WOODLAND TRUST

Lyndhurst Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM **Page No.**

MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Lyndhurst Wood
Location:	Sutton-in-Craven
Grid reference:	SE000444, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	1.04 hectares (2.57 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A very popular local site, this tiny wood has a circular unsurfaced footpath for walks under the canopy of sycamore, ash and beech, with wild garlic and lesser celandine providing just some of the ground colour. Holme Beck – an attractive small river runs along the northern boundary.

2.2 Extended Description

Lynhurst Wood was acquired by the Trust in September 1990 through a donation. The wood is situated between, and close to, the villages of Glusburn/Cross Hills and Sutton-in-Craven. It has an attractive setting alongside Holme Beck, a small river that runs along the wood's northern boundary. The wood contains a good mixture of trees and shrubs including sycamore, ash, beech, horse chestnut, elm, lime, holly and hawthorn. Ground flora includes a good display of wild garlic in the spring.
The wood is exceptionally popular and well used by local people, being within easy walking distance of the villages. A circular permissive footpath runs around the wood with a public footpath running along the wood's southern boundary.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE
Lyndhurst Wood can be approached by public footpaths from both Cross Hills and Sutton in Craven. From Cross Hills access is from the A6068, Colne Road. A footpath starts alongside Glusburn County Primary School and heads south for approximately 300m to the bridge over Holme Beck, and the eastern access to the wood. From Sutton in Craven the access footpath can be found at the end of Hazel Grove, which is situated to the north west of the centre of the village. At the end of Hazel Grove the footpath heads north for approximately 100m before reaching the wood and Holme Beck. A second footpath from the middle of Hazel Grove heads west crossing two fields before reaching the wood at its mid point. From the west a footpath follows the Holme Beck from the A6068, near Bridge End Farm to the wood.
ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS
The wood contains a 750m circular footpath. There are 4 main entrances to the wood which are all either gap openings or gates, there are no stiles. All paths through the wood are un-surfaced with some steep slopes, and the path close to the river can be prone to flooding.
PARKING
There is very limited parking close to the wood alongside residential roads, but visitors are advised to park at public car parks within Cross Hills/ Sutton-in-Craven/ Glusburn if visiting the site.
PUBLIC TOILETS
No public toilets known within 5 miles
BUS STOPS
Buses stop at Hazel Grove in Sutton-in-Craven.
TRAVEL INFORMATION
Further information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to maintain a largely broadleaved woodland which is diverse in tree species and structure, which will ensure that it remains as resilient as possible to future changes imposed on it (eg from tree diseases). Sycamore and beech are likely to remain as abundant in the wood, but the percentage of ash is likely to decrease through the impact of ash dieback. Other non-native species such as horse chestnut will also be welcomed as part of a diverse species mix. Silvicultural management of the trees may be carried out periodically to enhance diversity, but the scale of any intervention will always be small in consideration of the small size of the wood. Any invasive and non-native plants will be eradicated from the wood

The wood is likely to continue to receive flooding events from the adjacent river (Holme Beck). Measures will continue to be taken to reduce the erosional impact this has on the river bank, and the subsequent impact on water quality.

A good standard of access provision will be maintained at Lynhurst Wood. The circular path network will be kept open for use and the entrances will be welcoming, accessible and clearly signed. However, due to the impact of erosion on ground flora, an increase in the amount of paths will not be welcomed.
The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones.

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 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

A broadleaved secondary woodland, dominated by sycamore (approximately 50%) and beech (20%) but also containing a mixture of other species such as ash, horse chestnut, alder, elm, lime, rowan and birch. Tall mature trees dominate the wood, especially on the lower slope to the north, where their age is approximately 100 years. The shrub understorey is dominated by holly but also contains hawthorn, elder and privet. The ground flora includes much wild garlic, but also contains lesser celandine, cow parsley and areas of bramble. Bluebell is also present but many of the plants appear to be garden (non-native) varieties with a variation in colour. The plants are concentrated in the west side of the wood. The wood is positioned next to the Holme Beck river, which periodically floods into the wood. Flooding events and high visitor numbers have led to some erosion of ground flora and vegetation.

Significance

Lyndhurst Wood is an important riverine woodland habitat, in area which has very low woodland cover.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is an opportunity to use produce derived from any tree felling operations to stabilise the riverbank and reduce erosion.

Factors Causing Change

High rainfall events and flooding have eroded parts of the riverbank and released sediment into the river. This has also led to loss of ground flora, an issue which has been compounded by high visitor numbers and an increase in the number of paths.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term aim is to retain a broadleaved wood, which is diverse in tree species and structure, accepting that it will contain well-established but non-native trees such as horse chestnut, beech and sycamore. The wood is also likely to contain a good number of native trees such as rowan, birch, elm and alder. The percentage of ash is likely to decrease through the impact of ash dieback. Periodic small-scale thinning/felling operations may be required to create better conditions for natural regeneration to occur and to retain a diversity of tree species. This approach will ensure that the wood remains as resilient as possible to future changes imposed on it (eg from tree diseases). Efforts will continue to be made to reduce the amount of riverbank erosion and associated problems such as sediment flow into the river. The wood will be free from non-native plants, which pose a risk to the ecology of the wood and the wider environment. This especially includes cultivated bluebell varieties which can hybridise with native bluebells.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to create enhanced conditions for natural regeneration to occur, to eradicate non-native plants which pose a risk to woodland ecology and to reduce erosion of the riverbank. This will be achieved by:
- The felling of 6 mature trees close to the river edge in 2019. Trees which are displaying the greatest degree of ill health will be targeted. This will create canopy gaps for natural regeneration to occur.
- Using the timber produce from the above felling operation to protect and stabilise the river bank and reduce the degree of erosion and cutting-in of the bankside. The most heavily eroded sections will be targeted and this work will also be undertaken in 2019. Other conservation organisations such as the Wild Trout Trust will be consulted on this work to ensure the maximum benefit to river ecology.
- Non-native bluebell plants will be removed from the wood, by carrying out an annual operation in spring until they have been eradicated. The operation will be non-chemical and will use handtools. Monitoring will take place to determine the success of the work.
- Monitoring will take place to determine the degree of vegetation erosion, resulting from public access. If the erosion is considered to be a threat to the development of flora and natural regeneration of trees then measures will be undertaken to protect areas of the ground from footfall.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The wood is within easy walking distance of the villages of Cross Hills/ Sutton in Craven and Glusburn. It is well connected by public footpaths, and also forms part of a longer popular footpath route. A circular permissive route (un-surfaced) of 750m, runs round the wood, with several cross paths. There are 4 main entrances into the wood: east, west and at the southern tip. The wood sits in an attractive setting next to the Holme Beck river, and part of the circular path runs alongside it.

Significance

The wood provides an informal recreational resource within easy walking distance of several villages.

Opportunities & Constraints

Flooding of the lower path can occur during periods of heavy rain and high river levels.

Factors Causing Change

Riverbank erosion and flooding have altered the condition of parts of the path network. Increasing use of the site has led to a greater number of paths, with associated vegetation erosion.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Access facilities will, on the whole, be low key and appropriate for this small locally visited site. However a good standard of access provision will be maintained at Lyndhurst Wood: a circular path will be managed and kept open for use but additional paths will be minimised to protect woodland ground flora, the 4 main entrances will be accessible, clearly signed and maintained to a safe condition. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to provide low key public access which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:
- Annual management of the main circular path, a total of 750m, and the undertaking of any necessary repairs to access infrastructure as required.
- An inspection of tree safety along the main path network every 2 years. Any resulting safety works will be undertaken following this.
- Further revetment works along the river bank in 2019, following tree felling works. These works will be carried out in places where the eroding bank is worst and close to the edges of the riverside path. These works will also help reduce the amount of sediment being released into the water.
- One formal review of access provision at the wood during this 5 year period.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.04	Sycamore	1900	High forest		Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	
A mature stand of mixed broadleaved trees. The wood is dominated by sycamore (50% of the content), but also contains ash, horse chestnut, alder, elm, lime, whitebeam, and rowan. The understorey is dominated by holly but also contains elder, hawthorn and privet.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	0.50	40	20

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.