

Flowers Wood

(Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



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
 - 4.1 f1 Informal Public Access
 - 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Flowers Wood

Location:	Ilmington, Stratford Grid reference: SP223426 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 151
Area:	1.65 hectares (4.08 acres)
External Designations:	Local Wildlife Site
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The land on which Flowers Wood has been planted was given to the Trust by the late Dennis Flower in August 1994. The Flower family are well known as brewers of beer. Mr Flower helped plant some of the trees in December 1995 celebrating his 80th birthday. The site was included as one of 200 planted by the Trust to celebrate the Millennium under their Woods on Your Doorstep initiative.

Since then, the site has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site through a Habitat Biodiversity Audit carried out on behalf of Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

The site is a small (1.62ha) rectangular-esc woodland on flattish land that was formerly pasture. It is less than 1 mile from Ilmington, accessible along quiet lanes. A disused railway line embankment forms the western boundary with a line of mature trees, predominantly ash and willow, fringing a stream forming the northern edge. An area immediately adjacent to the stream has remained unplanted, where natural encroachment from the streamside trees is being encouraged. The southern and eastern boundaries are adjacent to highways and are essentially hawthorn and blackthorn hedges with some regenerating elm and the occasional mature ash or oak.

The interior of the woodland was planted with a range of broadleaf species primarily consisting of oak and ash, along with cherry and shrub species such as hazel and dogwood. The age range within the woodland is uniform for the most part due to it being planted relatively recently, with the addition of some more mature specimens along the boundaries of the site. Light thinning (less than 5m³, has been completed annually for the last few years, to allow the remaining trees and understorey more room to develop and to increase structural diversity. The understory within the woodland is underdeveloped, again due to its age, however ground flora such bluebells are starting to become established to towards the eastern side of the site. As the woodland develops over time natural regeneration of trees and shrubs should add greater structure and diversity to the site.

A seat in the glade at the northern end of the site forms the millennium feature. A circular path is maintained which opens up to form wider glades, one of which hosts two young, planted Scots pine specimens. In wetter months the site can become quite damp and soft under foot, leading to some muddy areas along the pathway. The new woodland compliments existing mature broadleaf woodland immediately to its north, with the wider surrounding landscape being made up of arable fields with a few scattered residential buildings

Key features for the site include Informal Public Access and Secondary Woodland as briefly outlined above and further information for which can be found in section 5.0: Key Features.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term vision for the site includes the continued development of native broadleaf woodland habitats – with a range of native species, age ranges, well structured rides and with deadwood, both standing and fallen, being retained where it is safe to do so. Opportunities will be taken where appropriate to develop a graded woodland edge at the sides of the paths and rides through ride-edge coppicing and cyclical cutting, further enhancing visitor interest and enjoyment. Due to ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) the level of ash within the woodland is likely to decrease over time. It is expected that the main canopy species will be oak, cherry, birch, hornbeam and a few remnant ash.

Low-key public access will be maintained in perpetuity through a managed path network, entrances and regular safety checks. Infrastructure and facilities will be minimal and only essential signage used. Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly. Public safety will be assessed through infrastructure monitoring and tree safety inspections conducted regularly.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
Flowers Wood is situated in a rural area near Ilmington in SW Warwickshire. It can be reached from quiet lanes, one of which is a national cycleway. Local people were instrumental in fund raising and the woodland conception and retain an interest in it still. Facilities include a kissing gate at the entrance, benches and 500m of permissive paths which are mown on a regular basis during the summer. The whole of the site is available for informal public access.
Significance
Flowers Wood is the result of community co-operation in raising funds, assisting with the design and with the planting. It therefore has 'ownership' by this community who continue to provide input and enjoy the resource provided.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunity An opportunity exists to provide facilities for cyclists such as posts for locking cycles due to the proximity of a national cycle route. Constraints Can get particularly muddy in areas during periods of wetter weather.
Factors Causing Change
Level of public use Negative human impact – misuse of the site Pests and disease (e.g. Chalara, deer, squirrel)
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Low-key public access will be maintained in perpetuity through a managed path network (~500m), entrances and regular safety checks. Infrastructure and facilities will be minimal and only essential signage used. Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly. Public safety will be assessed through infrastructure monitoring and tree safety inspections conducted regularly.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Mow internal paths and strim around entrances, benches, signs etc (3 times a year). Monitor infrastructure and conduct any remedial action as required. Carry out (irregular) ride edge coppicing to mimic natural processes and where access is restricted. Inspect trees as per internal safety policies.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description
Trees were planted in Dec 1995 at 1100 / ha (3m centres). 1.2m tree shelters were employed due to the risk of deer browsing, plus shrub shelters. Natural regeneration / encroachment has been encouraged along the northern stream side boundary. The canopy composition is mostly composed of ash, oak and wild cherry, though there is a section of hornbeam in the east of the site. Light levels need to be maintained to parts of the stream so as to retain the presence of aquatic plants. It may be necessary to coppice / pollard some trees within this area where such plants still occur. Actual sites and trees are to be identified through woodland condition and key feature observations.
Significance
Flowers Wood is adjacent to the disused railway embankment and Blackwell Bushes - a broadleaf woodland to the north. It will act as a natural extension to these area to both flora and fauna with both woodland, woodland edge and open ground habitats beside the common watercourse.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities Work with local volunteers from the Cotswold Voluntary Warden team Constraints Paths can get wet in the winter, making access difficult
Factors Causing Change
Pests and disease such as Chalara/Ash Dieback. Deer browsing and squirrel damage. Density of broadleaves in planted interior affecting development of species such as oak

Long term Objective (50 years+)
The long-term vision includes the continued development of native broadleaf woodland habitats – with a range of native species, age ranges, well structured rides and with deadwood, both standing and fallen, being retained where it is safe to do so. Opportunities will be taken where appropriate, to develop a graded woodland edge at the sides of the paths and rides through ride-edge coppicing and cyclical cutting, further enhancing visitor interest and enjoyment. Due to ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) the level of ash within the woodland is likely to decrease over time. It is expected that the main canopy species will be oak, cherry, birch, hornbeam and a few remnant ash.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Light/halo thinning will take place within the planted areas (around 5m³ annually as fell-to-waste), allowing increased room for trees and understorey species to develop. Some timber will be left suitably in longer lengths or stacked in habitat piles on site providing areas of deadwood habitat, which are not currently in great supply due to the age of the woodland. Some ride-side areas will be cyclically coppiced to improve structural diversity and ensure that the range of open ground/edge habitat wildflowers on site is kept. Annually maintain open areas as important open grassland habitat, cutting encroaching woody plants and edges on a cycle, while allowing the surrounding areas of scrub within the compartment to mature. Some irregular ride edge coppicing will take place where this will enhance visitor enjoyment and biodiversity. Carry out essential tree safety work, as per internal policies. Boundary hedge against the main road will be cut annually. Monitor impacts and changes through key feature observations.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	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	December
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	December
2027	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December
2028	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	December
2029	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	December
2030	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	December
2031	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	December
2032	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	December

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	
2033	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	December
2034	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	December
2035	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	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.62	Ash	1995	High forest	Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Local Wildlife Site
The whole of Flowers Wood is included within this compartment. Former pasture land, it was planted in December 1995 with native, broadleaf trees, the main species being oak, ash and cherry with alder near the stream on the northern side. An area immediately adjacent to the stream remained unplanted, where natural encroachment from the streamside trees (ash, elm, birch, willow etc) is being encouraged. A circular path 500m long provides access around the wood, it opens into wider glades in places. An entrance kissing gate, seat are facilities available to visitors.						

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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