

Pinchbeck 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

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
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 - 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Pinchbeck Wood

Location:	Pinchbeck	Grid reference:	TF226258	OS	1:50,000	Sheet No.	131
Area:	1.28 hectares (3.16 acres)						
External Designations:	N/A						
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep						

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Pinchbeck Wood forms part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' project, which was supported by the Millennium Commission, and has created 200 new community woods within walking distance of towns and villages. This woodland creation site was made possible by Pinchbeck Parish Council from whom the Trust has taken a long lease of the land, and by the support of the local people of Pinchbeck who helped in the design, naming and planting of the wood.

Pinchbeck Wood lies at the western entrance to the village of Pinchbeck and is the only accessible woodland in the area for several miles. The land is a flat, rectangular block of fenland, formerly allotments and in arable rotation prior to planting by the Trust in 1999. The site is quite wet all year round. To the north, the site is bounded by the Graft Drain and the public highway Northgate, and to the south by the highway, Glenside North, which separates the site from the River Glen. On the eastern boundary, the site is separated from the adjoining garden centre by a line of maturing alders, which although outside the site are a feature in the landscape. On the west the wood is bounded by arable ground.

The two access points on the northern and southern boundaries are linked by a circular grass path. There is also management access at both entrances. The simplicity of this design reflects the size of the site and the need to plant as much of it as possible to provide the visitor with a genuine woodland experience. It also allows the wood to act as a link between Northgate and Glenside North, providing visitors with a circular walk from the village.

The wood was planted at a public planting event in December 1999 with a mixture of native, broadleaved trees, the main species being Ash and Alder, with downy birch, and a small number of willow species. The trees have grown well and have now closed canopy.

The key features for this site are:-

- Informal Public Access
- Secondary woodland

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Pinchbeck Wood will be allowed to develop into mature woodland, with only light silvicultural intervention, appropriate for this small young woodland. Over time the even-aged structure will break up through natural processes (ie. through trees being lost by disease or weather events). Ash dieback disease in particular will lead to the loss of many of the ash trees in the wood, significantly reducing this as a component in the species mix, but on the positive side adding important deadwood habitat and gaps for the regeneration of the new trees to occur. In the long term the major tree species are likely to be alder, crack willow and grey willow, being more suited to the wet conditions. It is also likely small components of ash, downy birch, aspen and rowan will continue to be present, and over time sycamore may start to naturally spread into the wood via natural means.

The wood will remain open to the public in perpetuity but facilities will be low key, as befitting a small local woodland site. A managed path network will be provided and entrances will be welcoming and clearly signed. The wood will be made as safe as practical through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
A managed footpath loop of 500m links the northern and southern entrances, allowing a circular walk for visitors. The path is for pedestrian use only and is unsurfaced. No car parking is provided at the wood, but it is located within walking distance of the nearby village of Pinchbeck. The entrances are clearly signed, and have squeeze gaps and also management gates.
Significance
The wood is an important recreational resource for the local village of Pinchbeck in an area of the country which has a very low percentage of woodland cover, accessible or otherwise. This site has been a community project from the beginning. It is held on a long lease from the Parish Council, which together with local interest groups and the local community were instrumental in securing the site for woodland creation, and for the wood's design and its planting.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Only accessible woodland for several miles- Strong community ties- The wood is small enough to allow a community organisation to take on its management Constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Very small local site, hence will not have a wider interest from people further afield- Parking is difficult next to the wood (although site is within walking distance of a village)- Wet site means paths can be very soft & muddy.
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The wood will remain open to the public in perpetuity but facilities will be low key, as befitting a small local woodland site. A managed path network will be provided and entrances will be welcoming and clearly signed. The wood will be made as safe as practical through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

The short term objectives during this plan period are to ensure the wood is open, accessible and safe for use by the public. This will be achieved by:

- Carrying out annual maintenance to the path and entrance network (a total of 500m of path and 2 entrances). All entrances will be signed so the wood is welcoming to visitors. Monitoring will be carried out once during the plan period to ensure this standard of provision is maintained.
- Carrying out routine safety checks, especially of trees in high risk zones. Trees within falling distance of roads and along the path network will be inspected every 2 years during this plan period.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description
A native broadleaved woodland on wet ground planted as part of the 'Woods On Your Doorstep' initiative in winter of 1999. Ash and alder are the main species together with aspen, rowan and crack willow. Shrub species include hawthorn, guelder rose, dog rose and goat willow. Ash dieback disease is affecting the ash trees in the wood. Flora in the ground layer is fairly limited due to the age of the woodland and includes species such as cow parsley and planted daffodils.
Significance
Woodland is an uncommon feature in this fenland landscape, present only in association with farmsteads and village settlements. This site therefore offers a small but significant area of semi-natural habitat in an area of otherwise intensively managed arable farmland.
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one of very few areas of woodland within several miles. <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - very small site - Isolated "island habitat"
Factors Causing Change
Ash dieback disease will reduce the ash component of the wood over time.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Pinchbeck Wood will be allowed to develop into mature woodland, with only light silvicultural intervention, appropriate for this small young woodland. Over time the even-aged structure will break up through natural processes (ie. through trees being lost by disease or weather events), along with minor intervention especially along the main footpath. Ash dieback disease in particular will lead to the loss of many of the ash trees in the wood, significantly reducing this as a component in the species mix, but on the positive side adding important deadwood habitat and gaps for tree regeneration to occur. In the long term the major tree species are likely to be alder, crack willow and grey willow, being

more suited to the wet conditions. It is also likely small components of ash, downy birch, aspen and rowan will continue to be present, and over time sycamore may start to naturally spread into the wood via natural means.

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

During this plan period the wood will receive minimum pro-active intervention, with instead a focus on maintaining access and public safety. Hence biennial tree safety inspections will be carried out, which are likely to lead to the felling of small numbers of trees along the main footpaths and road boundaries. Only trees displaying symptoms of poor health or structural instability will be felled. Away from the high risk zones any trees suffering poor health will be left standing to naturally decline. In general, any resulting timber will be left on site to enhance the deadwood habitat of the wood.

A monitoring visit will take place in 2025 to review this approach and the extent of ash dieback in the wood.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.17	Alder species	2000	High forest		
<p>The wood was planted at a public planting event in December 1999 with a mixture of native, broadleaved trees, the main species being ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>), with downy birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>), rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>) and aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i>). Shrub species, including crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>), grey willow (<i>Salix cinerea</i>), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), guelder rose (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>) and dog rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>) were planted at the ride edges.</p> <p>An area of open ground is retained along the northern boundary as an access strip for the maintenance of the Graft Drain by the Internal Drainage Board.</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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