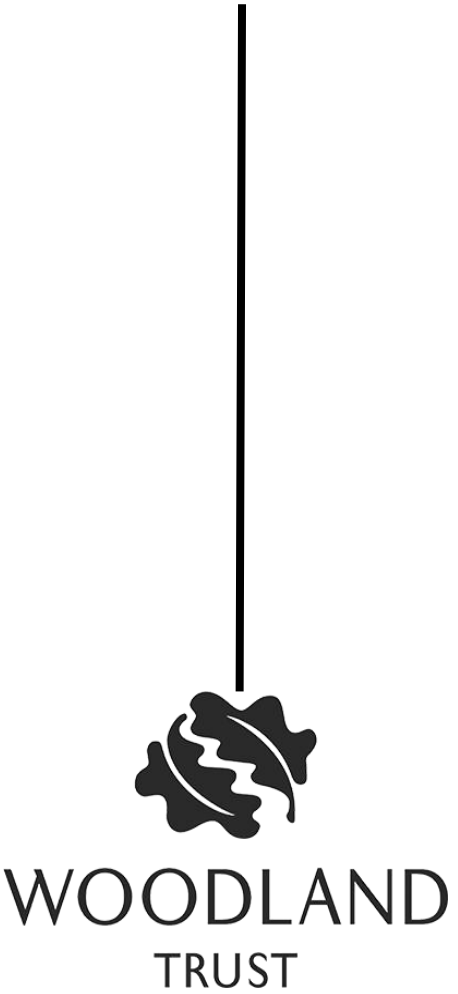
Cinnamon Brow

(Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



Management Plan Content Page

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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 lo cal 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

Cinnamon Brow

Location:	Warrington Grid reference: SJ627918 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 109
Area:	1.27 hectares (3.14 acres)
External Designations:	Community Forest
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Cinnamon Brow Woods is located in Warrington, Cheshire and was given to the Woodland Trust in the mid-1990's from the Warrington New Town Development Corporation. The woodland is located about 3 miles to the north east of Warrington town centre in the suburb of Fearnhead. It is situated on flat, low-lying ground and is bordered by housing estates, a golf course and a watercourse along part of the boundary.

The woodland comprises two compartments, which are 200m apart and separated by a housing estate. Compartment 1a (Cinnamon Brook Wood) is adjacent to housing estates on Solway Close and Kinross Close, with Cinnamon Brook and a golf course on the northern boundary and Enfield Park Road next to the southern boundary. Compartment 2a (Spittle Brook Wood) has houses and gardens on St Andrews Close to the east, Spittle Brook on the western boundary, a golf course on the northern boundary and council owned woodland and greenspace next to the southern boundary.

It is secondary woodland with a mix of mature broadleaves including oak, ash, alder and occasional sycamore, horse chestnut, lime and silver birch. There is a varied woodland structure with a well developed understory and shrub layer including rowan, field maple, wild cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and elder. Younger trees are developing through natural regeneration, predominantly ash, field maple, oak, sycamore, alder, rowan and horse chestnut. The ground layer is quite well developed and includes areas dominated by bramble and ground ivy, and some patches of bluebell, lesser celandine and other woodland flora. Ash dieback is affecting many of the ash trees and some diseased trees have recently been felled for public safety. Further removal of diseased ash is likely to be required in the next few years as the disease infects other trees. This work will have the benefit of creating gaps in the canopy to allow other trees to develop into future canopy trees and will also increase the volume of dead wood habitat within the woodland. Part of compartment 1a has been designated as a natural reserve (FSC/ UKWAS designation) and will be managed through minimum intervention.

The woodland is mainly used by local people for dog walking. Public access is available into both compartments with access points from the adjoining housing estates on Solway Close, Kinross Close and St Andrews Close. The paths are surfaced with stone although they can become muddy in the winter months.

Key features for the site are Informal Public Access and Secondary Woodland.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The site will continue to be managed as high forest broadleaved woodland with a diverse age structure and variety of tree species. In the long term, the main canopy species are likely to be oak, alder and sycamore with an understory of young trees and shrubs. Natural regeneration will be encouraged and significant or notable trees will be favoured where appropriate to become veterans. Deadwood will be retained, standing and fallen, where it does not pose a risk to the public.

Management intervention will be necessary to maintain public access, tree health and safety and to make the woodland more resilient to cope with disease and the effects of climate change. Ash dieback is prevalent in the woodland and silvicultural work for tree safety will be required to remove diseased trees which are a risk to public safety. Coppicing will periodically be undertaken to maintain visitor access and to create a diverse woodland edge structure. The health and condition of the woodland and key features will be monitored regularly to identify any threats from tree disease, pests, invasive species and human impacts, and appropriate action taken where it is practicable to do so.

The site will continue to be visited and valued by local people with visitor access provision appropriate to the level of use. Paths will be maintained, with entrance signage and estate furniture, in good condition. Public safety will continue to be managed through regular site risk assessment and tree safety inspections as per Woodland Trust policy.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
The woods are used on a daily basis mainly for dog walking by local people. They are located on the northern outskirts of Warrington and are nearly surrounded by housing estates and roads, apart from along the northern boundary where there is a golf course. The site is two separate small woodland compartments, both of which have informal public access with surfaced permissive footpaths. Cinnamon Brook Wood has about 160m of footpath with three access points from the adjacent housing estate. Spittle Brook Wood has about 120m of surfaced path with two access points, one from St Andrews Close and the other from a path that runs next to the golf course.
Significance
Increasing enjoyment of woodland is one of the Trust key outcomes. Encouraging appreciation of woodlands ultimately helps foster responsibility towards these vitally important places, helping in the effort to protect and manage them for the future. There is not much woodland with public access in the wider area and therefore these woods are an important resource for local people.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: The proximity of the woodlands to local people means that they are regularly used and enjoyed, however there is little opportunity to increase visitor numbers due to the small size of the woods. Some of the paths become muddy in winter, so improving the footpath surfaces could encourage more people to visit the wood. Constraints: Ash dieback is increasingly a risk to public safety as many of the ash trees are located on boundaries or next to paths. Lack of car parking is a major constraint to more people visiting the woods. Management access is limited within the compartments due to ditches and poor access.
Factors Causing Change
Public misuse/ anti-social behaviour - fly tipping of garden waste, litter, vandalism occurs, but currently at low levels. Vegetation encroachment from trees and shrubs on the paths.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To continue to encourage public access to the site for the purposes of quiet, informal recreation through by maintaining footpaths, entrances and signage. The site should be welcoming, safe and easy to navigate.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Paths are to be maintained by strimming/ cutting back vegetation encroaching on paths twice a year, during the growing season.
Signs should be visible and in good condition at all times, and will be inspected annually.
Vegetation clearance and path ride edge coppicing to be carried out as needed and identified through regular inspections by the site manager.
Regular safety inspections of site infrastructure and trees will be carried as per WT policies out to minimise the risk to visitors to the wood and neighbours.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The site comprises two small woodlands comprising a mix of native broadleaves, mainly mature oak, ash, alder with occasional sycamore, horse chestnut, lime and beech. In the 1980's Warrington New Town Development Corporation carried out underplanting of ash, oak, rowan, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and elder particularly around the edges of the woods when the adjacent housing estates were being built. The woods have a good mix of species and structural diversity with a well-developed understory and shrub layer. The ground layer is varied with some areas locally dominated by ground ivy and bramble, along with woodland flora including bluebell, lesser celandine and wood avens. Recent tree safety work for diseased ash with dieback has created gaps in the canopy and encouraged good levels of natural regeneration in both compartments.
Part of sub-compartment 1a has been designated as a natural reserve (FSC/ UKWAS designation) and will be managed through minimum intervention in perpetuity.

Significance

Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England with less than 5% woodland cover and the woods are an important habitat for biodiversity in the urban landscape where they are located. There are several significant mature oak, ash and horse chestnut trees with features which are good habitat for wildlife including bats and invertebrates.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
The death of ash trees from dieback is likely to increase the amount of standing and fallen deadwood within the woodland which will enhance its biodiversity value, in particular for invertebrates.
Future tree safety work to remove diseased trees will create gaps in the canopy and encourage natural regeneration to develop and diversify the woodland structure.

Constraints:
The woods are small and mostly surrounded by housing.
There is limited management access within the woods.
Part of sub-compartment 1a has been designated as a natural reserve (FSC/ UKWAS designation) and will be managed through minimum intervention in perpetuity.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback
Squirrel damage to trees.
Himalayan Balsam spreading into the woodland from the adjacent stream.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To continue managing the woodland as high forest with a diverse structure and mix of native species and age ranges. Standing and fallen dead wood will be retained where it is safe to do so. Natural regeneration will be favoured to develop future canopy trees. Ash dieback is likely to lead to a decrease in the ash component in the woodland over time. The diversity of tree and shrub species and ground flora will be maintained and enhanced through silvicultural intervention to make the woodland more resilient to future threats from tree disease, pests and climate change.

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

Regular surveys of ash disease and tree safety will be carried out as per WT policies, and remedial tree safety work undertaken as required.
Monitoring of invasive species on the site (Himalayan Balsam) will be carried annually and work arranged to control it from spreading.
Coppicing will be carried out in 2030/31 to maintain paths for visitor access and to improve structural diversity.
Monitoring the woodland ecological condition will be carried out once every 5 years.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	July
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	September
2035	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.77	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, null	Community Forest
This compartment is known as Cinnamon Brook Wood and is roughly Y shaped, flat ground with several shallow dry ditches in the southern part of the compartment. It is bounded on all sides by housing apart from the north western spur of the wood which abuts Spittle Brook with a golf course on the other side. The compartment contains a mix of broadleaf species with a diverse structure, age and species composition. The main canopy species are oak and ash with some localised horse chestnut and beech. Some of the oaks, ash and horse chestnut may be classified as veteran trees reflecting their origins as farm woodland before the development of the surrounding housing estates. A number of standing poles and felled trees have been retained as deadwood. The canopy was under planted with field maple, rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and elder. The ground layer is well developed, considering the low-light levels and is made up of bluebell, ivy, bramble and lesser celandine. There is a small seasonal pond in the mid part of the eastern limb which contains flag iris. Natural regeneration is predominantly of ash, oak, horse chestnut and field maple. The southern end of sub-compartment 1a has been designated as a natural reserve (FSC/ UKWAS designation) and will be managed through minimum intervention in perpetuity.						
2a	0.5	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Community Forest
This compartment known as Spittle Brook Wood is bounded by the golf course to the north and in the south it gradually merges with woodland and public open space owned by Warrington council. The western boundary is formed by Spittle Brook and the eastern boundary is abutted by housing. It is mainly flat ground with a slightly elevated area in the south east corner. The wood has a diverse structure, age and species composition with a canopy of mature oak, sycamore, ash with lime, beech, horse chestnut and willow species. The understorey includes field maple, rowan, wild cherry, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn and is well developed. There is good natural regeneration particularly of ash, field maple, hazel and beech. The ground layer is varied with no vegetation in places, some bluebell, lesser celandine, daffodil and bramble and near the stream the ground cover is dominated by ivy. There is extensive dead wood in the compartment, mainly lying on the ground but with a few standing poles, resulting from past tree safety and thinning work.						

GLOSSARY

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.

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