



Holmwood Park

Management Plan 2020-2025

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Holmwood Park
Location:	Dorking
Grid reference:	TQ171473, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 187
Area:	4.54 hectares (11.22 acres)
Designations:	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Holmwood Park was gifted to the Trust by Wimpey Homes in April 1991 and consists of 4.54 hectares of woodland split into two areas by a track that extends under Inholms Lane to the Inholms Clay Pit nature reserve. The wood sits on a steep clay ridge between the residential area to the north and Inholms Lane to the south.

The main residential area bordering the northern edge of the wood occupies the former site of Dorking Brickworks. The brickworks ran out of space & clay in the 1950s and extended south of Inholms lane in 1961. The clay supply was subsequently completely exhausted and the brickworks closed in 1983. After demolition, the brickworks land north of Inholms lane was used to build residential housing and the steep wooded north facing bank bordering this development was gifted to the Woodland Trust. The extended excavation site south of Inholms lane was designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

Holmwood Park is a prominent semi-natural landscape feature, situated just outside the Surrey Hills AONB. Consisting of secondary woodland of varying age, it is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and sits within the Low Weald NCA.

The majority of the site is occupied by secondary broadleaved woodland with waterlogged areas at the base of the slope giving rise to marshy vegetation, the Southern marsh orchid has been recorded in these areas. The wood is also a haven for woodland and garden birds, and is in close proximity to Inholms Clay Pit, an 8.4-hectare Local Nature Reserve, owned by Mole Valley District Council and managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Several un-made paths run through the eastern and northern parts of the wood, linking with the adjacent housing estates. No formal management of paths takes place at this wood.

Two landslides in 2018 and 2020 at properties on North Close and The Orchards respectively, have drastically altered the south west border of the site with woodland replaced by anchored mesh installed to stabilize the banks.

The wood suffers from regular fly tips of garden waste from neighbouring properties and invasive species such as cherry laurel and are now present across much of the site as a result.

Despite its urban-fringe setting deer are present onsite, with evidence of browsing and slots, which species are present is currently not confirmed.

2.2 Extended Description

Holmwood Park was gifted to the Trust by Wimpey Homes in April 1991 and consists of 4.54 hectares of woodland split into two areas by a track that extends under Inholms Lane to the Inholms Clay Pit nature reserve. The wood sits on a steep clay ridge between the residential area to the north and Inholms Lane to the south.

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3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Access can be gained to the northwestern side next to a public footpath. In 1997 the local community agreed to the installation of a kissing gate at the eastern end of cpt 2.

The southern boundary is Inholms Lane.

There are various other points of access used by the public, these are not openly promoted by the Trust.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term aim for Holmwood Park Wood is to manage the woodland through a process of minimum intervention, thereby allowing natural processes to occur.

Although public access into the woodland is not forbidden this will not be formally managed or promoted at this wood, because of its terrain and because the local residents have requested this to be so in the past.

The Trust will maintain its public safety obligations with respect to the wood, by carrying out annual tree safety inspections on the high risk areas i.e. beside neighbouring properties and Inholms Lane.

The Trust will also manage the invasive species, such as cherry laurel, rhododendron and other species introduced by the dumping of garden waste from neighbouring properties. Holmwood Park has an on-going issue with fly-tipping of garden waste into the wood and it is the long term goal that fly-tipping will be stopped and existing waste cleared through a process of community engagement.

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)

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	5.70	Oak (pedunculate)	1965	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc		
<p>This compartment runs for approx 500m as an irregular east/west strip of secondary woodland on generally steep northerly sloping land.</p> <p>The land was a former brick clay pit, contains steep, slippery slopes and is unsuitable for development. On three sides (north, north west and south west) it is surrounded by modern housing. The south eastern side runs beside Inholms Lane, a fast narrow local road. The compartment is detached from compartment 2 at the north eastern end by a cutting and a bridge over a track leading to Inholms Clay Pit Local Nature Reserve, to the south east of Inholms Lane. Various tracks and paths are located within the compartment and used by local people to travel to and from the adjacent housing estates.</p> <p>Two large landslips in 2018 and 2020 and the associated tree clearance have left large unwooded patches in the south western edges of the compartment overlooked by a substantial structure to replace the garden's which fell away. In these areas vegetation is replaced by anchored mesh matting to stabilise the banks and there are large amounts of tree debris.</p> <p>Canopy species include hornbeam, a mature line of oaks beside Inholms Lane and mature Scots pine. In wetter areas there are hybrid poplars, crack willows, alder, holly, wild cherry and goat willow. On the slope the canopy is frequently birch, sycamore and goat willow. The shrub layer is a mix of some Scots pine and larch regeneration, much ash, birch and willow.</p> <p>There are frequent non native plant and shrub species in this compartment, including cherry laurel, introduced through spread from gardens and regular flytipping of garden waste from neighbouring properties.</p>							
2a	1.00	Oak (pedunculate)	1965	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc		

This compartment is much smaller than compartment 1, but in many ways similar, being secondary woodland on a very steep slope. Access is confined to the top of the slope and is only possible from Russet Way at the eastern end, or from Inholms Lane. It is generally steeper and with more conifers than compartment 1. Vegetation is often dense and although a path runs most of the compartment's length it is largely impassable.

The species mix is similar to compartment 1, but there are also rowans, sweet chestnut, buddleia, aspens, horse chestnut and an area of mature larches in the north eastern spur.

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.