



Tom's Wood

Management Plan

2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Tom's Wood
Location:	Wildhern, Andover
Grid reference:	SU351508, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 185
Area:	1.18 hectares (2.92 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

Tom's Wood is a small (1.18ha) woodland situated in Wildhern, a village on the southern edge of the Hampshire Downs and North Wessex AONB, approximately three kilometres north of Alton. It is surrounded by a patchwork landscape of arable farmland and pasture, small woodlands, copses and hedgerows, interspersed with other small villages. It is immediately adjoined by properties and gardens to the north and east, with agricultural land to the south and west.

The wood was donated to the Trust in 2002 and is named after Thomas 'Tom' Ware who created the wood by planting nearly 700 trees on two fields next to where he lived between 1980 and 1993.

Approximately twelve native and thirty non-native tree species were planted, including dawn redwood, walnut and Hungarian oak. However, the dominant tree is beech, and the structure of the wood reflects this, with a sparse understorey and patchy ground flora due to the dense shade of the closed canopy, typical of beech woodlands.

Though sparse, the understorey and ground flora is diverse with some ancient woodland plants represented, particularly due to the ancient hedgerow remnants at the southern end and on the periphery of the wood. The hedgerows also host an occasional mature or veteran tree.

There is one entrance at the north east corner of the wood with a 400m permissive circular path giving access throughout.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Tom's Wood is located on the west side of Wildhern village. The entrance is down a drive opposite the sports ground. There is limited parking along the village road. There are no gates or stiles at the entrance. The site is level and there is a circular path which has underlying stone but is largely natural.

Nearest Bus Stop: Charlton Down Road on A343. Accessible from Andover and Newbury by Stagecoach Service No. 20. (Information from Traveline May 2007 www.traveline.org.uk 0871 200 2233). From there walk 1 mile west along footpath to Wildhern.

Nearest Station : Andover 4 miles

Nearest Public Toilets: Andover 4 miles.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Tom's Wood will retain the character of a closed canopy beech woodland with minimal intervention unless conditions arise naturally to alter this, such as succession of other species following senescence or the effects of disease (e.g. ash dieback) on the existing canopy trees. The wood will continue to 'naturalise' over the long-term with an anticipated reduction of non-native species succeeded by naturally regenerating native species such as beech, hornbeam and field maple, as the original plantings senesce.

Understorey is likely to remain patchy, with the most diverse shrubbery on the periphery of the wood which will sustain the connectivity provided by ancient hedgerows that pre-date the wood. Ground flora will be equally patchy but with sustained or increased diversity following the longevity of cover of the wood.

The species diversity and natural regeneration should ensure that the wood can adapt to the effects of climate change and threats from pests and diseases. Invasive non-native species such as cherry laurel and Norway maple will be managed to ensure that they do not threaten the diversity and succession of native species within the woodland.

Tree safety operations will be carried out to any trees that present a hazard to visitors or neighbours, following annual inspections, including any ash trees that decline significantly from ash dieback disease (first recorded in the wood in 2020). Opportunities to retain standing dead wood are rare due to the small size of the wood with footpaths through the majority and properties on much of the periphery, however, small quantities have been retained on the ground from past operations. Therefore, dead wood is likely to remain sparse within the woodland, but will be retained on site where safe to do so.

The wood will host a variety of wildlife and will continue to be enjoyed and valued by the local community, contributing to the Woodland Trusts vision of a UK rich in woods and trees.

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

Description
Significance
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

5.2

Description

Significance

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

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

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX I: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
Ia	1.16	Beech	1983	Min-intervention			Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The wood was planted on two adjoining rectangular fields that are flat, with free-draining soils.

The area nearest to the entrance has the largest concentration of non-native trees with species such as Japanese elm, Hungarian oak, silver maple, maidenhair tree and a small group of conifers including dawn redwood, Norway spruce and western red cedar. There is a mixed understorey including hazel, viburnum and laurels (cherry and Portuguese). The canopy here also contains Norway maple and sycamore with plentiful natural regeneration of the former. This mix adds to the autumn colour, while evergreen shrubs and trees including holly and yew soften the wood's appearance in the winter.

Moving further into the wood the canopy comprises more native broadleaves including, oak, hornbeam, ash, and birch, with the dominance of beech giving the overriding character of closed canopy beech woodland. The understorey has some interesting planting including some attractive scented viburnums, Swedish whitebeam, box, hazel, and buckthorns (purging and alder) alongside natives such as blackthorn, hawthorn and elder. Old man's beard and ivy grows occasionally through some of the taller trees and into the canopy.

Natural regeneration is frequent with field maple the most plentiful, supplemented with ash, hornbeam, and the occasional oak, along with some understorey species such as blackthorn, hawthorn and elder.

Veteran trees are scarce though there are some fine examples of field maple, holly, ash and oak along an ancient hedge line that runs through the southern section, as well as around the boundaries. The hedgerows themselves contain a mix of native shrub species including blackthorn, hawthorn and field maple, along with sections of cherry laurel, mainly to the north.

The ground flora is variable and includes dogs mercury, wood anemone, bluebell (native and Spanish), nettle, bramble, ferns, ground ivy, and sweet violet. Two stinking irises have been found.

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.

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