

# Hartest Wood

(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](http://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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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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5. Work Programme

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GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Hartest Wood

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Location:              | Hartest, nr Sudbury Grid reference: TL837528 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 155 |
| Area:                  | 1.18 hectares (2.92 acres)   |
| External Designations: | N/A  |
| Internal Designations: | Woods on Your Doorstep   |

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Hartest Wood was planted up as a native broadleaved woodland in 1999 as part of the 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project. The local community were involved in the woods from the outset with design, planting and ongoing maintenance. The layout of the wood representing a map of the village and the wide rides representing the roads. 187 oak trees were planted for each dwelling and a thicket of yew and holly mark the site of the church. Bell Stay Bottom was an ash coppice planted to provide stays for the church bells in the future. The local community continue to be involved through the woodland working group.

This original planting has now established into a young woodland with closed canopy as it enters the next phase of woodland development. There is a small woodland clearing in the midst of the site with a sculpture as a focal point, 'The Gift', being the centrepiece of the wood. It was designed by Geoffrey Clarke R.A., a Hartest resident and stands on a granite plinth within a clearing.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

Hartest wood will be allowed to mature naturally, creating a resilient broadleaved woodland with a diverse range of native trees and shrubs through natural regeneration. The woodland edges, clearings, pathways and deadwood habitat will ensure a variety of habitats for wildlife.

Ash dieback will require monitoring and some intervention where trees become unsafe.

The long term intention is to encourage a sustainable level of use by maintaining the access features and internal infrastructure appropriately.

For the community of Hartest to continue to be involved with the management and development of the wood through the Woodland Working Group.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

|   |
|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |
| <p>There is open public access to this WOYD site. Parking is available off the road at the main entrance at the northern end of the wood where an information board has been erected. A network of paths, mirroring the layout of the roads in the village, lead visitors to the centre of the site where 'The Gift,' a sculpture by Geoffrey Clarke R.A., stands.</p> <p>There is a second pedestrian access point in the south-east corner of the wood where a sleeper bridge crosses the ditch. A permissive path, known as Pask's Path, runs to this entrance from the village, on the field edge at the top of the Lawshall Road embankment.</p> |
| <b>Significance</b>   |
| <p>Given the high level of community involvement that there has been on this WOYD site, it is important to maintain good access for local residents.</p>  |
| <b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>  |
| <p>Cars can pull off the road and park on the wide grass verge by the main entrance</p>   |
| <b>Factors Causing Change</b>   |
| <p>None</p>   |
| <b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>  |
| <p>Enhance public access so that visitors to the site continue to enjoy the experience.</p>   |
| <b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>   |
| <p>To maintain the site as an area of public open access, with the path system cut to a minimum of 2m to allow unhindered access for the public. Some widening of the paths in places by selective thinning or coppicing. Maintain all public access structures in a safe, usable condition.</p>  |

### 4.2 f2 New Native Woodland

|                    |
|--------------------|
| <b>Description</b> |
|--------------------|



|  |
|--|
| The woodland was planted in December 1999 with a native broadleaved species mix at 3m spacing. The trees have now become established, and the woodland has reached canopy closure.   |
| <b>Significance</b>  |
| Maintaining Hartest Wood will help to increase the area of established native woodland in Suffolk. On a local level it is a significant established habitat for wildlife in the context of the surrounding agricultural landscape.   |
| <b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>   |
| Deer damage may be a constraining factor in the continuing establishment/regeneration of the trees. Ash dieback has affected a number of common ash within the site.   |
| <b>Factors Causing Change</b>  |
| Ash dieback, deer damage. Ash dieback will alter the structure of the woodland through the suppression or death of resident ash. This will increase the deadwood habitat within the site.  |
| <b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>   |
| Established new native woodland which links into the surrounding landscape.  |
| <b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>  |
| The woodland area will be placed under minimal intervention apart from any health and safety issues that could arise and pose a threat to public safety. Dead/dying ash have been gradually removed on a small scale and will continue to be done so as and when required.<br>There is potential to coppice some of the hazel and create more woodland edge habitat.<br>Restock areas where ash have been removed for H&S reasons. |

### 4.3 f3 Community Woodland Group

|   |
|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |
| Hartest Wood is a community woodland with locals involved in the creation phase and previously responsible for its on going management. Some of the annual maintenance of the site has now been included within the WT EMC contract.  |
| <b>Significance</b>   |
| At this site the local community have led the project to plant and maintain the wood. They drew up the unique design incorporating the village map, came up with the sculpture and were maintaining the network of paths. They have enabled the Trust to meet its objectives of increasing new native woodland and increasing public enjoyment of woodland. |
| <b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>  |
| The local community continue to take a active role in the management of the site through the Woodland Working Group (WWG).  |
| <b>Factors Causing Change</b>   |

Ability to recruit members into the WWG.

**Long term Objective (50 years+)**

For the community group to continue to evolve and recruit new members to assist in the maintenance of Hartest Wood through the WWG.

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

To continue community involvement through the WWG, and for the WT EMC to take on the responsibility of the maintenance of paths.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

| Year | Type Of Work                       | Description  | Due Date  |
|------|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 2023 | 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      |
| 2023 | 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 |
| 2024 | 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      |
| 2024 | 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 |
| 2024 | SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work | Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.  | December  |
| 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 |
| 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 |

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

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No.  | Area (ha) | Main Species      | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints | Designations |
|--|-----------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1a   | 1.21      | Oak (pedunculate) | 1999 | High forest       |                              |              |
| <p>Hartest Wood was planted up as a native broadleaved woodland at 1100 trees per hectare, using 30 - 45 cm stock in 1.2m tree tubes with stakes. The layout of the wood represents a map of the village with 4 metre wide rides representing the roads. 187 oak trees were planted for each dwelling and a thicket of yew and holly mark the site of the church. Bell Stay Bottom is an ash coppice planted to provide stays for the church bells in the future.</p> <p>The species composition is as follows: 19% pedunculate oak, 19% ash, 19% wild cherry, 8% field maple, 6% white willow, 8% hornbeam, 7% silver birch, 4% holly, yew, sweet chestnut and rowan, 10% woody shrubs (hazel, common hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood, spindle) in mixed species clumps along ride edges. A few cuttings of local black poplar have also been planted. A selection of wild flowers grown from local stock have been put in, including primroses, cowslips, oxlips, foxgloves, sweet woodruff and bluebells.</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.**

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