

Ash & Luckhurst 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
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Ash & Luckhurst Wood

Location:

Stone in Oxney Grid reference: TQ932277 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 189

Area:

2.15 hectares (5.31 acres)

External Designations:

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Internal Designations:

N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Ash and Luckhurst Wood, are 2 separate woodlands called Ash Plantation and Luckhurst Wood which are approximately 250 metres apart and total 2.1 hectares. They are surrounded by agricultural fields. This wood is situated on the 'Isle of Oxney', a raised area within the River Rother valley on the edge of the Romney Marsh on the Kent and East Sussex border, and within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Woodland Trust acquired this wood in 1986.

Luckhurst Wood (compartment 2a) is a semi natural ancient woodland which has been actively coppiced in the past with ash as the predominate species, along with hornbeam, hazel, field maple and hawthorn. It also has a rich ground flora typical of an ash-field maple woodland or National Vegetation Classification (NVC) 8a, with species present like creeping buttercup, forget-me-not, early purple orchid, thistle, common bird's-foot-trefoil, common centaury, dock, bramble, primrose, bugle, bluebell, ragged robin, willow herb with common rush and pendulous sedge.

Ash Plantation (compartment 1a) is recorded as secondary woodland although has an ancient woodland type ground flora dominated by bluebell and dog's mercury, primrose, yellow archangel, ground ivy, hogweed, bramble and nettle. Ash is the main species to be found in Ash Plantation which traditionally has been managed by coppicing. The most noticeable veteran trees are found beside the sunken track through Ash Plantation which has a line of veteran oak trees on its western side.

Paths with permissive access run through the entire length of both woodlands, from which Public Rights of Ways can be joined.

Ash and Luckhurst Wood is best reached along the track which leads into Ash Plantation at its northern end past the house called Luckhurst. From Ash Plantation, Luckhurst Wood can be reached by crossing over the small stream at the southern tip of Ash Plantation and then walking along the field headland to Luckhurst Wood.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Over the next 50 years, Ash and Luckhurst Wood will be allowed to grow and develop naturally, as a refuge for wildlife. This will be achieved through minimum management intervention, allowing deadwood to accumulate, old trees to remain and continue to develop deadwood features and young trees to regenerate where there are losses. Ash will probably not be one of the dominant species due to ash dieback fungus causing a decline in individual ash trees and then these trees eventually dying due to other fungal infection. Ash is likely to be replaced by other species already on site such as field maple, hornbeam, hawthorn and aspen. Sycamore is not present on site, but could be a potential replacement species.

Due to the threat of dying ash trees near to public access routes, it is very likely that tree safety felling during the period 2021-2025 will be required.

Low key public access will continue to be provided at a level appropriate for this small quiet woodland.

Statutory obligations will continue to be met with respect to managing tree safety along the wayleave boundary.

Regular woodland condition monitoring will occur to record any changes which are noted within this woodland habitat.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1

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

5. WORK PROGRAMME

| Year | Type Of Work | Description | Due Date |
|------|--------------|-------------|----------|
|------|--------------|-------------|----------|

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No. | Area (ha) | Main Species | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints | Designations |
|---|-----------|--------------|------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1a | 0.85 | Ash | 1900 | Min-intervention | No/poor vehicular access to the site | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| <p>Known as Ash Plantation, it contains principally ash with small quantities of hornbeam, field maple, hawthorn, hazel with elder confined mostly along the stream edge. A stream flows in a northerly direction along its eastern boundary. In the northern half the mature ash coppice was singled/thinned in 2004 to store the coppice, and the southern part was coppiced in 1999. It is classified as a secondary woodland.</p> | | | | | | |
| 2a | 1.29 | Ash | 1900 | Min-intervention | No/poor vehicular access to the site | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| <p>Known as Luckhurst wood, it contains predominately ash with aspen, hornbeam, field maple, hazel, oak and hawthorn. A stream flows in a northerly direction along its western boundary in a pronounced ditch which is in places up to 2.5 m deep. Luckurst Wood was last coppiced between 1997 and 1999. It is classified as an ancient semi natural woodland.</p> | | | | | | |

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:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.