

Townsend Wood

(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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 - 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Townsend Wood

Location:	Fordham	Grid reference:	TL626705	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	154
Area:	1.03 hectares (2.55 acres)							
External Designations:	Tree Preservation Order							
Internal Designations:	N/A							

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Townsend Wood is an attractive, but unusual site with several large and exotic trees, wide sunny paths, closely mown glades and a well defined under storey, comprising of a collection of self set natives and planted non native shrubs and young trees.

Prior to being taken over by Economic Forestry Group in 1967, Townsend Wood was the ornamental and nursery garden for Charles Townsend Ltd, the famous nurseryman and seed merchant who lived in the neighbouring large house in the village of Fordham. The wood is thought to have served as a show piece garden for the nursery. Following the take over by the EFG the main nursery stock was removed, the areas were grass seeded and some further planting with mainly exotic species was undertaken.

There are a number of rare specimen trees and shrubs surviving from this era including; Copper beech, Austrian pine, Weeping elm, Copper cedar of Lebanon, Colorado spruce, Holm oak, Maples and many others. Most canopy trees are around 50-60 years old, but with several much older standards which appear to be over 100 years old. Notably the row of Beech trees on the northern boundary, the Lime and Horse chestnut along the south west boundary and the Wellingtonia red wood in the centre.

The Woodland Trust has owned the wood since 1989 and since this time the management has been low intensity, allowing natural processes to happen where possible and practical.

Many of the more common woodland and garden bird species use the woodland, including Nuthatch and Tawny owl. There have also been recorded Speckled Wood butterfly and several species of Hawker dragonflies. Roe deer and Muntjac have been seen in the wood. The wood is bounded by houses with extensive gardens, horse paddock and unused building land as well as a busy tarmac footpath. Within the wood, a complex network of small paths wind around the site, connecting to the two public footpaths which enter the wood from the southern and eastern boundary. Townsend wood is important to local people and is well used.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision for Townsend Wood is for the site to be managed as, and transition to, a predominantly native secondary woodland . The mature native and non native specimen trees, from the sites arboretum history, will be retained for as long as possible and so long as it is safe to do so. Going forward Townsend Wood will consist primarily of native secondary woodland, historical arboretum specimens, as well as developing standing and fallen deadwood habitat. . The wood will be managed through a combination of natural regeneration and planting.

The woods future tree species composition will be a mix of native tree species and the existing planted non natives, and will include species such as Ash, Beech, Lime , Horse Chestnut supported by the current non natives Arboretum species, such as Copper Beech, Austrian Pine, Weeping Elm, Copper Cedar of Lebanon, Colorado spruce, Holm oak, Maples , Wellingtonia and many others.

Shrub species will include Elder and Blackthorn with some elements of the non native Snowberry remaining in managed patches. The shrub layer will be maintained to provide light and space for the specimen trees within Townsend Wood.

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Low key public access will be maintained to the site , and the paths, signs and other furniture that allow safe access for the public are to be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the village of Fordham and the surrounding parishes ,. The wood will also continue to maintain linkages to other public rights of way and green spaces within the local area.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
The wood is used extensively by the local community within the village of Fordham and the wood links to a number of streets and housing estates. The wood is regarded as an asset to the local area, for its wildlife interest and as a place to take a quiet walk away from the traffic. For quite a small wood , there are approximately 730 m of metres of permissive paths throughout the site providing access to the various specimen trees planted to create the arboretum.
Significance
The wood forms a key part of Fordham village and is important to the many people who use it regularly. It has cultural significance for the village from its history and association with the Townsend family and the extensive nursery business they used to run, hence the exotic tree species. It is one of very few publicly accessible mature woodlands in the locality.
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the site would be suitable for a community third party organisation to manage and add value to-It is linked into the local public footpath network, which is hard surfaced, the wood is level and may be suitable for wheeled disabled access.-A valuable green space in the middle of the community- could provide a public engagement space for the Woodland Trust within an populated area <p>Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-A very small wood-Parking is difficult in the immediate vicinity
Factors Causing Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Vegetation encroachment onto the paths.- anti social behaviour
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Low key public access will be maintained to the site , and the paths, signs and other furniture that allow safe access for the public are to be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the village of Fordham and the surrounding parishes ,. The wood will also

continue to maintain linkages to other public rights of way and green spaces within the local area.

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

The 730m of paths and rides are to be maintained annually with a ride system cut 3 times annually to a minimum of 2m to allow unhindered access for the public, as detailed in EMC Spec 2.01

Site safety to be maintained through regular inspections:

Associated signage (Site name/welcome signs) to be kept in good condition and regularly maintained as detailed in EMC Spec 1.01 , with a five yearly review of access facilities by the Site Manager

-Access monitoring inspection- 2025.

Tree Safety Inspections

-Zone A Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 12 months

-Zone B Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 36 months

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Despite consisting of at least 50 different species of trees and shrubs this wood is exhibiting a natural looking structure and a good range of tree ages classes from over mature to seedling. Several specimen trees such as the Wellingtonia and Copper Beech have become iconic features of the site in their own right.

The site also supports a number of woodland wildlife species such as: Tawny owl, speckled wood butterfly, Nuthatch, Greater spotted woodpecker and contains a number of the specialist niches that natural woodlands develop- large trees, dead wood standing and fallen, scrub and open glades

Significance

It is mature woodland in an area with below average woodland cover and is valued as a local resource for wildlife that is accessible to all. Contains many extotic species as a result of its former use as a display garden/arboretum which are significant landscape features and protected by a TPO.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

-Has a wide range of species and a relatively wide range of habitats within a small area.

-Contains some very attractive and rare introduced species as well as several common native species

-long term potential for creating a native tree arboretum

Constraints

-A small wood with many non native species, some which are in decline.

Factors Causing Change

- senescence of exotic species
- Deer
- Ash Dieback
- expansion of non-native Snowberry

Long term Objective (50 years+)

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The woods future tree species composition will be a mix of native tree species and the existing planted non natives, and will include species such as Ash, Beech, Lime , Horse Chestnut supported by the current non natives Arboretum species, such as Copper Beech, Austrian Pine, Weeping Elm, Copper Cedar of Lebanon, Colorado spruce, Holm oak, Maples , Wellingtonia and many others.

Shrub species will include Elder and Blackthorn with some elements of the non native Snowberry remaining in managed patches. The shrub layer will be maintained to provide light and space for the specimen trees within Townsend Wood.

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

Tree Survey:

- undertake a tree survey as an update to the survey from 2005. The survey will map and identify all significant mature trees within Townsend Wood to allow future planting of specimen native British trees.
- survey Summer 2024

Non native shrub management:

A removal programme for the non native shrub Snowberry is to be undertaken regularly . This will allow native ground flora , shrub and tree species to regenerate. as well as providing an opportunity to open up the ride edges. Where possible material to be removed from site and stumps treated with ecoplugs. This will be key to reducing the impact of a non native species within Townsend Wood

Snowberry Management- December 2025

- December 2027

Native Feature Tree Planting:

-Planting of ten Native feature trees within Townsend Wood in eco-friendly tree tubes following tree survey in 2024.

Plant 10 Feature Trees- February 2026

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	June
2024	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	September
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2025	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,	June
2026	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	February
2026	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,	June
2027	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,	June
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2028	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,	June

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1	Mixed conifers		Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Tree Preservation Order
<p>This compartment comprises the whole of the wood. A complex collection of native and non-native conifers and broadleaved species, some planted in the 19th century and some during the 1960's. In all approximately 50 species of trees and shrubs have been recorded, of these about 13 are native species (2 species of elm, beech, ash, yew, elder, white beam, oak, goat willow, bird cherry, blackthorn, hawthorn, crab apple). There are several uncommon non-native tree species e.g. blue atlas cedar.</p> <p>The wood's structure does mimic natural high forest woodland, containing as it does: several large old trees with dead wood and cavities, a good understorey layer of planted shrubs and young self set trees (mostly sycamore, elm, elder and ash), small areas of open managed grassy glade and dense thickets of thorn scrub. Such a diverse range of micro habitats is remarkable given it is such a small woodland.</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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