

Hackfall

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



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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Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Hackfall

Location:	Grewelthorpe Grid reference: SE236771 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 99
Area:	48.06 hectares (118.76 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Area, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Listed Building, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Internal Designations:	Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Hackfall is an extensive area of woodland (and some open pasture) north-west of Ripon, North Yorkshire. The wood occupies the steep north and east facing slopes of Hackfall Gorge, West of the River Ure. The woodland has a number of designations: it is within Nidderdale AONB; was notified as Hack Fall Wood SSSI in 1989; included in Hackfall conservation area in 1993; the majority of the woodland is also ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) with some areas designated as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site based on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) of the 1980s; grade I listed park and garden containing three grade II listed structures and one grade II* listed building as well as other historic features, water features and pathways.

The woodland itself is a largely undisturbed area of ASNW with a wide variety of plant communities, rare and scarce higher and lower plants and fungi, as well as European and UK protected species including bat, badger and breeding and wintering birds. Variations in geology and the influence of calcareous springs across the site have led to a mosaic of plant communities and the development of four broad NVC woodland communities dominated by sessile and pedunculate oak as well as ash and alder. Wet woodland, one of the UK's least common woodlands, occupies the eastern part of the site, closest to the River Ure, and adjacent to the pools and springs throughout the wood.

Landscape context

Nidderdale National Landscape (NNL), has a woodland cover of 7.8% (4,680ha) below the 10% average for England. The majority of this woodland is to the east of the National Landscape, below the moorland line, with 9% (452ha) designated ASNW. Hackfall, being majority ASNW, represents just under 9%, a significant proportion, of the total area of ASNW of NNL. Hackfall Gorge contains further broadleaved, ASNW and PAWS woodland further increasing the importance of the woodland in this area.

History

A majority ASNW, records of the wood date to the early 17th century with records of sale to John Hardcastle. The wood contained sandstone quarries, a lime kiln on Limehouse Hill and coal pits near the kiln, as well as a saw mill and corn mill in the 17th century. In 1731 the wood was bought by John Aislabie, of Studley Royal. Following John's death his son William Aislabie began landscaping and adding features to the woodland such as Fisher's Hall, Kent's seat. Trees were planted and streams, pools, paths and follies were created across the woodland. The wood was painted by Turner and Gilpin with pictures of it featuring on Catherine the Great's 1773 Wedgwood dinner service. Following William's death in 1781 Hackfall was inherited by a succession of relatives (including Elizabeth Allanson). By 1851 the wood had become a tourist destination with some 19th century commentators describing Hackfall as "one of the most beautiful woods in the country".

The wood would have continued to be used for timber production, there being a forester circa 1910 in charge of maintenance of the paths, buildings etc.

In 1930s the woodland was bought by timber merchant John Green and most of the site was clear-felled and partially replanted with conifers. Many of the features created by Aislabie were lost in the 1930s and 40s while the woodland and its features were victim of vandalism and neglect. The trees were allowed to regenerate following their clear-fell but Dutch Elm disease heavily impacted upon some areas of woodland that may have had a canopy comprising of up to 40% wych elm. In 1984 Hackfall was listed as a grade I historic Park and Garden. In 1987 a new threat, that of commercial development, approached Hackfall. The Hackfall Trust was subsequently established (in 1988) with the wood being designated as SSSI and a 999 year lease acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1989.

In 1993 Hackfall Conservation Area was first designated with the collapse of Mowbray Point terrace in the same

year. In 1999 The Landmark Trust acquired a long lease on the Banquet House with work being undertaken to restore the collapsed Mowbray Point with the completed restoration of Mowbray Point and the Banqueting house winning several awards at the RICS Yorkshire Regional Awards.

In 2007 a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was awarded and delivered in partnership between The Hackfall Trust and The Woodland Trust. A car park area is bought by the Woodland Trust at the NW of the site and restoration of paths, views, ponds and buildings followed in 2008 with Hackfall being awarded a highly coveted European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage at the Europa Nostra Awards in 2011.

From 2007 to 2021 Hackfall was managed by The Hackfall Trust with the management of the wood returning to the Woodland Trust in 2021.

Improvements to the path network and an increase in carpark capacity were funded by Veolia Environment Trust in 2020.

Woodland Management

The woodland at Hackfall has not always been high forest; a closed canopy of mature trees. Hackfall was maintained as both an ornamental and commercial woodland, with coppicing and felling being used at time, through the 19th and early 20th centuries. Clearings and open spaces were created as part of the designed landscape (e.g. Fountain and Tent plains) as well as through felling operations. Trees were planted both to enhance and block views as well as provide crops; e.g. beech and clumps of Holly to obscure walls, half-grown oak plantation, larch planted in c.1910 which was presumably preceded by felling or thinning. Historic descriptions and illustrations describe variously a scattering of trees on limehouse hill, a meadow surrounding the low land around Fisher's Hall, a 'Strand being almost treeless, 'in several places the trees have been skilfully thinned to open up various spots in the enclosing thickness of the woods'. Grazing may also have been part of the management of the wood with walls, fences and gates being used to facilitate control of grazing; the open grassed lawns within the woodland potentially being grazed by goats, cattle and sheep.

This seeming mosaic of thinned and open areas within the woodland was largely felled in 1930s and left to regenerate with some coniferous restocking as noted in the text above. Dutch Elm disease in the 1980s removed the majority of the elm of Hackfall. Some of the historically described vistas were opened up in 2007/8 and this will form part of the continued management of Hackfall. Ash dieback is causing large-scale loss of trees, numerous windblow events, and extensive tree safety operations are planned for 2026/2027 and beyond to reduce risk to public. The impacts of ash dieback have led Natural England to designate the condition of Hack Fall Wood as Unfavourable - Recovering as of August 2020 following assessment by Natural England advisors. Therefore the tree safety felling operations provide an opportunity to increase resilience of Hackfall ASNW through species and structural diversification during restocking.

The woodland is varied in its character with National Vegetation Classifications of W7, W9, W10 and W17. Previously sycamore has been controlled within the woodland though this species may now form an important part of a mix of species in the woodland. Small areas of planting outside the SSSI, e.g. compartment 7a will buffer the ancient woodland though natural colonisation and regeneration will be the main form of woodland establishment. The impacts of Ash dieback, tree safety operations near to paths and features, and the clearing of the vistas and water features will guide the woodland management operations in the next 5 years.

Geology and soils

Hackfall Gorge is a steeply incised river valley, with Hackfall on the eastern slopes. The gorge was formed by the River Ure, Grewelthorpe Beck and other smaller tributaries of the Ure. Above the woodland the soils are formed from glacial till. Below this till, Brimham Grits form the upper, steeper slopes and are e

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In 2026 a review of the Maintenance and Management Plan will set out priorities for the next 10 years of operations and set the long-term vision for Hackfall in light of multiple threats and challenges, including climate, pests and diseases.

The primary aim during the next 50-year period will be to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of the wood, maintaining predominantly high forest of broadleaved species. Some areas of coppice, views and vistas maintenance, and selective felling for ash dieback will promote structural diversity within the woodland types responsive to an all-size structure. Individual conifers will be retained to reflect the management history of the site and provide age and species diversity. These trees will be left to decline naturally and only felled where safety requires such action.

Minimum intervention will be the main management approach wherever possible, allowing windthrow and senescence temporarily opening up areas of the canopy in these areas. Natural regeneration across the woodland will be monitored to ensure that it will be successful in ensuring the continuity of the woodland. Area of canopy loss due to ash dieback will be underplanted with replacement ash species appropriate to the SSSI designation to diversify the species and reduce sycamore dominance. This will address the unfavourable woodland condition.

The historic designed landscape features of Hackfall will also be preserved with care taken during any silvicultural or building works. Historic England will be consulted to support management decisions for the listed buildings and designed landscape. The buildings and water features will be monitored to ensure monitor condition and the requirements of the scheduled status.

The sites unusual geology has created an interesting ground flora which will be maintained and enhanced through appropriate management, in consultation with statutory authorities. INNS management is needed to limit Himalayan balsam spread.

Informal public access will be maintained and improved where possible along the public and permissive footpaths, with North Yorkshire Council responsible for the maintenance of the PRoW surfacing through site. Viewpoints and seating will be maintained. Information on the site will be provided at the car park with waymarking and occasional interpretive panels within the woodland.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
35 hectares of the woodland within WT ownership is designated as ASNW in Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory consisting of the main bulk of the woodland.
Significance
A large, continuous area of woodland, one of the largest areas of ASNW within Nidderdale AONB it is also designated as a SSSI as a largely undisturbed example of ancient woodland. Many rare and scarce species of higher and lower plant, invertebrates found across the woodland.
Opportunities & Constraints
Constraints: Topography of site – very steep in places makes access exceptionally difficult for some e.g. wheelchair users and pushchairs Sensitive nature of site in terms of designations – SSSI, Grade 1 Registered Landscape Garden, Conservation Area etc. The Management and Maintenance Plan produced by the Landscape agency, states that Hackfall is not a site that is topographically suited to receiving many thousands of visitors each year. A key constraint therefore is the balancing the need to preserve the heritage, tranquility and natural history of Hackfall whilst actively promoting the site and increasing visitor numbers in a sustainable way.
Factors Causing Change
Ash dieback Larch disease Wildlife/ deer impacts
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Maintain high forest across the majority of the wood. Areas will continue to be coppiced to maintain vistas and views. Some areas of the woodland will be left to develop naturally with minimum intervention.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Ash disease will cause continued intervention as a safety measure along the path routes, with pockets and individual ash continuing to be felled and then the areas allowed to regenerate naturally. Ash disease is an ongoing concern and until the disease has cycled through the woodland, it would be impossible to understand its impact or manage other species where ash forms part or all of the canopy, so allowing natural processes to shape the woodland over at least the next 50 years, allowing for significant declines in ash and then regeneration and establishment of other broadleaved species. Given the variety of species present, broadleaved regeneration of any type will be accepted

The Woodland Condition and PAWS assessments will help guide future management, and will be entered into the short term objectives from the recommendations produced.

Larch could be notified under SPHN, at which point felling/ killing will be required, likely to be through ringbarking or felling where appropriate, however these trees are very large and often in association with other features such as buildings.

Wildlife assessments (thermal imaging work) will assess deer numbers, and a herbivore impact assessment by the end of 2024. A deer management plan follow up may be necessary during the current plan period to 2029

4.2 f3 Building Of Interest

Description
Several buildings and structures were built across Hackfall as part of a designed landscape in the 18th century.
Significance
Hackfall is a grade I listed garden/landscape. The designation covers paths, water features, structures and follies across the wood; some of which have their own listing as grade II and grade II* listed buildings: Fisher's Hall, Mowbray Castle, Banqueting Hall (Landmark Trust).
Opportunities & Constraints
Such a mix of natural and man-made history make for easy engagement with the public. As a listed garden/landscape containing historic features we have an obligation to care for these features; guidance from English Heritage is available.
Factors Causing Change
Landslip by natural causes; Increase in size of trees on site causing root damage; storm and windthrow of trees; damage to site by people/vandalism.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Maintain in a good state of repair all structures and features with monitoring of the features being undertaken every 5 years.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Minor maintenance of some structures will be required, with monitoring by architects and surveyors guiding the work. To be reviewed formally every 10 years, but with informal observations made during the course of routine visits.

4.3 f5 Historic Landscape

Description
The landscape of Hackfall is a historic one, both used as a source of timber and wood products, as part of the farmed landscape and as a designed landscape now listed as a Grade I garden/landscape due to the water features, structures, buildings, follies and paths created across the site.
Significance

The designation of Grade I listed Historic Park and garden was given in 1984 in recognition of Hackfall as a tourist destination and part of the legacy of William Aislabie.
Opportunities & Constraints
Topography of site – very steep in places makes access exceptionally difficult for some e.g. wheelchair users and pushchairs Sensitive nature of site in terms of designations – SSSI, Grade 1 Registered Landscape Garden, Conservation Area etc. The Management and Maintenance Plan produced by the Landscape agency, states that Hackfall is not a site that is topographically suited to receiving many thousands of visitors each year. A key constraint therefore is the balancing the need to preserve the heritage, tranquility and natural history of Hackfall whilst actively promoting the site and increasing visitor numbers in a sustainable way.
Factors Causing Change
Increased footfall is a key consideration. Balancing the need to preserve the heritage, tranquillity and natural history of Hackfall whilst actively promoting the site and increasing visitor numbers in a sustainable way.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To maintain and enhance the designed and natural landscape, balancing the two elements.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Minor maintenance of some structures will be required, with monitoring by architects and surveyors guiding the work. To be reviewed formally every 10 years, but with informal observations made during the course of routine visits.

4.4 f7 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description
An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths encourages the appreciation of the woodland both on the site and in the locality. The site will be managed to meet required high standards of well-maintained car park, entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors, however still very much limited by the topography. Hackfall is situated on the edge of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in North Yorkshire. Less than 10 miles from Ripon and at the Masham end of the small village of Grewelthorpe, it covers 47 hectares (117 acres) of ancient semi-natural woodland within a steep and dramatic rocky gorge of the River Ure. Visitors to Hackfall Woods today can delight in the stunning scenery and explore a mass of unique built features including follies and waterfalls. Set in a 350ft gorge on the edge of Grewelthorpe, the site was bought in 1731 by John Aislabie, famous for his landscaping work at nearby Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. ‘There is so much to admire, so much to celebrate, that I know not how to proceed in description or speak half in praise due to Hackfall’. John Byng, Lord Torrington, 1792 There is something about the wild splendour of Hackfall Woods that simply inspires creativity. Nineteenth century writers hailed it as one of the most beautiful woodlands in the country while romantic landscape artist Turner painted in the woods. But it was Aislabies son, William who transformed the area into a “beautiful wilderness”, creating grottos and surprise views, glades, rustic temples embedded in groves of trees, waterfalls and follies - many of which can still

be discovered in the wood today.

This ancient woodland is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and listed as Grade 1 on the Historic Parks and Gardens register, along with several other designations. The largely broadleaved area is still dominated by oak with beech, sycamore, ash and even lime plantings remaining from the 18th century. Hackfall teems with wildlife and sustains a thriving range of wild plant communities including a spectacular display of bluebells.

The free, Woodland Trust car park is (Post code HG4 3BS), approx. 0.85km/½ mile from Grewelthorpe Village.

Alternatively, Grewelthorpe village is a short walk away from the main southern entrance, and it may be possible to park there.

There is no wheelchair access to Hackfall because of the terrain, and unless visitors are reasonably fit they will find the walk back up the slope challenging.

The wood is accessible on foot from four separate entrances. The two most popular are at the top of the site, 110m (340ft) above the river at the bottom of the wood. These are either on steep slopes, or have steps. Some paths along the top of the wood are more exposed. To access them, start from the Grewelthorpe to Masham minor road. The southerly one can be reached by following the road from Grewelthorpe for approx. 200m towards Masham (north) and then turning right (east) into Hackfall. This entrance has no barriers and the path follows a shallow slope, with some steps.

The northerly entrance is approximately halfway between Grewelthorpe and Masham and is along a Public Right of Way (PROW) next to a car park. Many paths have been improved and upgraded, but those within the wood, the paths are compacted earth and can be very muddy, particularly in wet conditions. Walking boots are recommended. Slopes vary but can be up to 1:8 (12%) for considerable distances. The high path in Common Wood at the Mickley end of Hackfall is at the top of a very steep slope and particular care should be taken here. To explore Hackfall at a reasonably leisurely pace, we suggest you allow at least two hours.

The other two entrances are on a PROW following the riverside paths, and require a much longer walk in, preferably with a map. OS 1:50,000 series, map no. 99, covers the area. Various walks including the Masham to Hackfall and Nutwith Coat Heritage walk are available from the Masham Community Office.

The Ripon Rowel medium distance circular path is 50 miles long and passes through the wood, where it is way-marked. Alternatively, the Aislabie Walk takes you through picturesque landscapes of Studley Royal, Laver Banks and Hackfall. You can pick up printed copies from local Tourist Information Centres or pubs/cafes in the area. Or visit the website: www.aislabiewalk.org.uk

The nearby village of Masham is a tourist 'honeypot' with access to the Yorkshire dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB. The woodland has over 13 - 15,000 visitors per year with regular local visitors and significant number of tourist visitors.

There are currently no immediate plans for events on site, however some guided walks and events are organised via local groups including the Nidderdale AONB / Hackfall Trust. There is potential for delivering more events in the future focussed on natural history, heritage and arts.

There are several woodland Trust Woods within 30min-1hrs drive of Hackfall, including Nidd George nr Harrogate, Skipton Castle Woods. Preston Spring Wood Leyburn, Wensleydale and Lower grass Wood Grassington. Details on the website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

The site is managed with regular volunteer tasks run by the Nidderdale AONB Conservation Volunteer and there are volunteer opportunities available via the woodland Trust are advertised on the Trusts website.

Hackfall contains a delightful variety of follies, cascades, viewpoints and fountains pond with a gravity fed fountain.

There are a range of benches / seats and viewing areas at key points around the site.

Significance
Increasing enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes. Increasing enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes. Improving parking and trails and engagement opportunities is particularly important given Hackfall heritage significance. Significant improvements were undertaken to the Car Park during 2019 as well as upgrading some of the entrances and signage continues on a regular basis. Key walk leaflets will continue to be available for visitors. Additional longer walks trails such as the Aislabie walk are also available.
Opportunities & Constraints
Tourism – Hackfall is near to Masham & Ripon and key Yorkshire Dales / Nidderdale AONB attractions. Hackfall is an inspirational woodland attracting visitors from across the UK and some international visitors due to its links with the Aislabies and the National Trust Studley Royal / Fountains Abbey. Natural History: Hackfall's ancient woodland is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and listed as Grade 1 on the Historic Parks and Gardens register, along with several other designations. The largely broadleaved area is still dominated by oak with beech, sycamore, ash and even lime plantings remaining from the 18th century. Hackfall teems with wildlife and sustains a thriving range of wild plant communities including a spectacular display of bluebells. Heritage and History: Promoting Hackfall's unique heritage and the Aislabie link with Studley Royal / Fountains Abbey World Heritage site, now managed by the National Trust. John Aislabie's son, William transformed Hackfall area into a "beautiful wilderness", creating grottos and surprise views, glades, rustic temples embedded in groves of trees, waterfalls and follies - many of which can still be discovered in the wood today. Because of Hackfall's SSSI status and delicate woodland Habitats the Aislabie garden has undergone a partial restoration so that key features can be discovered in a natural undisturbed woodland setting. Arts / Creativity: Hackfall has long been associated with creativity, and there are many opportunities to continue this with current visitors to the site. There is something about the wild splendour of Hackfall Woods that simply inspires creativity. Nineteenth century writers hailed it as one of the most beautiful woodlands in the country while romantic landscape artist Turner painted in the woods. Hackfall remains a popular destination for Artists and Photographers today. This aspect will be developed in terms of the events promoted and through education, learning and web-based materials acting as a springboard from which visitors are encouraged to explore Hackfall further. A key opportunity is building on the increased publicity of Hackfall and promoting a range of access points to different visitors. A key area here is promoting walks from Masham / Nutwith Common and developing stronger links with the local area and facilities - The Grewelthorpe Village Hall also includes the Hackfall Café open to visitors and has Hackfall walk maps available. Constraints: Topography of site – very steep in places makes access exceptionally difficult for some e.g. wheelchair users and pushchairs Sensitive nature of site in terms of designations – SSSI, Grade 1 Registered Landscape Garden, Conservation Area etc. The Management and Maintenance Plan produced by the Landscape agency, states that Hackfall is not a site that is topographically suited to receiving many thousands of visitors each year. A key constraint therefore is the balancing the need to preserve the heritage, tranquility and natural history of Hackfall whilst actively promoting the site and increasing visitor numbers in a sustainable way.
Factors Causing Change

Increased numbers of visitors will require improved infrastructure on the site and greater engagement with visitors, volunteers, businesses and community engagement.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To secure the long term conservation and sustainability of this remarkable and inspirational 18th century woodland garden, and provide education activities to ensure that everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy an outstanding example of Britain's best built and natural heritage.

To improve and develop interpretation, orientation and information provision to attract visitors to enjoy the site (both physically and virtually), improve the visitor experience and help them to understand the value of the natural and built heritage.

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

The vision of the Hackfall Trust and the Woodland Trust is to secure the long term conservation and sustainability of this remarkable and inspirational 18th century woodland garden, and maintain access provision in keeping with WT access guidelines and the scheduled and designated status of the site.

Working with the Hackfall Trust , contractors and AONB volunteers, ensuring that: Car park, Entrances & signage are welcoming to visitors and well cared for (annually). All managed paths are kept well-drained and free from encroaching vegetation and that access features (e.g. bridges, steps, entrances, boundary features, etc. are kept in good order (annually).

The site is kept safe and welcoming by: repair of vandalism (when needed); clearing of fallen trees where access is obstructed (as needed); and regular site safety surveys (as per risk assessment).

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	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
2024	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	October
2025	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	January
2024	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	January
2024	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	February
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	February
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	March
2025	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	March
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	April
2025	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,	June
2025	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
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	July
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2025	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	October
2025	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,	October
2025	CS - Map / Interpretation Work	NULLUse of external consultants to support the provision of interpretation features and materials such as visitor information boards, leaflets, site based media applications	November
2025	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	December
2025	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	December
2025	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	December
2026	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	January
2026	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	March
2026	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	March
2026	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	May
2026	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	May
2026	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	May
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,	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	August
2026	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	September
2026	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	September
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,	September
2026	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	October
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,	October
2026	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	October
2026	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	March
2026	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	May
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	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	September
2027	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	September
2027	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	September
2027	WMM - AWS silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within ancient woodlands to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	February
2028	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	March
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	May
2027	PE - Volunteer on site activity	Support for activities at the site of visiting volunteer groups, such as corporate partners, local groups. Support could include tools, external trainers or materials for work parties	May
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,	July
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,	September
2028	HF - Protection / Maintenance	Works associated with the on-going maintenance of an historical or cultural feature/building / area	September
2029	HF - Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of a historical or cultural feature/ building or area such as vegetation clearance of a hillfort, initial protective fencing, weather proofing a building	May
2029	HF - Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of a historical or cultural feature/ building or area such as vegetation clearance of a hillfort, initial protective fencing, weather proofing a building	May
2029	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.3	Open ground	2007	Non-wood habitat		
Hackfall car park. Land bought in 2007. Carpark upgraded significantly with a rebuild and redesign in 2020. The car park occupies the SW corner of the compartment with the rest of the compartment being pasture. A permissive path to the East of the carpark joins the PROW from the road along a private track, re-entering WT land 50 to the east						
2a	1.2	Open ground	1989	Non-wood habitat	Management factors (eg grazing etc)	
Open pasture bordered to the north by pasture (outside WT ownership) delineated by a large, unmanaged hedge and derelict drystone wall and stock fence. To the west is further stock grazing (outside of WT ownership) with a permissive path running along the boundary, separated from the main area of pasture with hawthorn and shrub sp.. To the south is ASNW. Mature ash trees mark the boundary between 2a and 2b.						
2b	1.3	Open ground	1989	Non-wood habitat	Management factors (eg grazing etc)	
Narrow strip of pasture. As with 2a, a large unmanaged hedge, drystone wall and stock fencing mark the WT management boundary. Some mature (veteran) ash form the boundary with 2a and are also present in the boundary to the north.						
3a	2.1	Oak (pedunculate)	1950	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	
W10 Quercisrobur-Pteridiumquilinum-Rubusfruticosus woodland. Acer pseudoplatanus forms a major component of the understory. Well established Larix decidua and Pinus sylvestris are also present though these planted conifers are not impacting negatively upon ground flora which is indicative of an ancient woodland site i.e. bluebells. Though 3a is not designated as ASNW it is included in the SSSI designation. A public footpath and two permissive footpaths run through the compartment. 3a is bounded by 2b, 5c, 3b. To the north is a previously coniferous PAWS plantation, clear-felled in recent history (since 1999).						
3b	1.5	Alder species	1989	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Conservation Area

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Sub-compartment bordered by 3a, clearfell PAWS to the north (outside WT ownership). The River Ure forms the east and southern boundaries. 3b is split roughly equally between W10 bordering 3a to the west - where a permissive footpath forms the sub-compartment boundary - and W7 on the eastern half with the influence of the River Ure.						
4a	0.4	Ash	1989	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	
Small compartment containing the 'top pond', sluice and watercourse, with views of Hackfall Farmhouse to the north. The pond requires regular desilting and forms part of the water features associated with the designed woodland landscape. The wood is classified as W9 ash-rowan-dogs mercury woodland though also contains a high proportion of sycamore. Not noted as ASNW in the ancient woodland inventory it does contain some indicator species. A public footpath runs along the eastern sub-compartment boundary and to the north, just outside of WT ownership. A road forms the western boundary of the wood with pasture and rough grazing to the North, south and east, grading into arable. 3b forms the north eastern boundary.						
4b	1.1	Ash	1989	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	
Steep sided valley down towards tributary of the River Ure. W9 woodland with high proportion of mature sycamore present with permissive paths on the north and south sides of the valley. Arable land to the south. Compartment 4c to the north. Within SSSI but outside designated ASNW though some indicators are present.						
4c	0.5	Ash	1989	High forest		
LEASED - NOT MAPPED - FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY Ash (W9 indicators), spruce and sycamore canopy woodland outside of ASNW designation but within SSSI. Currently sub-leased to a third party. An unsurfaced access track runs from Hackfall Farm into the main wood through this compartment.						
5a	0.3	Beech	1989	Coppice	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site	
LEASED - NOT MAPPED - FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
W9 woodland with mature beech plantation. Vista from Mowbray point to be kept open. Pasture to the W. 5b to the E. Currently leased to third party.						
5b	8.9	Ash	1989	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	
Compartment to the east of Mowbray point incorporating Fountain Pond, the largest area of still water in the woodland, and Forty Feet Fall. The woodland slopes from west to east steeply before the gradient reduces towards Fountain and Tent Plains. The bulk of the woodland in this compartment is classified as W9 Ash - Rowan - Dog's Mercury with a small section to the north W10 Pedunculate oak - bracken - bramble. The compartment S boundary follows a tributary E towards 'The Strand' where W7 Alder - Ash - yellow pimpernel woodland takes over. To the north and east are pasture. 5c, 5d and 5e form the other boundaries. Keeping lines of vistas to and from follies and viewpoints via coppicing forms an important aspect of management in this compartment as well as maintaining high forest.						
5c	6.1	Ash	1989	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	
W9 woodland to the west, W10 to the north with aspects of W7 to the east as you move towards the River Ure. The slope from west to east is more gentle in the compartment though still pronounced with this area being described as Tent Plain. Permissive paths form the E and W boundaries of this compartment. This compartment of the woodland is recorded as ancient in the ancient woodland inventory though a large block of the northy is described as PAWS.						
5d	4	Alder species	1989	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	
W7 main woodland type with the River Ure forming the eastern boundary; the wood slopes from west to east towards the river. Several small watercourses run through what is rightly described as wet woodland. A public footpath runs north/south on the east of the compartment. Weeping rock, Fishers Hut and The Strand (an area of Floodplain) are all incorporated into the compartment.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
5e	7.3	Oak (pedunculate)	1989	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	
Common Wood - W9 Ash - Rowan - Dog's Mercury to the north transitioning to W10 on the southern section of the compartment. The wood slopes fairly steeply from south to north with the main beck forming the western and northern boundary and a smaller tributary forming the eastern boundary. A permissive path roughly follows the contour of the slopes from south to east. Mowbray Castle, a folly, is on the southern boundary of this compartment, adjacent to arable land and can be accessed from the permissive path. Retaining views of and from this historic structure form part of the management of this compartment. The riverside public footpath crossed through the compartment to the north where the river is forms the compartment boundary.						
6a	1.7	Ash	1989	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	
Area of W9 woodland forming southern headland into arable land. Steep valley sides on the west and east slopes to a watercourse running south/ north in the centre of the compartment.						
6b	4.5	Oak (sessile)	1989	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	
Raven scar forms the southern boundary of compartment 6b. W10 and W17 oak woodlands dominate the south and east of the compartment with W9, ash woodland forming the east part of the compartment. A public footpath forms the rest of the northern boundary. Arable land is the land use to the south of the compartment with the SSSI boundary to the east also forming the compartment boundary.						
6c	2	Ash	1989	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	
The W9 ash woodland here is less influenced by the River Ure (forming the N boundary) with a steep bank dropping off south to north towards the river. Raven Scar and the public footpath form the southern boundary, the edge of the SSSI and small watercourse also forming the compartment's eastern boundary..						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
7a	2.8	Open ground	1997	Non-wood habitat		
Open area dominated by bracken (W25) with hawthorn scrub (W21) on the southern steeply sloped, part of the compartment. Small areas of bracken control and planting in enclosures was undertaken in 2021/2022 in this area. Arable land is the main land use to the south. ASNW forms the northern and eastern (outside WT ownership) boundaries.						
7b	2.4	Oak (pedunculate)	1989	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	
Oak woodland with sycamore component sloping south to north. Designated ASNW though outside of the Hackfall SSSI area. Open ground of 7a to the south with the River Ure forming the north boundary, 6c is to the west while ASNW outside of WT ownership forms the eastern boundary. A public footpath runs from the W to the SE corner of the compartment.						

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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