



WOODLAND
TRUST

Tween Towns Wood

Management Plan

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

Our strategic aims are to:

- Work with others to plant more native trees to enable the creation of more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- 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) 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. These include our approach to the restoration of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), deer management, control of non-native invasive species, tree safety and bio-security.

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 key features of value. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity. Wherever possible our management aims to support natural processes.
2. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
3. Our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
4. All of our non-native conifer plantations on ancient woodland sites are restored to a predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure.
5. We establish new native woodland using either natural regeneration but largely through tree planting, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
6. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats on our estate are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
7. The long-term vision for our non-native conifer secondary woods is either to convert them to predominantly native woodland or to restore them to semi-natural open ground.
8. The heritage value of woods is taken into account in our management.
9. 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.

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:	Tween Towns Wood
Location:	Guilden Morden
Grid reference:	TL285437, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 153
Area:	3.38 hectares (8.35 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Website synopsis

Tween Town Wood consists of native broadleaf species including oak, ash, field maple, cherry and willow. An attractive stream forms the western boundary. There are over 1000m of paths. Access is from the North Brook End road.

2.2 Summary description

Tween Towns Wood is a woodland creation site planted as part of the Woodland Trusts "Woods On Your Doorstep" initiative to mark the millennium. It is 3.4ha in extent and lies between the villages of Guilden Morden and Steeple Moredon, both communities having supported the fund raising activities. The name 'Tween Towns' has been taken from the name of the field on which it is planted. This name can be traced back to 1444.

The site was purchased in 1999 and planting took place in February 2000 with the help of local people. The tree species mix are native broadleaves, predominantly oak, ash, field maple, cherry and willow. The site itself is adjacent to an attractive stream, which forms the western boundary. There are records of water voles and crayfish occurring along its course here. There are numerous trees along this stream course, most being willow and some having been pollarded in the past. There is also a small semi-mature woodland area of around 0.1ha in the NW corner, largely comprising of field maple, sycamore and lime. Additional semi-mature woodland can be found directly north of the site, in the grounds of Morden House.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

Tween Towns Wood lies between the villages of Guilden and Steeple Morden in South Cambridgeshire. It can be accessed from North Brook End road. It is then directly off the public highway to the east, along the narrow strip of land for 230m, west

A footpath runs along the access track from the highway. Public footpath links are therefore good to both Guilden and Steeple Morden. Internal paths are unsurfaced and can become very wet in winter. No restrictions at entrances

No public toilets in the vicinity

The closest access to public transport is the bus route through Steeple Morden stopping near the church. For routes and times contact the Travel Line on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0871 2002233

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In the long term the wood is to be managed as minimum intervention high forest, consisting of primarily native broadleaved tree and shrub species. Natural regeneration of trees and shrubs is expected, leading to a range age classes of trees. Standing and fallen deadwood will be left in situ wherever it is safe practicable to do so.

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. The paths, signs and other furniture that allow safe access are to be maintained in good order. Community involvement has been important in the woods establishment and development, and should be continued in the future.

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

The whole site is open for quiet informal recreation by the public and local community. In addition, there are about 1000m of grass paths forming circular routes within the woodland, which are maintained to keep them well defined and easy to follow.

Significance

There are few accessible woodlands within this part of South Cambridgeshire.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity

Well connected to two local villages via public right of way network.

Constraints

The site does tend to become very wet during the winter months and can even flood.

Factors Causing Change

Scrub encroachment along pathways.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The paths remain open and easy to use, creating a welcoming environment enjoyed primarily by the local community for quiet informal recreation.

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

In order to keep the paths well defined and easy to use, they will be mown to approximately 2m in width, three times during the growing season. (April/May, June/July & August/September, as weather and ground conditions permit) Trimming back of scrub and vegetation will be undertaken as necessary following annual inspection by Site manager. Although works are not expected to be required during this plan period

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

A mixture of native trees and shrubs have been planted in sinuous rows at 2250/ha during 1999/2000. Although establishment has been disappointing to date (2013)

A small semi-mature wooded area occurs in the NW corner of about 0.1ha. This is very dense with little ground flora and includes sycamore - a non-native species.

Significance

The woodland lies adjacent to an important natural wildlife corridor, in the form of the stream. There are also the extensive Morden House grounds adjacent, the combined are providing valuable and relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat. The woodland will also be a landscape feature within a fairly open arable countryside.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity

To establish accessible native woodland in a sparsely wooded area.

Constraint

Restricted tree growth due to poor, wet soils.

Factors Causing Change

Continued poor growth of existing species mix, may require replanting with higher proportions of successfully establishing species.

Disease - Chalara Fraxinea - on the periphery of the outbreak, it is likely that this will prevent ash becoming a dominant canopy species and may suppress ash indefinitely.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a native broadleaved high forest woodland, with a graded edge habitat and no less than 20% of open ground to allow good access and aid diversity.

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

Monitor establishment and tree health through annual inspection by Ste Manager. Action will be taken as necessary to move towards the Long term objective. Appropriate response to chalara will be in line with the industry guidance at the time.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2012	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	24/04/12
2012	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	31/07/12
2012	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs, and open ground, including access track	25/09/12
2013	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	24/04/13
2013	WC - Fencing	Replace fence at eastern boundary	30/04/13
2013	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	31/07/13
2013	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs, and open ground, including access track	25/09/13
2014	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	24/04/14
2014	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	31/07/14
2014	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs, and open ground, including access track	25/09/14
2015	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	24/04/15
2015	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	31/07/15

2015	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs, and open ground, including access track	25/09/15
2016	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	24/04/16
2016	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs,	31/07/16
2016	AW - Management Access Maintenance	mow paths to a minimum of 2m and strim around all entrances and internal seating and signs, and open ground, including access track	25/09/16

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1A	3.30	Oak (Pedunculate)	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>This compartment includes the majority of the site and the access track. It has been planted (1999/2000) with native broadleaf trees at 2250 / ha. By 2013, establishment is disappointing overall, with some areas of trees extremely stunted. Other areas however seem to be growing a little better, the southern end of the site showing best development.</p> <p>Just over 1ha remains unplanted, this forms the access track and paths around the site plus an open area at the entrance to the wood where the information board is located.</p> <p>There are records of water vole and crayfish occurring in the stream forming the western boundary. The stream has also led to seasonal flooding of the planted trees for short periods of time, which may go towards explaining the poor establishment to date.</p>							
2A	0.10	Sycamore	1975	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>This is a small area of semi-mature broadleaf trees estimated established 1975. The trees are tightly spaced and there is little ground flora due to the restricted light levels, though natural suppression is beginning to open up the canopy in places.</p>							

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.

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