

Tween Towns Wood

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



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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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Tween Towns Wood

Location:	Guilden Morden Grid reference: TL285437 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 153
Area:	3.38 hectares (8.35 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Tween Towns Wood is a woodland creation site planted as part of the Woodland Trusts “Woods On Your Doorstep” initiative to mark the millennium. Originally 3.4ha, it was extended to 8.87ha in 2022 by the addition of an adjacent former arable field to the west of the site, which was purchased for the Woodland Trust by the kind support of local donations. This will extend the existing woodland and will be planted with native broadleaves, including wild cherry, small leaved lime, silver birch and field maple.

It lies between the villages of Guilden Morden and Steeple Moredon, both communities having supported the fund raising activities. The name 'Tween Towns' has been taken from the name of the field on which it is planted. This name can be traced back to 1444.

The earlier woodland was purchased in 1999 and planting took place in February 2000 with the help of local people. The tree species in the existing wood are native broadleaves, predominantly oak, ash, field maple, cherry and willow. The site itself is adjacent to an attractive stream, which forms the western boundary. There are records of water voles and crayfish occurring along its course here. There are numerous trees along this stream course, most being willow and some having been pollarded in the past. There is also a small semi-mature woodland area of around 0.1ha in the NW corner, largely comprising of field maple, sycamore and lime. Additional semi-mature woodland can be found directly north of the site, in the grounds of Morden House, with the Woodland Trusts White Ponds Wood 0.5 km to the South.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Tween Towns Wood will develop into a well-structured and resilient native broadleaved woodland through natural processes and good silvicultural management. The woodland will consist of primary species such as Oak and Field Maple with a supporting species mix of cherry and willow. The Shrub component of the older planting of the wood will consist of Hazel, Dog Rose, Wayfaring Tree Hawthorn Blackthorn, Spindle and Dog Rose. The previously planted Ash component to the woodland will provide the deadwood component to the wood with a mix of standing and fallen deadwood within compartments 1a and 2a.

The Tween Towns woodland extension will become a native broadleaved high forest woodland with species such as silver birch, wild cherry, beech, field maple, hazel and hawthorn, with no less than 20% of open ground to allow good access and aid diversity. The edges of the woodland will be planted with native shrubs and will be of variable widths for a naturalistic woodland edge.

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Low key public access will be maintained at the site and the paths, signs and other furniture that allows safe access for the public will be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Guilden and Steeple Morden villages and the other immediately neighbouring parishes. The wood will continue to link to the local public footpath networks and will be part of the much wider access provision in the area.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
The whole site is open for quiet informal recreation by the public and local community. In addition, there are about 1000m of grass paths forming circular routes within the woodland, which are maintained to keep them well defined and easy to follow. The new extension will have approximately 1150m of permissive paths.
Significance
There are very few accessible woodlands within this part of South Cambridgeshire.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities -Well connected to two local villages via public right of way network.
Constraints -The site can be very wet during the winter months and occasionally can flood.
Factors Causing Change
-Scrub encroachment along pathways.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Low key public access will be maintained at the site and the paths, signs and other furniture that allows safe access for the public will be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Guilden and Steeple Morden villages and the other immediately neighbouring parishes. The wood will continue to link to the local public footpath networks and will be part of the much wider access provision in the area.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
The 2150 m of Paths and rides are to be managed annually , ensuring works are carried out as necessary to keep the path network open and easy to use for informal public access as detailed in EMC spec 2.01. Manage site safety through safety observations and inspections.

-Associated signage (Site name/welcome signs) to be kept in good condition and regularly maintained as detailed in EMC Spec 1.01 , with a five yearly review of access facilities by the Site Manager.

Access inspection - July 2028

Roadside hedge should be cut annually on the road side only to reduce the growth over non Woodland Trust owned land and should ideally be cut in February to allow the hedge to provide feeding sources for wintering bird flocks.

Roadside Hedge cutting- annually in February

Tree Safety surveys

-Zone A Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 12 months

-Zone B Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 24 months

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

A mixture of native trees and shrubs were been planted in sinuous rows at 2250/ha during 1999/2000 with species including Ash Oak and Field Maple . Although establishment has been disappointing in some areas of the site, this has given rise to an interesting and diverse structure within the site with some of the woodland compartments interposed with open areas of low scrub and wildflowers

A small semi-mature wooded area occurs in the NW corner of the site of around about 0.1ha. The primary species in this block is sycamore .

Significance

The woodland lies adjacent to an important natural wildlife corridor, in the form of the stream. There are also the extensive Morden House grounds adjacent, the combined are providing valuable and relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat. The woodland will also be a landscape feature within a fairly open arable countryside.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

-To further develop the structure of native woodland in a sparsely wooded area.

Constraints

-Restricted tree growth due to poor, wet soils.

Factors Causing Change

- Continued poor growth of existing species mix
- Ash Dieback
- Deer pressure

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Tween Towns Wood will develop into a well-structured and resilient native broadleaved woodland through natural processes and good silvicultural management . The woodland will consist of primary species such as Oak and Field Maple with a supporting species of cherry and willow. The Shrub component of the older planting of the wood will consist of Hazel, Dog Rose, Wayfaring Tree Hawthorn Blackthorn , Spindle and Dog Rose. The previously planted Ash component to the woodland will provide the deadwood component to the wood with a mix of standing and fallen deadwood within compartments 1a and 2a.

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

Undertake assessments of woodland health every five years, Works to be ordered through observation actions as required.

Woodland Health Monitoring visit - August 2028

The short term woodland management at Tween Towns Wood (compartments 1a & 2a) will promote natural broadleaf regeneration and stand structure diversity within the existing young broadleaf plantation areas of the woodland as well as providing structural diversity within the woodland blocks. This will be achieved by allowing the Ash to decline naturally and promote pockets of regeneration within the woodland compartment. In some of the darker dense stands a small thinning operation will be undertaken to promote light levels within the woodland. This will be a small operation and the associated brash will be left in the woodland compartments as additional deadwood habitat.

Thinning operation-

A small thinning operation will be undertaken in the darker dense stands to promote light levels and ground flora regeneration. this will be a hand harvesting operation with the brash left in lengths within the woodland compartment.

Thinning operation - Autumn/Winter 2027/28

Herbivore Management:

Monitor deer pressures to assess whether management measures are required through a Herbivore Impact Assessment and install two 5m x 5m exclosures to promote natural regeneration within the poorly established areas.

-HIA lite Survey - Spring 2025

- Install 2 5x5m exclosures- Autumn/Winter 2025/26

4.3 f3 New Native Woodland

Description
<p>The proposed planting area occupies one field on one side of a gentle chalk valley which links up to the existing secondary woodland at Tween Towns Wood. The field was formerly used for arable crops.</p> <p>The extension has mostly shallow clay topsoil over with a small area of a slowly permeable layer above the chalk in the south-west of the site.</p> <p>It is proposed that 8700 native tree and shrub species will be planted, planned for winter 2025. The species mix includes silver birch, wild cherry, beech, field maple, hazel and hawthorn. The new woodland will be protected by deer fencing and vole guards.</p> <p>The ground was prepared by ploughing in 2022 and drilled with a grass and wildflower seed mix</p> <p>Three pedestrian gates give access into the new extension, along with approx. 1150m of permissive paths.</p>
Significance
<p>The new woodland will buffer the secondary woodland, helping with habitat continuity and resilience. The woodland will also be a landscape feature within a fairly open arable countryside. It also contributes to the Woodland Trust's UK wide woodland creation targets.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunity: To establish accessible native woodland in a sparsely wooded area. Community engagement with the design of the new woodland and at tree planting event</p> <p>Constraint: Restricted tree growth due to poor, wet soils.</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>As ex-agricultural land, competition from weed species would be expected to be high. Regeneration from sycamore may become an issue.</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>The Tween Towns woodland extension will be planted to become a native broadleaved high forest woodland with species such as silver birch, wild cherry, beech, field maple, hazel and hawthorn, with shrubs planted along woodland edges of varying widths and no less than 20% of open ground to allow good access and aid diversity</p>
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>To establish 5ha of new broadleaved woodland. This will be done by undertaking the following operations: -Installation of deer fence summer - autumn 2025 -Tree planting, planned for winter 2025.</p>

- Inter-row mowing of ground level vegetation in between newly planted trees and weed control to reduce competition during tree establishment period. Twice per year.
- Replacement of failed trees, years 2-5 of growth.
- Monitor establishment and tree health through annual inspection by Site Manager. Action will be taken as necessary to move towards the Long term objective.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	November
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2025	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	August
2025	WC - Shelter Supply / Erection	Works associated with the supply, erection, maintenance and removal of tree shelters	September
2025	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	The supply of trees/seeds for woodland creation sites	November
2025	PE - Events - Tree Planting	Provision of materials needed to support public, corporate and school events associated with tree planting /activities such as refreshments / shelters / materials / mobile toilets	December
2025	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	February
2025	WC - Natural Regeneration Work	Physical Works undertaken to encourage/promote / protect natural regeneration – such as ground prep, fencing to protect natural regeneration , low intensity grazing	February
2026	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	April
2026	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	June
2027	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	April
2027	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	June
2027	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	February
2027	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Works associated with tree weeding and fertilising operations to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees	June

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	3.3	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	High forest		
<p>This compartment includes the majority of the site and the access track. It has been planted (1999/2000) with native broadleaf trees at 2250 / ha. By 2013, establishment is disappointing overall, with some areas of trees extremely stunted. Other areas however seem to be growing a little better, the southern end of the site showing best development.</p> <p>Just over 1ha remains unplanted, this forms the access track and paths around the site plus an open area at the entrance to the wood where the information board is located.</p> <p>There are records of water vole and crayfish occurring in the stream forming the western boundary. The stream has also led to seasonal flooding of the planted trees for short periods of time, which may go towards explaining the poor establishment to date.</p>						
2a	0.1	Sycamore	1975	High forest		
<p>This is a small area of semi-mature broadleaf trees estimated established 1975. The trees are tightly spaced and there is little ground flora due to the restricted light levels, though natural suppression is beginning to open up the canopy in places.</p>						
3a	5.47	Oak (pedunculate)	2024	Wood establishment		
<p>Former arable field. The ground was prepared by ploughing in 2022 and drilled with a grass and wildflower seed mix.</p> <p>To be planted with 8700 native tree and shrub species, planned for winter 2025. The species mix includes silver birch, wild cherry, beech, field maple, hazel and hawthorn. The new woodland will be protected by deer fencing and vole guards.</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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