

# Tom's 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](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

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Tom's Wood

Location:	Wildhern, Andover Grid reference: SU351508 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 185
Area:	1.18 hectares (2.92 acres)
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Tom's Wood is a small (1.18ha) woodland situated in Wildhern, a village on the southern edge of the Hampshire Downs and North Wessex AONB, approximately three kilometres north of Alton. It is surrounded by a patchwork landscape of arable farmland and pasture, small woodlands, copses and hedgerows, interspersed with other small villages. It is immediately adjoined by properties and gardens to the north and east, with agricultural land to the south and west.

The wood was donated to the Trust in 2002 and is named after Thomas 'Tom' Ware who created the wood by planting nearly 700 trees on two fields next to where he lived between 1980 and 1993.

Approximately twelve native and thirty non-native tree species were planted, including dawn redwood, walnut and Hungarian oak. However, the dominant tree is beech, and the structure of the wood reflects this, with a sparse understorey and patchy ground flora due to the dense shade of the closed canopy, typical of beech woodlands.

Though sparse, the understorey and ground flora is diverse with some ancient woodland plants represented, particularly due to the ancient hedgerow remnants at the southern end and on the periphery of the wood. The hedgerows also host an occasional mature or veteran tree.

There is one entrance at the north east corner of the wood with a 400m permissive circular path giving access throughout.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

Tom's Wood will retain the character of a closed canopy beech woodland with minimal intervention unless conditions arise naturally to alter this, such as succession of other species following senescence or the effects of disease (e.g. ash dieback) on the existing canopy trees. The wood will continue to 'naturalise' over the long-term with an anticipated reduction of non-native species succeeded by naturally regenerating native species such as beech, hornbeam and field maple, as the original plantings senesce.

Understorey is likely to remain patchy, with the most diverse shrubbery on the periphery of the wood which will sustain the connectivity provided by ancient hedgerows that pre-date the wood. Ground flora will be equally patchy but with sustained or increased diversity following the longevity of cover of the wood.

The species diversity and natural regeneration should ensure that the wood can adapt to the effects of climate change and threats from pests and diseases. Invasive non-native species such as cherry laurel and Norway maple will be managed to ensure that they do not threaten the diversity and succession of native species within the woodland.

Tree safety operations will be carried out to any trees that present a hazard to visitors or neighbours, following annual inspections, including any ash trees that decline significantly from ash dieback disease (first recorded in the wood in 2020). Opportunities to retain standing dead wood are rare due to the small size of the wood with footpaths through the majority and properties on much of the periphery, however, small quantities have been retained on the ground from past operations. Therefore, dead wood is likely to remain sparse within the woodland, but will be retained on site where safe to do so.

The wood will host a variety of wildlife and will continue to be enjoyed and valued by the local community, contributing to the Woodland Trusts vision of a UK rich in woods and trees.

## 4. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	February
2024	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	February
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants–such a repeat cutting and control treatments	May
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	August
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	September
2025	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	September
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants–such a repeat cutting and control treatments	May
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants–such a repeat cutting and control treatments	May
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
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants–such a repeat cutting and control treatments	May



Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2028	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	September
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,	September

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.16	Beech	1983	Min-intervention		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>The wood was planted on two adjoining rectangular fields that are flat, with free-draining soils.</p> <p>The area nearest to the entrance has the largest concentration of non-native trees with species such as Japanese elm, Hungarian oak, silver maple, maidenhair tree and a small group of conifers including dawn redwood, Norway spruce and western red cedar. There is a mixed understorey including hazel, viburnum and laurels (cherry and Portuguese). The canopy here also contains Norway maple and sycamore with plentiful natural regeneration of the former. This mix adds to the autumn colour, while evergreen shrubs and trees including holly and yew soften the wood's appearance in the winter.</p> <p>Moving further into the wood the canopy comprises more native broadleaves including, oak, hornbeam, ash, and birch, with the dominance of beech giving the overriding character of closed canopy beech woodland. The understorey has some interesting planting including some attractive scented viburnums, Swedish whitebeam, box, hazel, and buckthorns (purging and alder) alongside natives such as blackthorn, hawthorn and elder. Old man's beard and ivy grows occasionally through some of the taller trees and into the canopy.</p> <p>Natural regeneration is frequent with field maple the most plentiful, supplemented with ash, hornbeam, and the occasional oak, along with some understorey species such as blackthorn, hawthorn and elder.</p> <p>Veteran trees are scarce though there are some fine examples of field maple, holly, ash and oak along an ancient hedge line that runs through the southern section, as well as around the boundaries. The hedgerows themselves contain a mix of native shrub species including blackthorn, hawthorn and field maple, along with sections of cherry laurel, mainly to the north.</p> <p>The ground flora is variable and includes dogs mercury, wood anemone, bluebell (native and Spanish), nettle, bramble, ferns, ground ivy, and sweet violet. Two stinking irises have been found.</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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