

Fother Royd Wood

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, 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. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our 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 natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities 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 encourage our woods to be used for 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. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 New Native Woodland
 - 4.2 f2 Informal Public Access
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Fother Royd Wood

Location:	Worsthorne, nr Burnley Grid reference: SD877315 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	1.03 hectares (2.55 acres)
External Designations:	Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Fother Royd is a small secondary woodland located close to the villages of Worsthorne and Hurstwood in a quiet rural part of East Lancashire. It consists mainly of an area of young trees, with a row of mature trees along the northern boundary; it's surrounded by pasture fields. The wood is approximately 250 metres from the nearest minor road, and a public footpath runs within 50 metres of the site. There are various other small woods in the area and the site forms part of a short section of an attractive wooded valley which follows the River Brun.

The site is located on a steep slope which runs from North to South towards the valley floor. It is situated on slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soil.

In 1988 778 young trees were planted and these now form the young woodland. They were 60-90cm whips, of common oak, ash, rowan, wild cherry and bird cherry, protected by 60cm spiral rabbit guards. There are just 13 mature trees: 9 sycamores, 2 oak and 2 beeches. After acquisition and fencing a hedge of hawthorn and beech was also planted along the southern boundary along the bottom of the slope. Tree growth of the young woodland has been variable, being best on the small areas of flat ground at the bottom of the slope, wet flushes, and on the flat top of the slope. Growth on the steep, rather dry and acidic bank has been much slower, with several losses in the early years that had to be beaten up. The hedge has also grown well. A limited amount of natural regeneration is also appearing, mainly oak and beech. Flora within the woodland includes a small range of ex-grassland species together with common invasive species of acidic and wet grassland: various grasses, nettles, Juncus, foxglove, bramble, giant horsetail, honeysuckle and bedstraw. New Native Woodland is a Key Feature of the site.

The site was gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1988. Very little is known about its history prior to acquisition, except that the land previously formed part of a larger pasture field before it was fenced off and planted.

There is a public footpath running east-west through the field to the south, within 50 metres of the wood, and access can be gained into the wood over a stile at the top of the slope in the NW corner. Informal Public Access is one of the sites Key Features however in practise the wood is mainly a landscape feature. Because of its small size and location on a steep slope it is very quiet with only a few visitors actually going into it. A footpath, the Burnley Way passes within 500m of the site, and the public footpath to the south of the site links with this.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Fother Royd will be allowed to grow and develop naturally, as a refuge for wildlife. The wood will be managed as high forest of mixed broadleaves, including non-native trees common to the local area. It will be managed predominantly as a landscape and conservation feature, through minimal intervention. Gaps will be created in the canopy due to trees naturally reaching senescence and tree safety operations.

Public access will remain low key as at present, with 1 access point and no formal paths.

Statutory obligations will continue to be met with respect to managing tree safety.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 New Native Woodland

Description
The site consists of approximately 1 hectare of native broadleaved trees (p.1988) planted in single species groups, species include common oak, ash, bird cherry & wild cherry.
Significance
This is a small native broadleaved wood in an area with very little woodland at all and certainly very little native woodland, and hence this woodland is of local importance as a habitat. The wood is also an important landscape feature as this rural area has many other small woods around which break up the dominant agricultural pasture.
Opportunities & Constraints
The wood is very small, and does not connect with other woodland. Hence the opportunities for diversifying the flora and fauna, either artificially or naturally are limited. However, local interest and involvement started and has remained high, and the site has been well cared for.
Factors Causing Change
Ash die back
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Fother Royd will continue to provide a refuge for wildlife and an interesting landscape feature. Natural regeneration of oak, cherry, rowan and ash will continue in the open areas and in the gaps created as the mature trees naturally senescence. The hedge on the southern boundary will develop and be managed to provide a boundary. Other traditional boundaries, such as the drystone wall, will also maintained in their current form.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out in the final year of the current plan period. This will make recommendations as to the management of the site, key elements of which are likely to include the effects of ash disease and the development of natural regeneration. It is expected that natural senescence of trees and wind blow will continue to create gaps for natural regeneration to colonise within the woodland.

4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

Description

<p>The wood can be accessed via a pedestrian step stile at the top of the slope in the NW corner although it contains no formal path network and is only thought to be visited only infrequently by local people . A long distance footpath, the Burnley Way passes within 500m of the site, and the public footpath to the south of the site links with this.</p>
<p>Significance</p>
<p>The wood provides limited informal recreational opportunities for local people and links in with public rights of way and promoted footpaths.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p>
<p>The wood is very small, with only 1 access point, much of it is on a very steep slope and in a quiet rural area. Hence there opportunities for recreation within the wood are limited, and the level of use does not justify trying to create extra links.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<p></p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>
<p>Public access will remain low key as at present, with 1 access point and no formal paths.</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p>
<p>Access point stile and Woodland Trust welcome sign to be checked once during this plan period by Site Manager.</p>

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.03	Ash	1988	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order

1.03 hectares (2.5acres) in size Fother Royd is located near the village of Worsthorne in rural East Lancashire. It is roughly rectangular in shape and is located on a steep sided slope. It consists mainly of an area of broadleaved trees such as oak, ash, rowan, wild cherry & bird cherry planted in 1988 , with a row of mature trees mainly beech and sycamore along one boundary. The wood does have a formal access point in the form of a step stile but no formal paths run through the woodland and it is not thought to be well used. The surrounding land use is predominately improved pasture land which is used for grazing.

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.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

Registered Office:

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