along the lane) and through the village of Far Westhouse the road takes a very narrow passage between two houses. Some limited parking is available on roads to the north or in the village of Far Westhouse.

The wood is enclosed on three sides to the east, west and south by existing mature hedgerows containing a variety of species including hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, rose, with standards including oak, ash and cherry. The hedgerows contain a number of species indicative of ancient origins, dominated in some areas by Dogs mercury. To the north, the site is enclosed by drystone walling, which also forms two internal boundaries, unusual, as the walls contain limestone, sandstone and shale, as the wood sits on the boundary between the three types of geology. The woodland contains a number of archaeological features; there are remnants of ridge and furrow in the western-most field, along with two large, deep boundary ditches and a raised platform area, which could possibly have links to ancient settlement. In addition there are the remains of a mediaeval green lane/ trackway running along the northern boundary, part of which has been planted (estimated 1980) as a shelterbelt with a mixture of Scots pine and beech, additional planting was undertaken by the local Parish Council in 2000, planting a small number (approximately 20) of mixed broadleaved species. The eastern field is raised above the level of the other two fields by approximately 0.5metres, which seems to be associated with repeated ploughing and mediaeval arable production in this area. All of the walls within the site contain a variety of walled up gateways and crossing points, associated with the varied agricultural use of the site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Two pedestrian entrances are situated at the southern and the north western corners of the site, allowing access into the woodland via step-over stiles, where an unsurfaced permissive path, cut twice annually, allows access through a variety of open and more dense woodland planting and along a wide open south facing ride and stream side. Close to both entrances are links to two public footpaths giving access across neighbouring farmland. Access to the woodland by vehicle is not recommended as the lane to the west of the site is extremely narrow with no passing places (a car WILL TOUCH the hedgerows on both sides as it is driven along the lane) and through the village of Far Westhouse the road takes a very narrow passage between two houses. Some very limited parking is available on roads to the north or in the village of Far Westhouse.

The nearest bus stop is at Westhouse - approximately 500m to the west, giving access to the woodland via unsurfaced public footpaths across fields eastwards to the wood. Information from the traveline website. Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2608

The nearest public toilets are available in the local authority car park in Ingleton, approximately 2km to the east.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention will be to create predominantly native, secondary broadleaved woodland. This will be achieved by management of the existing woodland planting and through any natural regeneration from the existing trees on or adjacent to the site . The likely management regime will be minimum intervention. Rides and open space will be maintained within the design. Once mature this woodland may provide an opportunity for additional land purchase and woodland planting on adjacent land within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Informal public access is a critical feature of the site and will be maintained at the current levels.

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

Public access is available via two formal pedestrian entrances at the southern and north-western corners of the site, and a permissive path which links in with two public footpaths just outside the Woodland Trust ownership at the southern and north-western corners of the site. Paths are mown twice annually during June and September, providing a circular route extending to 650m through a mixture of woodland and open ground along the south facing streamside .

Significance

This wood will form part of a patchwork of small woodlands which are very important in the local landscape, through to other Woodland Trust sites at Thornton and Twisleton Glen (1.5km away). Acquisition has been supported by the local communities, and the site is already well used by the people from the nearby village and properties. It is important that locals continue to be able to enjoy and care for the woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Paths will require regular mowing to maintain the access provision and the access points requiring maintenance and replacement as necessary. Little scope for further access provision as the permissive paths and rides already allow access around and through the site, although a link could be provided with the public footpath which follows the northern boundary of the site, although with easy access to and from the footpath at the north western corner, another link may be excessive for the volume of use this site is expected to get.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback could impact on the visual appearance of the woodland but it is unlikely to greatly influence visitor numbers.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain existing network of wide open rides, and permissive path linking in with nearby public footpath routes.

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

Cut all paths (650m) twice per year to ensure easy and welcoming public access to the site.
 Check entrances (x2 step over stiles) signs (x2) twice a year, cutting back vegetation as necessary to ensure easy and welcoming access to the site.
 Repair/replace 2x entrance signs , 2x stiles, stock fence and management gates as required.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

Establishing native broadleaved woodland planting from 2002, planted at an average density of 1600 trees per hectare. Planted in a random spacing in groups varying from 1.5 - 4.5m, following 2.1m rip lines, planted with local provenance oak, ash, rowan, field maple, cherry, alder, hawthorn, hazel and holly. Additional lime have been planted, which are also found locally in woodland and hedgerows.

Significance

Within this area there is a low percentage of woodland cover and very little Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. This is one opportunity to re-create secondary native broadleaved woodland and encourage further planting locally, adding to the patchwork of generally small woodlands, important in the local landscape, which has already occurred to the North, through support from the Yordales project (funded by the Woodland Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust).

Opportunities & Constraints

The woodland required a high level of initial maintenance during establishment. Since tubes and stakes have been removed the woodland will have little management other than paths, with little other opportunity for on-site works. The local community are very involved with the site and it is unlikely to suffer any vandalism and/or other damaging activities.

Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage, Rabbit Damage

Ash dieback on the site was clearly evident in 2017 and becoming more extensive in 2018. The loss of ash will have a visual impact on the wood but sufficient trees of other species will ensure a woodland character is retained. The ash may provide opportunities for new planting or natural regeneration together with the provision of deadwood habitats.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Mature, un-even aged native broadleaf woodland with shrubby edges and open rides. The woodland may require thinning between 2020-2025 and subsequently group felling to encourage new growth and a varied canopy structure. However, an assessment will be made once the impact of ash dieback on the wood can be clearly assessed as the impact may negate the need for any thinning work.

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

During the management plan period 2018 to 2023 the main focus will be to review the impact of ash dieback on the site. Removal of dead and dying ash immediately alongside the 650m of public footpaths will be undertaken, where necessary, to maintain both visitor safety and the visual appearance of the site. Dead ash trees 10 - 15m from the main footpaths will be left to provide standing and fallen deadwood.

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	6.88	Mixed native broadleaves	2002	High forest	Archaeological features	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Park

The whole site is one compartment, composed of ash, oak, cherry, field maple, birch, rowan, hazel, alder, hawthorn and holly. The site was planted in 2002 and was protected with 1.2m tubex tubes and 0.75m shrubshelters (all removed in 2010). A small number of additional lime were been planted on the western edge of the site on and around the high point as a commemorative request. The tree spacings followed rip lines at 2.1m spacings with the whole site split into areas of different spacings between 1.5 and 4.5m to achieve 1600 stems per hectare average across the site. A small area to the north of the site on a former green lane has been planted with Scots pine in 1980. The ground flora is predominantly improved grassland on a variable soil type where the bedrock includes limestone, shale and sandstone. The site is on a gentle to moderate east and south facing slope with a seasonal spring and a permanent stream. Bounded to the north, east and south by improved grassland, used for grazing and to the west by a minor road, mature thorn hedge and further improved grassland. A permissive path circles the site with pedestrian access from the south and north-west, management access available via two field gates at the southern tip and along the western boundary. The pedestrian entrance points both link closely with existing public footpaths.

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.