



Lascombe Walk

Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 or contact the Woodland Trust (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.

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. 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

Site name:	Lascombe Walk
Location:	Puttenham
Grid reference:	SU919469, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 186
Area:	2.54 hectares (6.28 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Well served by public footpaths and bridleways, this wood is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has been regenerated over the last twenty years after suffering extensive damage in the 1987 gales. It also gives access to long distance footpaths and Puttenham Common and is well used by walkers and other visitors.

2.2 Extended Description

Lascombe Walk is a small (2.55ha) site, situated a short distance to the south of Puttenham, in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and adjoins the extensive Puttenham Common managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust (owned by the Hampton Estate) to the west and farmland immediately to the north and east.

The wood is secondary, mixed broadleaved woodland with oak and sweet chestnut dominating on freely draining acid and sandy soils, over Wealden Greensand. The Wealden Greensand National Character Area (NCA) is defined by a geological belt that runs across Surrey, parallel to the North Downs chalk, and on through Kent. The NCA is characterised by extensive woodland, both ancient and conifer plantations; and open areas of acid heathland, river valleys and mixed agriculture - all habitats can be found in the landscape surrounding Lascombe Walk. Note the Common is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its notable bird, reptile and invertebrate populations and pond life.

Lascombe Walk was gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1988, prior to which it was devastated by the October 1987 storm in which 90% of the mature oak and sweet chestnut canopy was damaged. Most of the useable timber was successfully salvaged and the remaining shrub layer cut in the process. The site was replanted in 1991 with a mixture of native mixed broadleaves in 3.0 metre spacing, but since then, the sweet chestnut of coppice origin has re-grown vigorously to the detriment of the planted trees, some of which have been overtopped and shaded out completely. In an attempt to retain as many of the planted trees as possible, a process of singling the chestnut stems to the single strongest stem per stool was carried out in 2002 and 2003. The wood canopy is still dominated by oak and sweet chestnut, with occasional ash, cherry silver birch and the odd Douglas fir and handful of scots pine in the southern end of the wood. The understory includes young sweet chestnut, hazel coppice, elder, field maple, hawthorn, holly and elm. Flora ground is rare under the denser canopies but overall is dominated bramble, bracken, ground ivy and nettles under the lighter canopies and on the woodland edge, with pockets bluebells in the spring. There is a small patch of rhododendron just to the east of the footpath.

The site is very accessible to a large number of visitors due to a public footpath (no. 331) which bisects the woodland and offers good access from Puttenham village to the popular Common which is managed as a public open space with ample car parking facilities. There are also public bridleways along the southern and western boundaries of Lascombe Walk. An access point in the south-west provides access from the Common to Puttenham village via footpath 331.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public footpath no. 331 bisects the woodland and provides popular access from Puttenham village to the Common. There is ample car parking available at the adjacent Puttenham Common from where Lascombe Walk is a pleasant 10 minute walk.

3.2 Access / Walks

General location:

Lascombe Walk is 1.3miles south of the village of Puttenham, in Surrey. Within 2 miles of the B3000 junction off the A31, just to the west of Guildford.

Overview of access and paths:

Public footpath no. 331 bisects the woodland and provides popular access from Puttenham village to the Common. There are also public bridleways along the southern and western boundaries of Lascombe Walk.

Parking:

There is ample car parking available at the adjacent Puttenham Common Top car park from where Lascombe Walk is a 10 minute walk.

Public Transport:

Lascombe Walk is not easily accessible by public transport and there are no public toilets within 5 miles.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Lascombe Walk will be allowed to grow and develop naturally as a refuge for wildlife. This will be achieved with minimum management intervention, allowing deadwood and old trees to thrive and young trees to regenerate where there are losses from windblow or tree disease. Due to ash dieback, there will likely be a slight shift in tree species composition away from ash as a secondary component of the woodland canopy. Naturally regenerating native shrubs and broadleaves, such as elder, hazel, hawthorn, holly, oak, and hornbeam may fill these gaps. Where conifers have been planted, they will be left to live out their natural lifespans as they are a significant feature of the site. They will be succeeded eventually by broadleaves.

Low key public access will continue to be provided at a level appropriate for a small, quiet woodland.

On-going monitoring will ensure access remains easy and safe. This will be achieved through a regular inspection of paths and entrances infrastructure and routine inspection of trees along paths and property boundaries.

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

Description
Significance
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

5.2

Description

Significance

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

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

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	2.55	Sweet chestnut	1990	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Sparse canopy of oak and sweet chestnut over an understory of young sweet chestnut, hazel coppice, elder, field maple, hawthorn, holly and elm that has regenerated since the 1987 storm. The mixed broadleaf planting from 1991 have largely been shaded out by the sweet chestnut, although some have survived. There are significant amounts of lying deadwood still attached to upturned root-plates acting as a powerful reminder of the gales which so dramatically altered the character of this woodland.

Where light can still reach the woodland floor, bracken, bramble, nettles and ground ivy. In spring, there are pockets of bluebells, concentrating mostly in the northern area of the wood.

There are scattered individual mature specimens of scots and Corsican pine; and there is a concentration of conifers including pine and Douglas fir in the south-west corner of the woodland.

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.