

Green 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

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3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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5. Work Programme

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Green Wood

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|------------|----------|----|----------|-------|-----|-----|
| Location: | Runcorn | Grid | reference: | SJ562839 | OS | 1:50,000 | Sheet | No. | 108 |
| Area: | 8.79 hectares (21.72 acres) | | | | | | | | |
| External Designations: | Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site | | | | | | | | |
| Internal Designations: | N/A | | | | | | | | |

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Green Wood is an 8.8ha urban woodland in the Manor Park district of Runcorn, about 4 miles to the east of the town centre. The surrounding landscape has been intensively developed in recent years and is now part of the urban fringe of Runcorn. It is bordered to the south east by a business park; to the south by a main road (the A588 Daresbury Expressway); Keckwick Brook runs along the eastern boundary with several large warehouse buildings across the far side of this from the wood; to the west of the site lies a closed section of Warrington Road and a row of cottages with Lodge Plantation (also owned by The Woodland Trust) across the other side of this road to the south west; and the northern boundary of the site is bordered by an area of scrub, wetland and young woodland that is owned by Halton Borough Council.

The wood was formerly part of the Brooke Family estate (centred around nearby Norton Priory) and was purchased by the Runcorn New Town Development Corporation in the mid-1970's as part of the future development of Runcorn New Town. The Development Corporation subsequently installed surfaced paths for public access in the wood and carried out understorey planting in the 1980's. The wood along with several others in the local area was given to the Woodland Trust by the Commission for New Towns in 1995. The Woodland Trust owns twenty one woods in the Runcorn area covering a total of over 100ha.

The site is flat with sandy loam soils, typical of the local area. There is a fairly large pond in the southern half of the site and also a series of drainage ditches in the northern and western part of the site including a ditch from the pond which flows into a large drainage channel outside the wood.

It is secondary broadleaved woodland which is a key feature of the site. The main species are birch, oak and sycamore, along with beech, hornbeam, willow, alder and rowan. Several mature trees in the wood are remnants from the former Brooke estate and have veteran tree status. The canopy is dominated by Silver birch, oak and beech in the southern half and sycamore in the northern half of the wood. The understorey consists of natural regeneration of the main tree species along with hazel, holly, hawthorn and elder. Rhododendron was widespread in the wood, but has been cleared in recent years. The ground flora is typical of lowland broadleaved woodland with frequent bracken and bramble as well common woodland species including lesser celandine, bluebell and ramson. The wood is an important habitat for wildlife and has been designated a Local Wildlife Site by Halton Borough Council.

Informal Public Access is a second key feature of the site with a permissive footpath running through the wood from Manor Farm Road to Warrington Road. The wood is generally quiet with low levels of public usage, mainly by local people and workers from the nearby offices.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Green Wood is to secure the regeneration and continuity of mixed broadleaved high forest where appropriate but with increasing water levels within the wood, a move towards wetland creation and the establishment of a wet woodland will seek to develop the mosaic of habitats that exist within the wood and ensure its long term sustainability in the landscape. The wood will be largely managed by a minimal intervention approach with mature trees retained into senescence and standing columns of dead wood kept as important deadwood habitat where there is no compromise to public safety. The main reason for management intervention is likely to be for tree safety which will create opportunistic gaps in the canopy promoting natural regeneration and enabling the understorey to be more diverse. Threats to the wood from pests, tree disease and invasive species (particularly rhododendron regeneration) will be monitored and appropriate action taken to control them where it is practical and achievable. Given the increasing drainage issues It will be managed predominantly as a landscape and conservation feature and will continue to provide an amenity to the local population. Guided by the Woodland Trust's woodland management approach, the long term management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The woodland will be left to develop largely through natural processes, with mature and veteran trees retained and standing deadwood left on site where safe to do so.

Public safety and access will be the key drivers for woodland management operations with tree safety being a high priority in areas near to buildings, roads and footpaths. Tree safety and other silvicultural operations will aim to reduce long term tree safety liability and create gaps in the canopy to promote natural regeneration and improve the woodland structure. Regeneration of both natives and non-native species will be accepted. Coppicing along paths and boundaries will be undertaken periodically to maintain path sight lines and create a more graduated woodland edge.

Existing levels of public access provision will be maintained and the Trust's duty of care to neighbours and visitors will continue to be addressed through on-going tree safety and site risk assessment inspections. The woodland will be regularly monitored for long term threats from tree diseases, pests, invasive non-native species and human impacts to ensure the long term sustainability of the woodland.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

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|--|
| Description |
| There is approximately 380m of permissive footpath in the wood with two public access points. The main entrance is from Manor Farm Road on the south western boundary of the wood where there is a small car park (owned by the WT) which has space for about 5 cars. From the car park there is a surfaced footpath leading to a pond located in the south western part of the site. From the pond the footpath is unsurfaced and continues to the northern boundary to cross over a ditch via a wooden footbridge where there is a second entrance onto Warrington Road. There is a metal gate for management access from the car park. The unsurfaced section of footpath can become very muddy in winter. There is a network of old drainage ditches across the site which drain into larger ditches and then into Keckwick Brook located on the eastern edge of the wood. |
| Significance |
| Increasing access to and enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes. Green Wood provides an easily accessible woodland near to a growing residential and industrial area of Runcorn and serves as an important green space for public amenity and recreation. The wood is a prominent landscape feature in the local area and provides a range of amenity benefits, including helping to "soften" the surrounding urban landscape, absorption of pollution and acts as a barrier against noise from nearby roads. |
| Opportunities & Constraints |
| The woodland is small and surrounded on three sides by roads and buildings and there is limited management access onto site due to the wet ground conditions. |
| Factors Causing Change |
| The ground conditions and footpath can become very wet/ muddy in the winter due to waterlogged soils and poor drainage of water from adjoining ditches and land. Misuse of the site including litter, fly tipping and fires. Issues with the local drainage network is leading to an increasing amount of sitting water within the woodland as water isn't effectively draining away. Over time this is likely to impact the footpath conditions, and could lead to tree failure and an increase in tree safety issues. |
| Long term Objective (50 years+) |
| The long-term objective is to maintain the current level of public access to the site to ensure it is welcoming and accessible for visitors all year round. Access infrastructure including 380m of surfaced footpath, 2 entrances, signage, |

fencing, gates and steps and drains will be maintained in good condition. The wood will be made as safe as practicable for visitors and neighbours through regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones, site hazards and access infrastructure. Threats to the wood arising from public recreation or misuse will be monitored and appropriate measures taken to deal with them where it is practical and achievable.

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

During the current plan period the main focus will be:
 Maintain current access by the annual maintenance of two entrances and access infrastructure, path condition, clearance of encroaching vegetation on 380m footpaths and remove litter & fly tipping as necessary.
 Monitor the drainage of the woodland ditches to manage water logging of the site.
 Tree safety inspections in high risk zones (i.e. next to buildings, roads and footpaths) and site hazards as per the Trust's safety inspection regime to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertaking any remedial safety work identified.
 Coppicing along path edge and roadside boundaries to be carried out to improve sight lines by the end of the current plan period.

4.2 f3 Secondary Woodland

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|---|
| Description |
| The woodland canopy contains pedunculate oak, birch, sycamore, beech, hornbeam, alder and willow with a mixed understory of oak, sycamore, birch, beech and rowan. The shrub layer contains yew, holly, hawthorn, hazel, and elder. Rhododendron was present in the woodland but has now been cleared although regen. is likely. The ground flora is typical of lowland broadleaf woodland and includes bracken, bramble and common woodland species including lesser celandine, bluebell and ramson. |
| Significance |
| The woodland is a significant landscape and amenity feature within a very urban area (largely industrial & business parks) and therefore forms an important landscape feature and wildlife habitat. The mix of habitats found on and adjoining the site (woodland, ponds/wetland, scrub) make it a significant part of the local ecological landscape and habitat for wildlife, It has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation). |
| Opportunities & Constraints |
| Management operations are limited due to the small size of the site, poor management access and its urban setting. Management of rhododendron regeneration to help establish a more diverse understorey layer to develop. Tree safety work should create gaps in the canopy to promote the development of natural regeneration and diversify the age structure of the woodland. Potential for wetland creation with increasing drainage issues and under planting to establish a species composition in line with a wet woodland habitat. |
| Factors Causing Change |
| Rhododendron regeneration could spread and needs to be monitored and controlled. Himalayan Balsam is spreading into the wood from ditches and land adjoining the site, but it is not being controlled on neighbouring land or along the river valley so will be difficult to eradicate from the woodland without control in the |

wider landscape.

Issues with the local drainage network is leading to an increasing amount of sitting water within the woodland as water isnt daining away. Over time this could lead to tree failure and a change in the species composition of the woods.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term objective is to maintain the continuity of broadleaved high forest as a landscape and conservation feature where appropriate but with increasing water logging, a move towards wetland creation and the establishment of a wet woodland will seek to develop the mosaic of habitats that exist within the wood and ensure its long term sustainability in the landscape. The wood will be largely managed by a minimal intervention approach with mature trees retained into senescence and standing columns of dead wood kept as important deadwood habitat where there is no compromise to public safety. The main reason for management intervention is likely to be for tree safety which will create opportunistic gaps in the canopy promoting natural regeneration and enabling the understorey to be more diverse. Threats to the wood from pests, tree disease and invasive species (particularly rhododendron regeneration) will be monitored and appropriate action taken to control them where it is practical and achievable.

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

During the current plan period the main focus will be:

Tree safety inspections will be carried out as part of the site risk assessment regime for public safety in high risk zones (i.e. by buildings, footpaths and roads) and carry out any remedial work identified.

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out to assess the health and resilience of the woodland including the mix of species and natural regeneration, to monitor threats from tree disease, pests, non-native invasive species and to take appropriate action where necessary.

Monitor for Rhododendron and remove any regrowth to prevent it from spreading.

With the increasing drainage issue, seek funding for wetland creation and establish wet woodland habitat within the wood.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

| Year | Type Of Work | Description | Due Date |
|------|--------------|-------------|----------|
|------|--------------|-------------|----------|

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No. | Area (ha) | Main Species | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints | Designations |
|---|-----------|----------------------|------|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1a | 2.91 | Sycamore | 1900 | High forest | Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site | Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site |
| <p>The canopy in this compartment is dominated by sycamore with a small number of mature and semi-mature oaks and silver birch. The shrub layer is poorly developed and previously rhododendron was widespread and the dominant species. Bramble, bracken and ramson are the dominant ground flora species, and Himalayan Balsam is getting a foot hold in this particular part of the site. Bluebell can also be found in this compartment. The sites main feature of conservation interest can also be found in this portion of the site. This is a large heronry monitored by Mersey Ringing Group.</p> | | | | | | |
| 2a | 4.45 | Birch (downy/silver) | 1900 | High forest | Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site | Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site |
| <p>This compartment is dominated by birch, and a good number of juvenile oaks. However sycamore is beginning to colonise particularly along the northern edge of the compartment. The shrub layer is poorly developed and previously rhododendron was widespread and the dominant species, however some understorey planting off hazel, rowan, beech and holly has been carried out along the western edge of this compartment. Ground flora in this compartment is poor with mostly bramble and Himalayan Balsam being the dominant species.</p> | | | | | | |
| 3a | 1.44 | Sycamore | 1900 | High forest | Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Services & wayleaves | Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site |
| <p>The canopy in this compartment is the most varied, with species including oak, sycamore, beech and hornbeam. Some of the trees are remnants of estate plantings and fine specimens of both beech and hornbeam can be seen here. On the whole the shrub layer is poor, and is dominated by yew and holly although there has been plantings of hazel and rowan. Ground flora includes lesser celandine, ramson and bluebell. This compartment also contains a large pond which has been used for fishing in the past. There is also a small car park with space for approximately 5 or 6 cars. This currently has no vehicle barrier and is subject to occasional fly tipping. The neighbouring electricity sub-station is maintained using a road running through the car park.</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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