Garbett's Wood (Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



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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 woodled 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 seminatural 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 Natural Secondary Woodland
 - 4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees
- 5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Garbett's Wood

Rogate Grid reference: SU808236 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 197

Area: 2.46 hectares (6.08 acres)

External Designations: National Park

Internal Designations: Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Garbett's Wood is a small (2.5ha) site at the western end of the South Downs National Park, in Rogate, West Sussex. It was acquired by the Trust in October 1997 and was part of the Woods on Your Doorstep (WoYD) campaign to mark the millennium. Funding came in part from Rogate Parish Council and local residents who named the site Garbett's Wood. Unlike most other WoYD sites, Garbett's Wood did not need many trees planted due to the extent of tree cover already present. However, a hedge was planted along part of the northern boundary along with field maples in the northeast of the wood.

The wood is flanked by minor roads on the east and west boundaries and the grounds of adjacent properties on the north and south boundaries. The immediate locality consists of agricultural fields, hedgerows, copses and the occasional wood. Approximately three quarters of a mile south lies the Rother valley and approximately one mile to the north a large swathe of woodland surrounding Hill Brow, running east to west.

The argillic brown sand soil and lower Pulborough sandstone geology has favoured the colonisation of predominantly sycamore (and previously ash) in the eastern part of the site with more oak in the west, although the wood also occupies part of the former garden of the adjoining Red House, which accounts for some of the more unusual tree species such as lime, plane and horse chestnut. Mature trees have provided seed for colonisation, the majority of which are on the periphery of the wood, with occasional specimens within it.

There is a small meadow area in the southeast of the wood and a pond in the northeast that was designated as the millennium feature when the wood was acquired.

There is a circular path around the periphery of site and a bench on southern boundary, giving views across the South Downs.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In the long term (50 years plus), Garbett's Wood will remain as mixed broadleaved high forest with predominantly native species. Oak and other broadleaves such as birch, lime and field maple will be plentiful, with sycamore providing a significant proportion of the canopy cover. Larger specimen trees will be developing into veterans and dead wood will become more abundant as the woodland matures. Hazel will be thriving and a variety of other species such as holly, hawthorn and elder will provide a diverse understorey.

Ash dieback is currently affecting the ash present within the wood and trees with significant canopy dieback within falling distance of roads, footpaths and properties require felling to maintain safety. Ash trees that do not present a hazard will be retained, which will allow a proportion of this species to go through natural processes and more gradual change. In instances where significant quantities of ash are felled to maintain safety, timber will be extracted to prevent smothering of the woodland floor. Smaller quantities will be retained to increase dead wood habitat.

Re-stocking following any felling will be by natural regeneration, unless supplementary planting is a mandatory requirement for contractual or legal reasons (e.g. felling licence, grant, statutory plant health notice). Therefore, the majority of the wood's trees that are unaffected by ash dieback disease, including sycamore, oak, field maple, holly, hazel, hawthorn and silver birch, will maintain canopy cover and habitat while their saplings will gradually re-stock temporary open space where ash is lost.

Herbivore impact (e.g. deer browsing) will not be preventing succession and establishment of trees and understorey from natural regeneration, or resulting in significant losses of established trees (e.g. by ring-barking from squirrels) following appropriate assessment and management to prevent a detrimental impact, if required.

Open space will be between 10 - 20% with the pond and meadow areas providing a variety of aquatic flora, grasses and wild flowers.

This will remain a safe, accessible and tranquil site for quiet recreation activities via signed entrances and a network of maintained but natural paths.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

The majority of the site is secondary woodland arising from natural colonisation of sycamore and oak, with hazel and field maple. Along the western and southern boundaries there are mature trees including oak, lime and plane and Scots pine, some of which are remnants of the old garden site which originally belonged to the adjoining property to the north. There are also mature trees on a bank through the middle of the site including sycamore coppice, horse chestnut and specimen ash.

The last management plan period (2018-2023) has seen the most significant intervention at the site since the Trust's ownership of the wood, mainly due to the impact of ash dieback disease requiring removal of ash within approximately 20% of the site, in addition to planned coppicing on ride and meadow edges. This has resulted in an increase in temporary open space of up to approximately 30% of the site, with coppice re-growth on ride and meadow edges and natural regeneration of trees and shrubs within the temporary open space. Young sycamore growth and regeneration is particularly prolific and this species is likely to feature as a more prominent canopy tree as ash continues to diminish. Ash remains across approximately 10% of the site with ash dieback disease an ongoing factor.

Hazel is most abundant at the east end of the site, and also comprises a large section of the roadside hedgerow on the east boundary. The woodland ground flora communities are most diverse at this side of the site and include woodland specialists such as bluebells and dogs mercury.

The south-eastern part of the site is a remnant meadow dominated by grasses and plants that are indicative of fertile, previously cultivated ground (e.g. stinging nettle and hogweed). There is a small pond in the north-eastern part of the site which provides a small component of aquatic habitat.

Significance

The UK is the least wooded country in Europe and native woodland contains more threatened species than any other habitat in the UK. This woodland site helps to protect and connect fragmented woods by creating links to hedgerows and copses that form a larger wooded habitat - the South Downs National Park - providing multiple benefits to people and wildlife.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: The small size of the site, limited access and the sloped central area and steep west bank limit the potential management options within the wood.

Opportunities: Pond restoration works to reduce aquatic pond vegetation to 30%, leaving 70% open water, whilst not essential, would be beneficial.

Factors Causing Change

Ash Dieback: Ash is a diminishing species at the site due to this disease and the removal of ash where essential for safety. The removal of ash has also resulted in an increase of temporary open space.

Natural regeneration: There is prolific tree and shrub regeneration (including sycamore, field maple, holly and hawthorn) in areas of temporary open space, providing a diversity of species and structure.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The key feature will be characterised by its high forest structure with a canopy of broadleaf species such as oak and sycamore, a mixed understorey including hazel, field maple, hawthorn and holly and abundant mixed ground flora of woodland and open space species.

The woodland canopy will evolve largely through natural processes, with silvicultural intervention only undertaken where essential e.g for tree safety and/or pest & disease management, or to maintain diversity e.g. ride-side coppicing. Re-stock will be by natural regeneration unless planting is a mandatory legal requirement (e.g. a grant or felling licence condition).

A variety of age classes and structure will be evident, with coppice re-growth, naturally regenerating trees and shrubs and a proportion of mature trees with or developing veteran features.

There will be a frequent level of dead wood on the woodland floor and standing dead wood retained where it does not present a hazard. Some coppiced wood will be retained in small log-piles to increase dead wood habitat.

Open space will be maintained at 10 - 20 % with planned interventions such as mowing and coppicing where necessary.

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

To ensure the re-stocking of canopy and understorey cover following the loss of ash due to ash dieback disease and to maintain vegetative and structural diversity over the 5 year plan period. This will be achieved through the following:

- Assessment (including herbivore impact) of the re-growth and establishment of natural regeneration across 0.8ha where ash has been felled as a result of ash dieback disease in 2024, 2026 and 2028, with any appropriate management undertaken (e.g. herbivore impact control/planting/aftercare) if essential to achieve the required stocking density of 1100 trees per hectare.
- Annual mowing of the meadow (0.35ha) in September after flowering to maintain the semi-open habitat that this area provides.
- A woodland condition assessment in 2028 to inform the next management plan review.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Garbett's Wood is a small (2.5ha) site at the western end of the South Downs National Park. It is situated approximately 200m south of Rogate, a small village with a population of approximately 1500 residents on the A272, approximately five and a half miles east of Petersfield.

There are entrances on the east and west boundaries of the wood approximately 200m south of the A272. These can be reached via Habin Hill (west entrance) or Garbitts Lane (east entrances), which run south off of the A272 in Rogate. However, there are no pavements or parking facilities along these roads. The Habin Hill entrance is a short set of wooden steps up a steep roadside embankment. The Garbitts Lane entrances are squeeze-gaps between wooden rails in the south-east and north-east corners of the wood.

There is a circular path around the periphery of the whole site, and a path through the centre, totalling approximately 650m. Paths are unsurfaced with gentle to moderate slopes.

A flight of steps leading to a bench on the southern boundary gives views across the South Downs.

Significance

It has been proven that access to woodland provides an improved quality of life, with benefits to both mental and physical health. Whilst there is a good mosaic of habitats in the local landscape, Garbett's Wood provides residents of Rogate with one of few publicly accessible woods within walking distance. With an easily accessible variety of habitats it also provides recreation and educational opportunities for local residents and schools.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: There are no parking facilities available close to the site.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback: This tree disease affects public access provision, requiring tree safety works to maintain safe access through the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site will provide a safe and enjoyable woodland experience for visitors, with well-maintained footpaths, entrances, infrastructure and signs, in line with the site's WT access category C designation.

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

To provide public access which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved in the plan period with the following:

- •Annual path, meadow, and entrance maintenance.
- •Replacement of the entrance steps on the west boundary in 2024.
- •Annual tree safety inspections and remedial work in line with the Woodland Trust Tree Risk Management Policy.
- An assessment of access infrastructure and signs in 2028 as part of the whole site woodland condition assessment.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date		
2023	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October		
2023	WMM - General Site Management				
2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	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			
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance				
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,			
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,	August		
2024	NWH - Maintenance Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats — mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc		September		
2024	WMM - General Site Management Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,		December		
2024	NWH - Maintenance Work associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc		February		
2024	WMM - Coppice Management				
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	June		

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date		
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,			
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,			
2025	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September		
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December		
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,	June		
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,	August		
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September		
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December		
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,			
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,	August		
2027	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc			

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2028	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,	June
2028	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,	August
2028	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	2.46	Oak (pedunculate)	1988	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	National Park

Secondary woodland arising mainly from natural colonisation supplemented with planting. Oak and sycamore are the dominant canopy species with the occasional birch, lime, yew and horse chestnut and ash. Low numbers of mature trees are present along boundaries and within the site, notably a few large oak, ash and lime and one-off London plane and Scots pine.

A significant proportion of the understorey is hazel coppice with holly, hawthorn, elder, blackthorn and field maple also present. Young and regenerating sycamore is also abundant. There are some areas of diverse woodland ground flora communities, particularly in the east of the site, which include red campion, bluebell, dogs mercury, primrose, tutsan, herb robert, lesser celandine, greater stitch wort, and speedwells.

There is a small pond in the northeast, a meadow in the southeast, and a steep tree covered bank and sloped area creating a large bowl-like depression in the centre of the site.

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.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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