

Holm 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

Holm Wood

Location:	Formby Grid reference: SD289076 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 108
Area:	0.51 hectares (1.26 acres)
External Designations:	Community Forest
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Holm Wood is a 0.77 ha mixed woodland in Formby, Merseyside. It is located in a developed urban landscape and is bordered by houses and gardens, with local roads alongside two of the boundaries. The site is about a mile from the Sefton coast which is one of the largest and most spectacular unspoilt sand dune systems in the country, stretching for 20 miles and includes pine woodlands of Corsican, Austrian and Scots Pine that. The Pine woodlands have a resident population of red squirrels which often visit Holm Wood and the neighbouring gardens.

The site was formerly part of Holmwood School, which was demolished in the early 1990's and most of the land was then developed for housing. A small area of the school grounds was kept undeveloped and turned into a small public green space and called Holm Wood Park. The site is designated within the local plan as Urban Green Space and the mature boundary trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order. The Woodland Trust has leased the site from Sefton Council since 1998 and the following year approximately 1000 native trees were planted as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) Millennium Lottery Funded project.

Holm Wood is secondary woodland which is a key feature for the site. Woodland cover makes up approximately 2/3 of the site, comprising a mix of mature and younger broadleaves and pines, with the remaining 1/3 of the site maintained as open space grassland including a small children's play area. The site is leased to the Woodland Trust from Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council who are still responsible for maintaining the play area and open space. The woodland has a mix of native and non-native species, including mature Corsican and Scots pines, White Poplar and Whitebeam, mostly found along the western boundary. The younger woodland trees (p.1999) include Scots Pine, oak, birch, ash, rowan, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, guelder rose, and dogwood and also five Holm oaks were planted along the roadside boundary next to The Evergreens road.

The site has three public access points from the adjoining roads, with metal kissing gates at the entrances. An unsurfaced permissive footpath runs around the site for approximately 200m. The site is used daily by local people for dog walking and the play area and grassland is used by families. Informal public access is a second key feature for the site.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention for Holm Wood is to maintain a high forest of mixed broadleaves and pine trees with a diverse woodland structure, including mix of age classes, shrub and ground layer. It will be managed as a conservation feature and for public amenity providing local people with access to woodland and nature.

Management operations will be guided by the Woodland Trust's woodland management principles, conservation and access policies, and will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public access. The key drivers for management work will be for public access and safety. The woodland will be left to develop by natural processes where practical to do so, with mature trees retained and natural regeneration promoted for future canopy trees to develop. This should enable the widest possible range of species to survive and make the woodland more resilient to future threats such as climate change, pests and tree disease. The woodland will be monitored to identify any threats from tree disease, pests, invasive non-native species and human impacts such as litter, fly tipping, vandalism.

Public access will continue to be managed to the current level, with welcome signage at the entrance points and approximately 200 metres of grass footpaths will be kept clear of encroaching vegetation for access. The Trust's duty of care to visitors and neighbours will be addressed through on-going tree safety and site risk assessment inspections.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
There is approximately 200m of grass footpath linking the three entrances on the site. There are metal kissing gates at the entrances, and the site is fenced around all the boundaries with either garden fences or post and rail fencing. Approximately a third of the site is open ground grassland with includes a small play area in the northwest corner of the site, which is maintained by Sefton Council. There are two litter/ dog waste bins on the site which are provided and emptied by Sefton Council.
Significance
Increasing access to and enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key aims. Holm Wood offers access for local people to visit and enjoy this small woodland in an urban setting and also provides a landscape amenity feature in the area.
Opportunities & Constraints
Visitor access provision is appropriate for the small size of the site and is a constraint to extend access without degrading the woodland habitat.
Factors Causing Change
Usual urban woodland issues including anti-social behaviour in the form of littering and occasional campfires.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The long-term objective is to maintain public access at current levels through annual maintenance of the footpath and three access points, along with maintaining the welcome signage and estate furniture. The site will be made as safe as practicable for visitors and neighbours through regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones and site hazards. Threats to the wood arising from public use will be monitored and appropriate measures taken where necessary.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Annual maintenance of estate furniture including entrance signs. Cut back vegetation encroaching on the footpaths (twice a year). Cut back/ coppice shrubs and vegetation along the roadside boundary fencing and roadside paths to maintain access and sight lines, once during the plan period. Carry out inspection of trees in high risk zones (i.e. next to buildings, roads and footpaths) and site hazards as per the Trust's SRA inspection regimes to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertake any remedial safety work identified. Carry out assessment of public access and condition of estate furniture once in the current plan period, to identify any issues or threats arising from public use of the wood, and take appropriate action to address them if necessary.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description
Holm Wood is a small secondary woodland with housing on the western and southern boundaries, and roads on the northern and eastern boundaries. The site is approximately two thirds woodland and one third open ground grassland. The woodland consists of a mix of mature native and non-native species, including Corsican and Scots pine and white poplar, Norway maple, ash, pine and black poplar that was planted when the site was part of Holmwood school grounds. And in 1999, just over 1000 young native trees were planted including Scots pine, field maple, oak, ash, silver birch and rowan) and shrubs (blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel dog wood and dog rose.
Significance
Holm Wood is a small community woodland within the Mersey Community Forest area and forms part of the local network of woodland habitats which are important to support the local red squirrel population at Formby.
Opportunities & Constraints
The close proximity of housing and roads adjoining the site boundaries requires regular tree safety inspections and possibly remedial tree safety work. This may provide opportunities to restructure the woodland and promote the development of younger trees into future canopy trees. There is a TPO on the mature trees on the site.
Factors Causing Change
No significant factors are causing change on the site at present.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The long term objective for Holm Wood is to maintain a high forest woodland with a diverse mix of species, age classes, woodland structure and flora. It will be allowed to develop as naturally as possible with succession promoted through natural regeneration and dead wood retained where safe to do so. Threats to the wood from pests, tree disease and invasive non-native species 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)
Monitor the health and resilience of the woodland and identify any threats from tree diseases, pests, mammals or human impacts by carrying out a woodland condition assessment once in the plan period. Inspect trees in high risk zones (i.e. next to buildings, roads and footpaths) and site hazards (as per the Trust's safety inspection regimes) to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertake any remedial safety work identified.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.77	Mixed broadleaves	1950	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Legal issues, People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Community Forest

The site is a small compartment on flat ground with residential properties along the western and southern boundaries, and local roads along the other boundaries. There are mature trees along the western and northern boundaries with a mix of Corsican and Scots pine, white poplar, sycamore, osier, wild cherry, Norway maple, and a single ash. The understorey is mainly sycamore and birch regeneration.

In the centre and southern part of the site, 1060 new trees were planted in 1999 comprising a mix of native species: Scots pine, field maple, oak, ash, silver birch, rowan, and shrubs species of hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood, dog rose, and guelder rose. The site is approximately 65% (0.61ha) woodland and 35% (0.16ha) open ground.

The open ground area is short mown amenity grassland and includes a small fenced children's play area which is owned and managed by Sefton Borough Council.

Public access to the site is via three entrances with metal kissing gates from Barkfield Lane and The Evergreens. There is a management access gate also on The Evergreens. The boundaries are marked by either garden fences (responsibility of the home owner) or post and rail fencing (responsibility of the WT).

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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