

Dick Buck's Burrows

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



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

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Dick Buck's Burrows

Location:	Cromer	Grid	reference:	TG211404	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	133
Area:	2.76 hectares (6.82 acres)								
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Dick Buck's Burrows is a 2.9ha mature broadleaved woodland dominated by oak, sweet chestnut, sycamore and beech with a hazel/hawthorn/bramble understorey. The wood is situated in a rural part of Norfolk, close to a National Trust property (Fellbrigg Hall) just south of the seaside resort of Cromer. It's situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is an important feature in the local landscape.

The wood was severely damaged by the storms of 1987 when many of the mature trees fell down. The affected areas were replanted in 1989 with native broadleaved trees, reflecting the existing species mix. A small part of the southern half of the wood was damaged by fire in 1996, this has also been replanted. As a consequence of these natural events, the wood is now well structured with a good age and species mix. Approximately 30% of the canopy is made up of mature trees. Standing deadwood has been left where it does not compromise safety.

The woodland which is situated on two valley sides, dissected by Hall road, has open public access to it. The northern half slopes down to the south-east and the southern half to the north-west. Parking is provided for up to four cars in a layby on the northern side of the road. From this entrance point a waymarked path goes up the steep bank to the northern corner of the wood where it joins The Weavers Way, a popular long distance footpath, which runs outside the site along the western boundary. The southern part of the wood slopes down towards the road with steps feeding into a path that runs along the flatter land at the top. Management access is available from the roadside, however, given the topography of the wood, access internally is extremely limited.

The land around the wood is used for arable farming except for a triangle of unimproved grassland between Hall Road and Metton Road. There is a grove post in the southern part of the site.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

As a small mature secondary woodland, the objective is to maintain the overall integrity of the woodland and diverse age structure as well as maintaining the current levels of deadwood habitat.

The species mix will continue to consist of Oak, Beech, Birch, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Wild Cherry and Ash. There is some consideration to the effects of Ash dieback within the wood , but as Ash is not the dominant species it is likely that Ash will provide towards the deadwood component to the woodland in the future . Regeneration will play a key part in maintaining the structural diversity of the woodland and the thinning of trees through either natural losses or mechanical low key thinning will provide sunny holes within the canopy that further promote natural regeneration within the site and provide habitats for a wide range of associated species.

The understorey of the wood will be structurally diverse and consist of primarily the species Hazel, Hawthorn and Holly with bramble. Natural regeneration will also have a part to play in maintaining the understorey of the wood.

The site is 1.5km from the National Trust property and Woodland of Felbrigg Hall and is linked to the estate by mature hedgerows along Hall Road. The site therefore is a key additional habitat within the wider landscape of the Cromer.

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity . Low key public access will be maintained across the site, with the steps, signage and car parks that allow safe access for the public to be maintained in good order. The site will continue to provide access for the residents of Cromer and Felbrigg, and will maintain the linkage to the Weavers Way long distance footpath,as well as linking to other local rights of way routes in the area.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
The woodland is situated on two valley sides, dissected by Hall road. Parking is provided for up to four cars in a lay by on the northern side of the road. A good pathway system runs throughout the site and joins The Weavers Way on the northern boundary. There are 800 metres of paths within the site which provides a route around the wood.
Significance
The wood provides an important area of close woodland access to the residents of Cromer and Felbrigg as well as providing good linkages to local footpaths within the area.
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities</p> <p>The Weavers Way long distance footpath runs adjacent to the wood and provides walkers with an opportunity to leave the footpath and explore the woodland. Linkages to other local footpaths and rights of way. Close to the residents of Cromer and Felbrigg.</p> <p>Constraints</p> <p>Management access for vehicles is difficult Steep slopes require infrastructure for visitor access</p>
Factors Causing Change
Vandalism
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Low key public access will be maintained across the site, with the steps, signage and car parks that allow safe access for the public to be maintained in good order. The site will continue to provide access for the residents of Cromer and Felbrigg, and will maintain the linkage to the Weavers Way long distance footpath, as well as linking to other local rights of way routes in the area.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

To maintain site as an area of public open access, with ride system managed annually , ensuring works are carried out as necessary to keep the path network open and easy to use for informal public access , as detailed in EMC Spec 2.01..

Work programme:

- Cut paths and strim around car park and remove litter – May and August
- Associated signage (Site name/welcome signs) to be kept in good condition at all times
- Public access structures (steps) to be regularly maintained
- Zone A Tree Safety Inspection to be carried out every 12 months
- Zone B Tree Safety Inspection to be carried out every 24 months

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description
<p>Dick Buck’s Burrows is situated on two valley sides, dissected by Hall road and is thought to be secondary in nature. The species mix within the wood consists of oak, sweet chestnut, sycamore and beech with a hazel/hawthorn/bramble understorey.</p> <p>The wood was severely damaged by the storms of 1987 when many of the mature trees fell down. The affected areas were replanted in 1989 with native broadleaved trees, reflecting the existing species mix. A small part of the southern half of the wood was damaged by fire in 1996, this has also been replanted. As a consequence of these natural events, the wood is now well structured with a good age and species mix. Standing deadwood has been left where it does not compromise safety.</p>
Significance
In the context of the locality this native broadleaved woodland is an important feature in the landscape.
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities</p> <p>Linkages to nearby National Trust Felbrigg Estate Woodland</p> <p>Constraints</p> <p>Management access for vehicles is difficult</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>Ash Dieback</p> <p>Browsing (Hares, Deer & Squirrel)</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
As a small mature secondary woodland, the objective is to maintain the overall integrity of the woodland and diverse age structure as well as maintaining the current levels of deadwood habitat.

The species mix will consist of Oak, Beech, Birch, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Wild Cherry and Ash. There is some consideration to the effects of Ash dieback within the wood , but as Ash is not the dominant species it is likely that Ash will provide towards the deadwood component to the woodland in the future .

Regeneration will play a key part in maintaining the structural diversity of the woodland and the thinning of trees through either natural loss or mechanical low key thinning, will provide sunny holes within the canopy. These will further promote natural regeneration within the site and provide habitat for a wide range of associated species.

The understorey of the wood will be structurally diverse and consist of primarily Hazel, Hawthorn , Holly with Bramble. Natural regeneration will also have a part to play in maintaining a diverse understorey within the wood.

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

Maintain diverse age structure and deadwood habitat within the mature secondary woodland. The Woodland will be left to develop via natural processes where intervention will be kept to a minimum except for the installation of three Genguards. The Genguards will be installed during this management plan period to address the impact of deer and rabbit browsing on the natural regeneration within the site. Three Genguards 5m x 5m will be installed in the wood , two within the Southern plantation area of the site and one in the Northern section of the wood. The Genguards will be used to assess the suitability of a small selective thinning operation for regeneration in winter 2027/2028

Other tree works include, addressing tree safety issues that pose a threat to public safety.

Work programme:

- installation of Genguards to promote natural regeneration in 2024
- small scale thinning operation 2027/2028
- Zone A Tree Safety Survey every 12 months
- Zone B Tree Safety Survey every 24 months

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WC - Natural Regeneration Work	Physical Works undertaken to encourage/promote / protect natural regeneration – such as ground prep, fencing to protect natural regeneration , low intensity grazing	December
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,	December
2027	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods 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

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	2.9	Sycamore	1900	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>A mature secondary woodland with a diverse age structure planted in 1900</p> <p>Tree Species include - Oak, Sycamore, Sweet Chestnut ,Beech , Silver Birch, Ash, Wild Cherry and Rowan.</p> <p>Broadleaved Shrubs include -Hazel, hawthorn and holly</p> <p>Ground Flora- Bramble , Bracken and Bluebells</p>						

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:

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