

Sandybrook

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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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

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2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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 - 4.2 f2 Informal Public Access
5. Work Programme

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Sandybrook

Location:	Fulwood, Preston Grid reference: SD560322 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 102
Area:	5.89 hectares (14.55 acres)
External Designations:	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Sandybrook is located in Fulwood an urban area of the northern half of the City of Preston. To the north the site is bordered by a large housing estate, to the east and west there is secondary woodland and to the south lies the Savick Brook and a large area of amenity grassland.

The woodland sits in a long, narrow incised valley on sandy soil; the northern and southern edges are flat ground with a steep slope between them. A former farm pond is located on the North Eastern boundary of the site.

The planting is typical of the late 1970s, with oak, ash, cherry, field maple, hazel, birch, rowan, willow, three species of alder, dogwood, guelder rose and dog rose, within this planting a number of hedgerows and older trees have been retained, especially fringing the stream. Some ornamental species such as snowberry have been planted close to paths and a group of Red Oaks have been planted in a glade area.

There is a car park at the Fulwood Row end of the site, which is managed by Preston Borough Council and serves a nearby school. This facility generates some fly tipping as access is good but the car park is not overlooked.

Sandybrook is one site in a network of woods which were gifted to the Woodland Trust by the Commission for New Towns in 1996. It was planted in the late seventies, as part of the overall structure plan of the Central Lancashire New Town, on former grazing land to the North of the Sandy Brook and West of Fulwood Row.

The woodland has two Key Features Informal Public Access & Secondary Woodland. It also has one Conservation Feature which is a small pond.

The site is well used by local people and a network of Public Footpaths link the woodland to areas of open space managed by Preston City Council as well as several other Woodland Trust sites including Masons Wood, Midgery Wood & Moss Leach.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Sandybrook will be managed as a mixed broadleaved, predominantly native high forest. The wood will continue to be composed of largely native broadleaved species such as oak, ash, cherry, rowan, field maple & birch. However, it is likely that the percentage of ash will decrease substantially over the next decade due to ash dieback. Despite this ash will continue to be encouraged within the species mix as some of the native stock may exhibit a degree of natural resilience. The wood will be managed so that it is as diverse as possible in terms of structure and species which will ensure that it is as resilient as possible to future changes imposed upon it such as climate change and tree diseases. Both native and non-native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. Gaps created by trees gradually reaching senescence, or by trees been felled for safety reasons will be filled by natural regeneration non-native regeneration will be accepted as part of the canopy. We will retain older trees of any species across the whole site as long as this does not conflict with tree safety needs.

Threats to the woodland habitat will be monitored and managed, if possible, the woodland will be assessed for tree diseases particularly ash die back and species composition and levels of regeneration will also be monitored via regular Woodland Condition Assessments.

Open access will be retained at the wood in perpetuity and there will be a well-managed network of approximately 1000 metres of surfaced paths and 5 high quality entrances. The wood will be made as safe as possible via regular safety inspections and any necessary corresponding remedial works. Well defined routes will discourage the creation and use of desire lines thus helping to minimise any negative effect on the woodland.

Local people will be informed of and involved with the site management where appropriate, especially to help understand the management needs of the wood, and the negative effect of some activities such as dumping garden rubbish, which have had a detrimental impact in some parts of the woodland.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

Description
Sandybrook is predominantly a semi mature broadleaf plantation (planted circa 1975) with some relics of old hedgelines and a small block of mature woodland. The planting mix used reflects stand types typical of oak-ash woodland, with ash, alder, oak, field maple, birch and cherry as the main species planted. The site is an integral part in a local mosaic of habitats that includes the stream and meadows of the Savick Brook valley/local nature reserve; with a further 20ha (approx) of Woodland Trust owned woodlands within half a mile.
Significance
The local area has been extensively developed with the loss of numerous hedgerows, mature trees and farmland. The effects and changes typical of an urban environment will continue to be a disturbance to local wildlife. The creation of Sandy Brook provides a replacement for lost tree cover. Its management as woodland for perpetuity along with other nearby Woodland Trust sites will provide a stable core of wildlife habitats in an otherwise changing landscape.
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>The opportunity exists to ensure a continuity of valuable woodland habitat in an area under intense pressure from development. The existing habitat value can be improved upon through the retention where suitable of standing and fallen dead wood and tree safety operations will create gaps in the canopy for regeneration.</p> <p>The main constraints on management derive from the sites location near a built environment. The close proximity of the woodland edge to domestic properties, and the high recreational usage, means that boundary and safety issues may take precedence over habitat improvements. Intense use during the summer months can manifest itself as "mis-use" and "over-use", wear and tear on open spaces; fires; den building; vandalism; and fly-tipping; are factors that have to be considered in relation to habitat creation and management.</p> <p>Non native snowberry currently covers a small area (less than 1/4 acre) it will be monitored as part of the woodland condition assessment and could practically and effectively be removed if it begins to spread significantly. Red Oak is not causing a significant ongoing habitat change or loss of species, therefore we will not take any action to remove it.</p>
Factors Causing Change
Tree disease (ash dieback) Invasive Himalayan Balsam.
Long term Objective (50 years+)

Mature, stable broadleaved high forest, with a continuous canopy and diverse age and species range and succession by natural regeneration. As trees gradually reach senescence or are removed for tree safety purposes the gaps left in the canopy will be colonised by natural regeneration of oak, ash, birch etc.

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

Active thinning work will be undertaken in 2029 to ensure long term stand stability, this work will be focussed on areas where the site borders housing and footpaths.

Smale scale coppice & thinning works will also be undertaken over the plan period utilising the working woodland group using hand tools again to help diversify age & species diversity on site. The group also plan to tackle Himalayan Balsam by hand pulling.

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, the development of natural regeneration and any future thinning requirements.

4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

Description

Sandybrook has a total of 5 pedestrian entrances. Two of the pedestrian entrances are located on the sites eastern boundary to the rear of Fulwood Row. One of these entrances is a kissing gate and one is a squeeze gap. Two more pedestrian entrances are located on the site western boundary and border land owned by the local authority. Both these entrances are continuous with local authority land and are not marked by any sort of entrance feature. The final pedestrian entrance is located on the sites northern boundary to the rear of Springsands Close. The entrances lead onto approximately 1000 metres of footpaths. A small pond can be found on site, this is sometimes used by local people for informal fishing and it can be a problem with regard to litter. The site is well used by local people for informal recreational access.

Significance

The pressures of development in the local area means that these green spaces will become important wildlife corridors and the main areas for informal outdoor recreation. Furthermore the value of the wood to the local population will not just be derived its from provision of wildlife habitat and public amenity, but through its services as a filter for airborne pollution, light, and noise. As the woodland matures its value as habitat for a range of wildlife will increase providing greater opportunities for observation and enjoyment.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size of Sandybrook, and its extensive property backed boundary restrict the sites value or interest. The wood does however provide the opportunity to vary the local landscape and maintain an area of habitats for wildlife that can be observed and enjoyed by the local population.

The close proximity of a large population means that the site is subject to intense use and sometimes misuse during the summer months. Wear and tear on open spaces; fires; den building; vandalism; fly tipping; dog excrement, and horse/motorbike riding are perennial problems that need to be taken into consideration when carrying out any

management operation (particularly access work). Through informing interested parties, and by the use of available media, management issues can be used to raise debate and to inform the local population of the Trusts aims.

Factors Causing Change

Increased use & fly tipping/anti social behaviour in car park area.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long-term intention is to maintain the present levels of access with improvements made where new opportunities are identified. Guided by the parameters set out in the Woodland Trusts woodland management principles and access policy management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment.

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

Major improvements to the paths and entrances were undertaken in 2019. This included the upgrading of approximately 1500 metres of surfaced path, 2 new flights of steps (60 steps approx.) and the refreshing of the two main access points into the wood. Additionally signs or plaques welcoming the general public to make use of the site will be maintained at the entrance points. Vegetation encroaching onto paths will be cut back and annual maintenance of all woodland fixtures; including, signs, gates, and fences will be undertaken. The site will be kept clear of litter and fly tipping. Site Manger will consult with the Local authority and Police with regard to anti social behaviour and fly tipping in car park area.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	February
2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	February
2023	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	February
2023	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	March
2023	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	April
2023	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	April
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	July
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	July
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	July
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July

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2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
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APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5.89	Ash	1980	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Compartment 1a is a long, narrow incised valley on sandy soil, the northern and southern edges are flat ground with a steep slope between them. The flat section adjacent to the brook has open areas of grassland abutting a well used surfaced path. The flat area at the top of the slope abuts modern housing constructed between 1995 and 2003, also within this area is a former farm pond fringed by an open grassland area. South of the site is open ground which rises up towards 1950s social housing. The planting is typical of the late 1970s, with oak, ash, cherry, field maple, hazel, birch, rowan, willow, three species of alder, dogwood, guelder rose and dog rose, within this planting a number of hedgerows and older trees have been retained, especially fringing the stream. Some ornamental species such as snowberry have been planted close to paths and a group of Red Oaks, have been planted in a glade area.</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:

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