



# Baydons Wood

# Management Plan 2008-2013

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Secondary Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

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## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://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.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, 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.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on 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 heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential 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 allow our woods to be used to support 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. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Baydons Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Chippenham
<b>Grid reference:</b>	ST925730, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 173
<b>Area:</b>	1.13 hectares (2.79 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Great Landscape Value

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Baydons Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. A small wood, comprises a mixture of native broadleaf trees, and is home to a variety of wildlife, including frogs and wrens.

### 2.2 Extended Description

Baydons Wood is a small, 1.09 ha WOYD site adjacent to the river Avon near the centre of Chippenham. This young woodland, planted in 2000 contains a mixture of broadleaf species, predominantly oak, ash and field maple, all establishing well. Some willow has also been planted in the wetter parts near the river to supplement the existing mature willow and alder. These contribute to the river edge habitat (C1), home to frogs, wrens and other wildlife. To the NE of the site runs the river Avon, over which lies a golf course, with further open fields to the SE. Private property surrounds the remainder.

Management access is available via Baydons Lane along the Sustrans cycle track. This runs along the south-eastern boundary and over the river via a new bridge, linking two sides of the town. As a result public access is very high and the short circular walk through the wood is frequently used. However, the wood's close proximity to housing can attract a small degree of vandalism.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

#### General Location

The woodland is located in Chippenham and borders the river Avon. Public access is available directly at any point from the Sustrans cycle track which joins Baydons Lane, which is a public road up to the junction with the cycle track. The cycle track, after crossing the river Avon, connects with Sunningdale Close. On the Southern side of the cycleway the Chippenham Borough Lands Charity has re-created a wetland wildflower meadow which also has public access. This provides both a valuable buffer habitat, and an extended local recreational resource for our site users.

#### Paths.

There is one unsurfaced path, cut twice a year to pedestrian width, which loops around the woodland. Due to the neighbouring River Avon the site tends to be wet all year. The site is flat and the ground is fairly even for an unsurfaced path. However there is badger and rabbit activity throughout the site. A 3m strip of land, outside of trust ownership, separates the woodland from the cycle path. This is unmanaged and brambles can partly encroach. There are no styles, gates or fencing.

#### Parking

There is no provision for parking at the site. Baydons lane is a no through road and unsuitable for parking. The nearest public car-park can be found at Wood Lane which is approximately 500m from the wood to the south.

#### Public transport

The railway station is located off Union Road, approx 1250 meters from the site and can be accessed from this point using a combination of pavements and small lanes. The main bus station is located between the causeway and Wood Lane. approximately 400m distant, again the route to the woodland will combine pavements and small lanes.

#### Public amenities

The nearest public toilets with baby changing and disabled facilities are located within the Emery Gate shopping centre in Chippenham Town centre. The distance from the site is approximately 500 m. This information was obtained from Chippenham council on the 28/11/2006.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Baydons Wood is to successfully establish a mature and attractive mixed broadleaved woodland on the banks of the river Avon. This small wood will in future be managed as high forest on a continuous cover basis.

Management of the river edge will be minimal, and left undisturbed will conserve and enhance the wildlife habitat. The Trust's corporate objective of increasing people's awareness and enjoyment of the woodland will be achieved by continuing to provide and maintain an access track through the wood.

There are no interventions, other than site maintenance, planned in the current management plan period 2008 to 2013. There will be a presumption against thinning with the objective of allowing the woodland to develop as naturally as possible, and allow the wood to self thin according to species individual requirements. Managing for native broadleaved woodland habitat, non intervention will be the preferred management tool. The only exceptions to this shall be based upon any safety issues which may occur from time to time, or restrictions on informal access and recreation as the canopy develops which may demand small scale intervention on a reactionary basis.

## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

### 5.1 Informal Public Access

#### Description

The wood lies adjacent to the Sustrans track which is well used by locals as it links two sides of Chippenham via a bridge over the Avon. Access directly into the wood is gained via this track where visitors can enjoy a short circular stroll on a grassy path through the well establishing woodland..

#### Significance

The wood is in the centre of Chippenham and was established here for this reason. It is in a well walked area and much visited area and one of the Trust's key objectives is to increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland which our management plan and policies reflect at this site.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Bramble growth vigorous on one edge requiring regular cutting if path is to be kept open. Although the wood is convenient for quiet recreation, its close proximity to neighbouring housing means that it can be subject to occasional vandalism and litter problems.

#### Factors Causing Change

Vandalism.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Whole site open to public access. Frequent and regular use by people using the Sustrans track and by locals for quiet informal recreation.

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

Objective:

Easily accessible, attractive, well-maintained and safe woodland that a wide range of public can enjoy. Entrances, facilities and path network are appropriate for level and type of use and in line with access category B.

Work Programme:

The circular path will be cut 2 times a year during the summer months, possibly reducing to one cut per year if site conditions permit.

WT signs and information board will be cleaned at these times and signs replaced quickly if vandalised. If the information board is damaged during this plan period, it will be removed from the site permanently.

Tree safety inspections carried out currently on the few mature trees.

Woodland Officer to inspect the site at least once a year, looking at entrances, path cutting etc.

## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

The woodland has been planted as a WOYD site It contains a mixture of native broadleaves and shrubs. There is no open space within the woodland, but a wayleave on the northern boundary, owned by a third party will benefit biodiversity. There are a line of mature pollards (willow) on the boundary with the river Avon. These are collapsing in places and providing valuable niches for wildlife.

### Significance

Woodland is scarce in and around the town centre and it is one of the Trust's major policies to create more native woodland in Britain.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to create a small but attractive mature woodland providing variety in the landscape and a wildlife habitat.

Possibility of occasional vandalism.

### Factors Causing Change

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Healthy, mature and attractive native broadleaf woodland of varying structure and habitats. A mixture of trees, woody shrubs and open space provided via the permissive path.

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

Operational Objective:

Ensure woodland is healthy, maturing well and remains fully stocked to the desired 1100 trees / ha by the end of the plan period. As the woodland matures it will successfully integrate into the existing habitats and landscape.

Work Programme:

All tree shelters removed by end of 2008

Woodland officer to monitor health of trees annually, including the old pollards on the river edge and take action accordingly.

2008 Woodland establishing and maturing well. All tree guards removed from site in 2007.

Woodland Officer to monitor maintenance regimes, tree safety and woodland health and establishment at least once per year.

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## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.09	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Great Landscape Value

1.09 ha site comprising hedge, some existing mature riverside trees and 0.9 ha of new woodland planting including WGS grant-aidable open space. A few mature willows are located in the land between the new planting and the Sustrans cycle track. A circular path runs almost around the boundary of the planting, with shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn, spindle and guelder rose close by. The majority of the wood is made up of oak, ash and field maple, with a variety of willow species planted in the wetter ground nearest the river. One specimen black poplar was also planted. The trees are spaced between 2 and 3 m apart and were protected by spirals which have now been removed. Fully stocked, the site is establishing well. The river edge has steep, mainly grassy banks and a badger sett is located in the south east corner. Ground flora consists mainly of grass species with juncus in the wet areas and considerable bramble and nettle around the NW fringes. Likely to be small amounts of ragwort and wild flowers in the summer months.

## 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. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

## **Windblow/Windthrow**

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.