



# Brookland Wood

## Management Plan 2014-2019

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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## 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>	Brookland Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Fontmell Magna
<b>Grid reference:</b>	ST860170, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 183
<b>Area:</b>	2.87 hectares (7.09 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Brookland Wood is a small wood located in the village of Fontmell Magna, a few miles south of Shaftesbury. The site was planted in 1998 with mixed native broadleaves including oak, ash and field maple, with a maturing pond created in 1999.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Brookland Wood is an attractive and successful 2.9ha wood located a few miles south of Shaftesbury in the village of Fontmell Magna, just outside the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The surrounding landscape is characterised by rolling chalk hills and arable farmland. Soils typical of the region are thin calcareous loams, with Brookland Wood situated on a slightly alkaline sandy loam.

Formerly improved grassland the site was planted in 1998 with mixed native broadleaves, mainly oak, ash, field maple and hazel. Local people were involved from the beginning - through helping with fundraising, the design and the planting. A pond in the north eastern corner was established as the Millennium Feature and wild flowers were planted by volunteers along the open rides and around the pond. A stream runs along the northern boundary of the Wood with a small area of ancient semi natural woodland on the opposite side of this stream.

Management access is directly off the narrow country lane directly into the SE corner of the wood. There are several mown paths around the Wood. The site is fairly level but the paths can retain water during winter months. The Wood is well used, mainly by local residents of the village of Fontwell Magna.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

#### Access

Parking is limited along the narrow country lane; most visitors walk from the village. There is one access point into the wood - via a kissing gate directly off the road and into the south eastern corner. There are mown paths around the Wood and these are unsurfaced and can get waterlogged and muddy at times but the site is fairly level.

#### Public Transport

Nearest Bus Stop: The Fontmell pub on the A350.

Accessible from Salisbury via the Salisbury Reds bus service (route 314). (information from [www.salisburyreds.co.uk](http://www.salisburyreds.co.uk))

Accessible from Shaftesbury via Damory bus service, route number 83. (Information from Damory website)

#### Facilities

Nearest Public Toilet: Shaftesbury Bell St carpark (5 miles) (disabled facilities)

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is for Brookland Wood is to develop as a mature, native, broadleaved woodland managed through limited intervention with a healthy canopy of trees with an understorey of woodland shrubs, integrating with other habitats such as the hedges, wide rides and pond.

Located in an attractive village where locals take a keen interest, Brookland will be managed as an important open access area where the public are welcome. Signs, information board and maintained paths will all encourage public use and interest in the woodland thus helping to achieve the Trust's aim to increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland and also to achieve the Trust's vision of "a UK rich in native woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone".

The rides and paths will be kept open and mowed as necessary to provide appropriate access and valuable ride-side habitats. As the developing canopy closes, rough grass in the planted areas will gradually diminish. The pond should remain in a healthy condition and become increasingly attractive and beneficial to wildlife.

## 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

A well-used wood easily accessible from the village of Fontmell Magna. One access point with several maintained paths lead around the wood. The pond in the north eastern corner provides added interest.

#### Significance

Informal public access to Brookland Wood fulfils the Trust's corporate objective of inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. The wood also adds interest to the village of Fontmell Magna and provides an excellent place for locals to walk and enjoy quiet recreation.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to retain the involvement and interest of the local community by making the site interesting, attractive and easy to visit for a wide range of people.

#### Factors Causing Change

Increase or decrease in use

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

A woodland that contains a network of well-maintained paths. The wood will remain open to the public for quiet informal recreation, predominantly by locals from Fontmell Magna.

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

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

#### Work Programme:

Cut paths regularly and include maintenance of access point.

Annual roadside hedge cut.

Continue programme of coppicing by volunteer.



## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

Brookland Wood contains a mixture of native broadleaves and shrubs, covering 80% of the whole site. The mature boundary hedges, the stream edge, pond and open areas provide a tremendous variety of habitats.

### Significance

The Trust's objective of creating more native woods is adequately fulfilled in the new woodland becoming established.

### Opportunities & Constraints

### Factors Causing Change

Various pond weeds

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Healthy, mature and attractive native broadleaf woodland of varying structure and habitats in an area where such habitats have not been common in recent times, thus providing variety in the landscape. A mixture of trees, woody shrubs, open space and ground flora developed through the original planting of wild flowers. A healthy pond with associated flora and fauna, fully integrating as part of the overall woodland habitat.

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

A maturing woodland that is successfully integrating into the existing habitats and landscape. All tree shelters removed by end of plan period except on very small trees where they are still necessary. Retain a healthy pond and wetland habitat

Work programme:

Control excessive pond reed mace/weeds as required.

Continue programme of coppicing through local volunteer.

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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	2.90	Ash	1998	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

Mixed native broadleaves planted in 1998. Main species include oak, ash, field maple, willow and alder along with woody shrubs such as hazel and guelder rose. Planted in sinuous lines at an average of 3m x 3m to give 1100 trees / ha. The site is extremely fertile and the trees have established very well. General tree health is good although some of the crack willow have suffered from anthracnose / willow scab in the past.

A pond was dug in 1999 in the north eastern corner, which is maturing very well and developing into an excellent wetland habitat; alder and willow planted nearby are thriving. Wild flowers were planted in the open areas, especially underneath the power lines which run across the site. A stream running against the northern boundary separates this site from a small area of ancient semi natural woodland. Hawthorn and hazel hedgerows with dotted mature oak form the remaining boundaries and the main surrounding land use is improved pasture.

## 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.