

Eoves Wood

(Plan period – 2025 to 2030)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

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

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Eoves Wood

Location:	Hampton	Grid	reference:	SP023439	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	150
Area:	7.61 hectares (18.80 acres)								
External Designations:	N/A								
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Eoves Wood formed part of the Woodland Trust's "Woods on Your Doorstep" project, which was supported by the Millennium Commission, and which created 200 new community woods within easy walking distances of towns and villages. This woodland site was made possible by the support of the local community. From the initial fundraising to acquire the site; the contribution of ideas, aspirations and information to the design process that established the new wood and also planting the trees with their help in the winter of 1998, the local community have been key to the sites success.

The site lies at the edge of the village of Hampton on the western fringes of Evesham and is bounded by a combination of arable and pasture land on rotation to the north east and west, with a roughly surfaced track (which is also a Public Bridle path known as Red Lane) on its eastern and northern boundary. The southern boundary consists of a mixture of grassland to the west, changing to woodland/scrub and then to a permanent traveller site to the east of this boundary of Red Lane. There has been previous disputes regarding the south-eastern boundary position.

The site prior to planting consisted of an open arable field extending to 7.6 ha. An old hedge along the southern boundary and a double line of remnant fruit trees in the north west portion of the site provided some internal landscape interest that has been incorporated into the design of the new wood. Externally, the site affords excellent views to the west of Bredon Hill and to east the historic town of Evesham.

Three quarters of the site was planted with a mixture a native broadleaved trees with shrubs concentrated along the ride and glade edges (including oak, ash, maple, birch, cherry, hazel, blackthorn and hawthorn). Vegetation already present at the site or visible nearby, determined the species mixture chosen for planting. The remainder of the site was set aside for open space and the development of a wildflower meadow and natural regeneration which is establishing gently in from the edges of the planted area. Wildflower plugs were planted into a dozen 'swathes' within this open area (Spring 2002). The soil sadly was thought to be too rich to support these species over the long term but over the last 20 years these areas have been managed through a mixture of mowing and horse grazing and this has helped encourage the planted wildflower species in favour of the less diverse competitive grasses and brassicas which grew here previously. However, the natural regeneration is so extensive here it is very successfully starting to take over areas of the open area (compt 1d) and requires management to ensure the diverse mosaic of habitats is kept.

The site is within a short walking distance of Hampton and Evesham. There is no formal parking and vehicle access is limited to owners of property and land. However the most popular route to the wood appears to be on foot and through a squeeze-post public access point off Red Lane (a public bridle path). There are also two further squeeze post entrance points on the north and western boundary which all lead to an interconnecting series of unsurfaced footpaths.

Key Features for this site are:

KF1 - Connecting People With Woods and Trees

KF2 - Secondary Woodland

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), set within a mosaic of other habitats (open grassland, graded edge habitat, thickets, etc). 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. This will also help maintain both the internal and external views, the latter of which are particularly special to local people as they permit a wonderful panoramic view of Bredon Hill, a National Nature Reserve on high ground overlooking the Vale of Evesham. Due to ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) the level of ash within the woodland is likely to decrease over time. In 50+ years we would expect a species mix within the woodland consisting of oak, field maple, cherry, birch, hazel and some 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 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description
The location of this wood is on the edge of the village of Hampton and has various access links, making it an important local resource for public use. The wood has a public bridle path running just outside the eastern boundary along Red Lane which is used frequently by visitors to access the site on foot, although there are two other public points available in addition to this along the north and western boundaries. Inside the wood there are a number of unsurfaced footpaths totaling approximately 1500m, many of which lead into the open meadow area, where benches and fine views of the surrounding countryside and Bredon Hill, a National Nature Reserve can be enjoyed.
Significance
The site lies close to the village of Hampton and is clearly well used by local people. This is an area of low woodland cover and as such, tree planting here is of great benefit both in terms of social and environmental aspects.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: Working with third party groups, such as schools, who may wish to use the woodland as a local resource. Constraints: Limited parking. Wet paths in winter.
Factors Causing Change
Change in level of use at the site. Encroaching vegetation along footpaths and rides. Negative human impact - misuse of the site.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
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. The site will contain an interesting mix of native broadleaved trees, woodland edge and open ground/meadow habitats to enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of this area.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
To maintain the entrance points and ride network in line with site access demand. This will include three path/ride cuts annually (2-3 metres and then one to full width in late summer/autumn), clearing/stripping around seats and visitor infrastructure and entrance maintenance as per WT specs. Selected lengths of the ride edges will be coppiced annually to enhance visit enjoyment and improve habitats and wildflower development, as some areas are becoming much darker and narrower in areas as the trees mature and their canopies spread out further across the paths. Maintain visitor views towards Bredon Hill, across the open grass/scrub area, through annual cutting of grass and scrub. Additional operations may be needed to periodically remove encroaching scrub/trees.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description
Native broadleaved woodland planted as part of the "Woods on Your Doorstep" initiative. Planting took place in the winter of 1998 and included a species mix made up predominantly of ash and oak. Additional planted species include field maple, birch, cherry, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) is starting to impact the woodland with the level of ash now likely to decrease over time. Broadleaved planting equated for approximately three quarters of the site, with the remainder set aside for open space and the development of a wildflower meadow and natural regeneration which is establishing gently in from the edges of the planted area.
Significance
This local and easily accessible area of woodland, nestled within a predominantly agricultural landscape, is available for free informal public access and for visitors to enjoy. Additionally it is an area of increasing conservation interest in terms of wildlife and habitat value. Planted and colonising wildflowers are developing well in areas.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: Decent wildflower development in areas. Increasing habitats through cyclical management of areas (e.g. coppicing and scrub management) Constraints: Relatively small site (7.61ha) leading to potentially uneconomical operations. Unauthorised access and use
Factors Causing Change

Illegal grazing.

Pests and disease such as Chalara/Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*).

Squirrel damage.

Further colonisation beyond what is desired.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

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), set within a mosaic of other habitats (open grassland, graded edge habitat, thickets, etc). 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. This will also help maintain both the internal and external views, the latter of which are particularly special to local people as they permit a wonderful panoramic view of Bredon Hill, a National Nature Reserve on high ground overlooking the Vale of Evesham. Due to ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) the level of ash within the woodland is likely to decrease over time. In 50+ years we would expect a species mix within the woodland consisting of oak, ash, field maple, cherry, birch, hazel and some remnant ash.

Open space will account for approximately a quarter of the site and include a meadow area, as well as rides and glades offering a view over the Vale of Evesham on higher ground.

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

Maintain planted areas as woodland cover and ensure grazing stock are excluded from the site which are present in adjacent fields and which have broken through the boundary fence or have been let into the site on a few occasions.

Monitor levels of Ragwort on site annually and carry out control in line with Woodland Trust Policy.

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.

Monitor impacts through key feature observations.

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.

If funding can be found, lay hedge along western boundary, adding additional wildlife and habitat value to the site (2027).

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls etc	September
2025	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
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	April
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2026	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
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	April
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	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

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	April
2028	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 - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2029	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,	April
2029	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
2029	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2030	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,	April

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	3.25	Ash	1998	Min-intervention		
New planting of native mixed broadleaved species at a density of 2500 stems/ha comprising:-Ash (40%), Oak (40%), Silver Birch (5%), Field Maple (5%), Hazel (5%), Gulder Rose (3%), Holly (2%), Crab Apple (1%).						
1b	1.09	Oak (sessile)	1998	Min-intervention		
New planting of native mixed broadleaved species at a density of 2500 ha comprising :- 30% Ash, 40% Oak, 10% Alder, 10% Silver Birch and 10% shrubs.						
1c	1.27	Oak (pedunculate)	1998	Min-intervention		
New planting of native broadleaved species at a density of 2500 per ha comprising :- 30% Ash, 40% Oak, 10% Alder, 10% Silver Birch, 10% Shrubs. The Alder and Birch is concentrated around the remains of the former farm buildings which will be allowed to continue to scrub over naturally. There are two rows of former fruit trees which have been absorbed into the planting.						
1d	1.99	Other	1998	Wood establishment	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	
An open, meadow area set aside for the establishment of meadow species, flowers and herbs. Wildflower plugs have been planted in 10m drifts throughout this compartment in the spring of 2002. Species planted were chosen to complement the soil type and ground conditions as far as possible (although the soils were too rich to support successful establishment in the end) and included the following. Birds Foot Trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Greater Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), Meadow Cranesbill (<i>Geranium pratense</i>), Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>), Musk Mallow (<i>Malva moschata</i>), Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>), Ragged Robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>) and Tufted Vetch (<i>Vicia cracca</i>). The meadow is now gradually being covered in natural generation very successfully!						

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.

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.