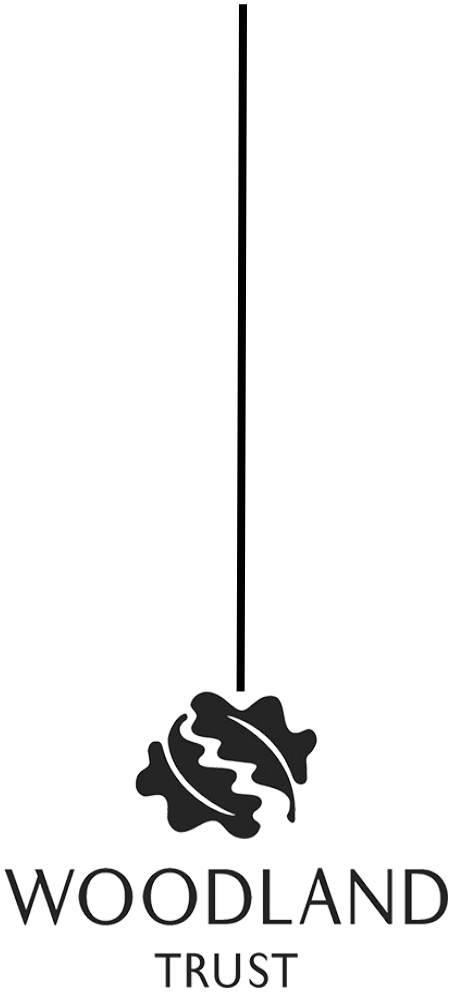
Old Wood

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



Management Plan Content Page

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

Old Wood

Location:	Sheringham Grid reference: TG159412 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 133
Area:	30.74 hectares (75.96 acres)
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Internal Designations:	Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Old Wood is situated south of Sheringham Town on the Holt Cromer ridge. The wood is accessible from the Woodland Trust car park which is located at the South Eastern end of Pretty Corner Lane, or from surrounding woodland owned and managed by North Norfolk District Council.

The surrounding landscape around Old Wood is a patch work of mature woodland, commercial arable farmland and heathland and the site sits in the North Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Beeston and Sheringham Commons SSSI is located to the north-east of the wood and directly adjacent to the wood on its western boundary is the North Norfolk District Council managed Pretty Corner Woods. On its northern border is the busy North Norfolk coast seaside resort town of Sheringham . The whole site is situated on the Holt/Cromer ridge and drops steeply to the North, giving a variety of undulating slopes and ridges, none of which are south facing. The southern part of the site is at an altitude of 96 meters making it one of the highest points in Norfolk. Good views are attainable from a number of points within the wood to the town of Sheringham and the North Sea.

The 75.96 acre (30.74 hectares) woodland is predominantly a mixture of coniferous plantation and mature secondary woodland which is split between two distinctive areas, with the coniferous woodland predominantly focused in the southern half of the wood and the mature secondary woodland in the northern half of the wood. The northern section of the wood holds Compartment 5a and this area was given to the Woodland Trust under a long-term management agreement, by Sheringham Town Council, who purchased it from Anglian Water. The site also has some open ground areas which are a patchwork of heathland and grassland. Historically the site was less wooded and was dominated by a heath land and acid grassland mosaic, with scattered trees and woodland reminiscent of a heath wood pasture.

The woodland species on site consist of Corsican pine interspersed with areas of Douglas fir, Grand fir and Western hemlock and native broadleaf species Oak, Ash, Birch, Rowan, and naturalised Sycamore, Beech and Sweet Chestnut.

The fauna within Old wood also supports a diverse range of species including the following protected under the Wildlife and countryside act 1981. These are listed as follows: pipistrelle bat, adder and slow worm.

The wood also contains three ponds/reservoirs which were originally created when Anglian Water owned the site. These provide an additional biodiversity benefit to the site and host a variety of species of bird including Kingfisher and Moorhen as well as dragonflies and amphibians. These ponds cover 0.25 hectares of the site and are predominantly open ponds with some scrub on the fringes. Two of the ponds have small wooden platforms which provide visitors with the opportunity to view the pond and its wildlife up close.

The site has over 5000 metres of permissive footpaths with an old medieval hollow way public footpath running north to south through the site see , Norfolk Historic Environment Record NHER Number:24267 . The paths are a mix of surfaced and unsurfaced tracks with a boardwalk in a wetter area of the site. The paths in Old Wood also link directly to the paths in North Norfolk District council's Pretty Corner Wood, and the two organisations have shared signage and maps at the entrances to the sites to show the routes through both sites. The site hosts numerous benches around the site with some at key viewpoints giving a view of Sheringham Town and the North Sea. A small Woodland Trust provided car park is located at the southern end of the site and provides space for up to four cars.

In addition to the car park, there are also 4 pedestrian entrances located around the site with two on the northern boundary, one on the eastern boundary with Sheringwood and one off Holt Road at the south side of the site.

Key Features:

-Open Ground Habitat
-Secondary Woodland
-Informal Public Access
- Ponds

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Old Wood will be allowed to develop into a well-structured and resilient native broadleaved woodland through a mix of natural processes and good silvicultural practice and will be supported by a diverse habitat mix of heathland, grassland and ponds. This mosaic of habitats will complement the surrounding landscape, within the North Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Secondary Woodland

Old Wood will be a structurally diverse broadleaf dominated secondary woodland managed through a mixture of natural regeneration and good silvicultural practices. The tree species in the wood will consist of primarily Oak, Birch, Beech Rowan, and Sweet Chestnut. Ash will still be a feature of the woodland and whilst being a small component of the woodland it will likely provide an element of the deadwood habitat for the wood, due to the effects of Ash dieback . Where appropriate the Ash will be left as standing or fallen deadwood .The areas where the Ash has died and opened up the canopy, will provide areas for ground flora and natural regeneration to flourish.

A coniferous element to the wood will be retained due to their historical importance within the landscape and will consist of predominantly Corsican pine.

The shrub component of the site will include species such as Hawthorn, Holly, Hazel , Blackthorn and Elder.

The ground flora will include some areas Bluebell as well as Honeysuckle, Bramble , Herb Robert, Wood Vetch and Ground ivy.

Open Ground

The open ground areas will provide the site with a patchwork of structured heathland, grassland and scrub habitat, that complements and adds to the diversity of the site, and the local landscape mosaic along the Holt- Cromer ridge providing feeding , foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of species groups.

Ponds

The three ponds will be managed to provide a diverse habitat feature within Old Wood, with developed aquatic and pond edge habitat that will add to the overall patchwork of habitats within the site. The ponds will provide a wildlife interest for the public and two platforms will provide access to view species that use the ponds such as Dragonflies and Birds.

Public Access

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Public access will be maintained at the site to a good standard. A network of well managed paths, signs and other furniture will be provided allowing safe access for the public, together with public information and the provision of a small car park. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Sheringham and Beeston and the other immediately, neighbouring parishes. The wood will continue to link to the local public footpath networks and the North Norfolk coastal path and will be part of the

much wider access provision in the area .

The medieval Hollow Way along the public footpath will be a feature of the site and provide a well managed example of this type of historic path.

The wood will be supported by volunteer Woodland Wardens providing a regular on site eyes and ears reporting role to the site manager. There will be opportunities for practical volunteering on the site through the usage of either a third-party volunteering group

Old Wood is directly adjacent to the North Norfolk District Council site of Pretty Corner, and the Woodland Trust will maintain and develop the public partnership with the council to provide quality and engaging public access provision, across the two sites.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Open Ground Habitat

Description
A 2.6 hectare patchwork of heather dominated areas , with areas of grassland interspersed and isolated patches of woodland scrub on the inaccessible steep slopes. Heathland and open ground habitat restoration took place during the winter of 2000 and 2005. Within the heathland and acid grassland areas, the previous restoration has developed isolated communities of Calluna vulgaris (Ling Heather), Deschampsia flexuosa (Wavy hair grass) Ulex europaeus (Gorse) alongside developing scrub and bracken.
Significance
Heathland used to be a common land use in North Norfolk. Many of these heathlands have been lost and the habitat is now threatened. Heathland is a Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat in Norfolk. Suffering from historical fragmentation and loss, heathland has the largest numbers of Red Data Book and Biodiversity Action Plan species, and therefore supports a nationally important home for a number of threatened flora and fauna. Woody scrub is an important habitat for small woodland birds, mammals and invertebrates and adds to the overall range of habitats that the site can provide.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities - to further increase presence of heathland on the Holt-Cromer ridge. Heathland at Old wood will greatly contribute towards the conservation of this habitat in North Norfolk. - improve habitat linkages to Beeston common. Constraints – intensive management of scrub required to maintain open habitat. - small areas of habitat.
Factors Causing Change
- Scrub encroachment - Bracken encroachment - Public access - Invasive species- Rhododendron
Long term Objective (50 years+)

The open ground areas will provide the site with a patchwork of structured heathland, grassland and scrub habitat, that complements and adds to the diversity of the site, and the local landscape mosaic along the Holt- Cromer ridge providing feeding , foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of species groups.

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

To maintain existing areas of open ground as a patchwork of heath land, grassland and woody scrub through regular practical habitat management works. Prevent ground flora deterioration by controlling invasive Rhododendron. Undertake a regular bracken management programme to prevent build-up of Bracken litter layer and allow heathland species to develop. Undertake 5 yearly assessments, of heathland regeneration and bracken coverage, through flora surveys by monitoring the presence or absence of key plant communities.

Scrub Management

Undertake an annual programme of scrub management, using appropriate tools and equipment, to remove regenerating scrub . Undertake a thin of small woodland edge scrub, to provide a wavy edge scrub habitat and feeding areas for bats , birds and insects. Remove invasive rhododendron to prevent encroachment and damage to the heathland ground flora.

-Invasive rhododendron control by cutting - Annually during October
- Scrub management - Annually between 1st September and 31st January

Bracken Management

Undertake regular bracken management on the heathland areas to promote the regeneration of heathland species. This should be undertaken through a mix of bracken rolling/raking and litter stripping. The litter stripping will be undertaken every two years by hand or using a tractor mounted cut and collect and will remove the bracken litter layer to soil level, this will allow the heathland species to regenerate and will reduce the nutrient load on the heathland. This litter stripping should be done on a rotation to provide structural diversity. Bracken rolling/raking should be undertaken using techniques including hand raking, horse and roller or ATV and roller. Consideration should be given to the time of year this is undertaken and the presence of ground nesting birds.

Litter Stripping - Autumn/Winter -2024/25
- 2026/27
- 2028/29

Bracken rolling/raking - by hand or machinery - August/September annually.

The areas of heathland to be worked each year will be determined by annual work planning visits.

Heathland & Open Ground Habitat assessment

Undertake a 5 yearly habitat assessment of the heathland and open ground habitats and record species composition and abundance.- August 2024
- August 2029

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The 75.96 acre (30.74 hectares) woodland is predominantly a mixture of coniferous plantation and mature secondary woodland which is split between two distinctive areas, with the coniferous woodland predominantly focused in the southern half of the wood and the mature secondary woodland in the northern half of the wood. The northern section of the wood holds Compartment 5a and this area was given to the Woodland Trust under a long-term management agreement, by Sheringham Town Council, who purchased it from Anglian Water. The site also has some open ground areas which are a patchwork of heathland and grassland. Historically the site was less wooded and was dominated by a heath land and acid grassland mosaic, with scattered trees and woodland reminiscent of a heath wood pasture.

The woodland species on site consist of a mix of species including Corsican pine interspersed with areas of Douglas fir, Grand fir and Western hemlock and native broadleaf species Oak, Ash, Birch, Rowan, and naturalised Sycamore, Beech and Sweet Chestnut. The Corsican pine has signs of Dothistoma needle blight but has only caused minor issues on site. The Grand Fir has been susceptible to Honey fungus attack with a secondary infection of Ganoderma causing small clusters of grand fir to die back.

The flora within Old Wood is naturally diverse, with a mixture of heath land and woodland habitats. Although being predominantly secondary woodland there has been identified areas that are potentially remnant ancient woodland situated within the south-western part of the wood containing patches of Bluebells.

Significance

The site is a patchwork of different habitats in which the secondary woodland will provide a major part of the developing biodiversity and habitat present on site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

- Economically viable conifer crop
- ability to develop a diverse mixed age woodland through manipulation of light levels within the wood through natural regeneration.

Constraints

- Steeply undulating topography making it difficult to manage in parts of the wood.

Factors Causing Change

- Deer
- Ash dieback disease

- Tree disease including- Red Band Needle Blight , Acute Oak Decline

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Old Wood will be a structurally diverse broadleaf dominated secondary woodland managed through a mixture of natural regeneration and good silvicultural practices. The tree species in the wood will consist of primarily Oak, Birch, Beech Rowan, and Sweet Chestnut. Ash will still be a feature of the woodland and whilst being a small component of the woodland it will likely provide an element of the deadwood habitat for the wood, due to the effects of Ash dieback . Where appropriate the Ash will be left as standing or fallen deadwood .The areas where the Ash has died and opened up the canopy, will provide areas for ground flora and natural regeneration to flourish.

A coniferous element to the wood will be retained due to their historical importance within the landscape and will consist of predominantly Corsican pine.

The shrub component of the site will include species such as Hawthorn, Holly, Hazel , Blackthorn and Elder.

The ground flora will include some areas Bluebell as well as Honeysuckle, Bramble , Herb Robert, Wood Vetch and Ground ivy.

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

Undertake a selective thinning regime to provide favourable conditions, to allow natural regeneration to develop and further create a diverse age and tree species structure that will become more resilient to future pests and pathogens. This will focus on a 10-20% silvicultural thin of the conifers, which will be undertaken to lighten the canopy and promote the natural regeneration of native species ,as well as the development of existing regeneration. In the areas of broadleaf dominated woodland where there is a lack of natural regeneration, the thinning operation will focus on the break up the canopy to aid development of tree regeneration as well as focusing on Ash trees with Ash dieback adjacent to the footpaths . Deer exclosures will be erected in the thinned compartments to monitor the levels of regeneration and promote regeneration in the thinned blocks. A Habitat Impact Assessment will be undertaken to provide information on the levels of mammal browsing within the site and will provide a baseline for any required future management interventions.

Conifer Thinning

Compartments 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 4a, 4c - undertake a 10-20% thin focusing on the conifer compartments with a total area of 7.52ha.This thin will be undertaken to focus on the break up of the canopy and allow improved light conditions, which in turn will promote natural regeneration and allow existing tree regeneration to develop . When undertaking the harvesting works the aim should be to retain where feasible existing tree regeneration, standing deadwood and woodland understorey species. Harvesting works should also focus on removing the failing Grand Fir .

- Undertake conifer selective thin -Autumn Winter 2024/25

Broadleaf selective thin

Compartments 4b, 4d, 5a - Undertake a 10-20% thin of the broadleaf stand over an area of 2.33 ha, focusing on canopy thinning within the secondary broadleaf woodland . This will break up areas within the secondary woodland

compartments that have a single age class high forest canopy structure and allow natural regeneration to develop in the understorey. Retain standing deadwood where appropriate and woodland understorey species.

-Undertake broadleaf selective thin - Autumn/Winter 2024/25

Habitat Impact Assessment & Deer Exclosures

A habitat impact assessment should be undertaken to understand the browsing pressure within Old Wood. This assessment will provide baseline data of the browsing pressure within the wood and allow for the interpretation of the impacts of browsing pressure on the regeneration potential of Old Wood. This survey will also inform the locations for placement of deer exclosures within the wood.

-Undertake HIA lite survey - February 2024
- undertake Thermal survey - 2025

Installation of four 5m x 5m deer exclosures should be undertaken across Old Wood to allow the understorey to develop and monitor the development of the understorey in ungrazed plots. The two existing exclosures should be repaired and the regeneration monitored in these plots. Monitoring of the exclusion plots should be undertaken two years after installation.

-Installation of four exclosures and repair of two existing exclosures- Autumn Winter 2025/26
-Monitoring of exclusion plots- August 2027

Removal of Bamboo

A small area of Bamboo is present on the north Eastern Boundary of the site which should be removed to prevent further encroachment .

Bamboo removal- June 2025

Woodland Condition Monitoring

Undertake assessments of woodland health every five years, Works to be ordered through observation actions as required.

-Woodland Health Monitoring visit - July 2027

4.3 f3 Informal Public Access

Description

The site has over 5000 metres of permissive footpaths with an old medieval hollow way public footpath running north to south through the site see, Norfolk Historic Environment Record NHER Number:24267 The paths are a mix of surfaced and unsurfaced tracks with a boardwalk in a wetter area of the site. The paths in Old Wood also link directly to the paths in North Norfolk District council's Pretty Corner Wood, and the two organisations have shared signage and maps at the entrances to the sites to show the routes through both sites. The site hosts numerous benches around the site with some at key viewpoints giving a view of Sheringham Town and the North Sea. A small Woodland Trust provided, car park is located at the southern end of the site and provides space for up to four cars. In addition to the car park, there are also 4 pedestrian entrances located around the site with two on the northern boundar , one on the eastern boundary with Sheringwood and one off Holt Road at the south side of the site.

Significance

Old Wood is a key area of accessible woodland in the local area and provides important linkages to Pretty Corner Woods and Beeston Common. The site is adjacent to housing provision in the area and provides locals with opportunity to access green space and woodland close to their homes.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

-To work closely with North Norfolk District Council to develop access provision in the area
- to develop volunteering opportunities for the site

Constraints

- Steep topography that can be restrictive to some users of the site.
- differing organisational policies with regards to access

Factors Causing Change

-encroaching vegetation
-changes to North Norfolk District council department
- changes to neighbouring land holding.
- increased visitor numbers
- cycle damage
- the creation of a number of off-ride informal footpaths

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Public access will be maintained at the site to a good standard. A network of well managed paths, signs and other furniture will be provided allowing safe access for the public, together with public information and the provision of a small car park. . The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Sheringham and Beeston and the other immediately neighbouring parishes. The wood will continue to link to the local public footpath networks and the North Norfolk coastal path and will be part of the much

wider access provision in the area .

The medieval Hollow Way along the public footpath will be a feature of the site and provide a well managed example of this type of historic path.

The wood will be supported by the Woodland Trust's volunteer Woodland Wardens, providing a regular on site eyes and ears reporting role to the site manager. There will be opportunities for practical volunteering on the site through the usage of either a third party volunteering group

Old Wood is directly adjacent to the North Norfolk District Council site of Pretty Corner, and the Woodland Trust will maintain and develop the public partnership with the council to provide quality and engaging public access provision, across the two sites.

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

The 5000 m of Paths and rides are to be 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 .The wood will be welcoming with the entrances clearly signed and accessible.

Manage site safety through safety observations and 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 inspection - July 2028

Tree Safety surveys

-Zone A Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 12 months
-Zone B Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 24 months

Monitor the medieval hollow way for signs of damage and deterioration every two years July 2024, July 2026, July 2028.

Monitor impacts from cycle use on the site and review signage options to reduce impacts from cycle damage in the wood.

Review cycle signage- June 2024

Develop Partnership with North Norfolk District Council

Work with North Norfolk District Council to develop an agreed road map and implementation plan for access provision and information across the Pretty Corner and Old Wood sites, taking into account both organisations policies and visions.

- Initial meeting -October 2024

4.4 f4 Pond

Description
The wood also contains three ponds/reservoirs which were originally created when Anglian Water owned the site. These provide an additional biodiversity benefit to the site and host a variety of species of bird including Kingfisher and Moorhen as well as dragonflies and amphibians. These ponds cover 0.25 hectares of the site and are predominantly open ponds with some scrub on the fringes. Two of the ponds have small wooden platforms which provide visitors with the opportunity to view the pond and its wildlife up close
Significance
The ponds provide another diverse habitat within the site.Their close proximity render them ideal for natural colonisation and migration of species between ponds. They all have the potential to be of very high conservation value. They also provide the public with an area to view pond wildlife in the woodland setting.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities -to improve the pond edge habitat through good management practice - to improve the level of biodiversity within the wood. Constraints - wet nature of area means access can be difficult - limited historical information on water control structures on site
Factors Causing Change
- climate change - vandalism - scrub encroachment - invasive species
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The three ponds will be managed to provide a diverse habitat feature within Old Wood, with developed aquatic and pond edge habitat that will add to the overall patchwork of habitats within the site. The ponds will provide a wildlife interest for the public and two platforms will provide access to view species that use the ponds such as Dragonflies and Birds.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Maintain the existing viewing and pond dipping platforms for the enjoyment of the general public, undertake an annual safety inspection of the platforms and ponds and implement any remedial works .

Platform & Pond inspection- annually in November
Map existing Water control structures - January 2025

Develop the pond edge structure by coppicing the adjacent south facing trees to allow greater light levels to the ponds and promote potential development of woody scrub regeneration. This will be achieved by allowing natural regeneration development of woody scrub. Undertake a five yearly survey of pond edge vegetation to inform the vegetation management of the pond edges .

Pond edge survey - July 2024

Pond coppice works - September 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,	September
2024	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
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2025	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	January
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	6	Open ground	1960	Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Compartment 1a Heath land grassland areas containing Ling heather (Calluna vulgaris, Wavey hair grass (Deschampsia flexuosa) and Gorse (Ulex europaeus) present coverage varying greatly but main heath land species slowly spreading. The heath land and acid grassland areas were cleared of conifers in two stages in 2000 and 2005. in 2010 areas that were not manageable due to the site topography were allowed to naturally scrub up with tree regeneration. This mainly consists of Silver Birch, Rowan and Oak.						
2a	0.99	Corsican pine	1961	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Area of conifer plantation, Corsican pine with interspersed Douglas fir. Understorey dominated by bramble.						
2b	3.24	Mixed conifers	1961	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Conifer plantation, Consisting primarily of Corsican pine with Douglas Fir and Western hemlock, Understorey dominated by bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) with bramble (Rubus fruticosus) and male fern (Dyryopteris sp).						
2c	1.06	Mixed conifers	1966	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Conifer plantation on the higher areas of the ridge, planted with beech, larch and Scots pine. Has been heavily thinned previously Genarally very species poor ground flora, primarily bramble (Rubus fruticosus) and male fern (Dryopteris spp).						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
3a	0.53	Mixed native broadleaves	1962	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Area thought to be of ancient origin presently Coniforised with a high proportion of mixed broadleaves. Ground Flora includes Wood Millet (Milium effusum) and common twayblade (Listera ovata).						
4a	5.87	Mixed conifers	1962	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Conifer plantation, Grand and Douglas fir with Western hemlock and Corsican pine. A green lane runs through compartment leading down the slope towards Sheringham. Understorey dominated by bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) with bramble (Rubus fruticosus) male fern (Dyryopteris sp) with patches of wood sorrel (Oxalis acetosella) interspersed throughout the area.						
4b	0.93	Beech	1966	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Plantation, primarily Beech, scattered Scot's pine. Understorey dominated by bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) with bramble (Rubus fruticosus) male fern (Dyryopteris sp)						
4c	0.4	Mixed conifers	1961	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Conifer plantation, Douglas fir and Grand fir understorey contains bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) with bramble (Rubus fruticosus) male fern (Dyryopteris sp).						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
4d	0.38	Mixed broadleaves		Min-intervention	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Mainly broadleaf intersperse with some conifers main species sycamore and silver birch. Understorey contains bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) with bramble (Rubus fruticosus) male fern (Dyryopteris sp).						
5a	10.8	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	Archaeological features, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
Mature secondary woodland area main species being Sycamore, silver birch, sweet chestnut, oak, rowan, Understorey contains bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) with bramble (Rubus fruticosus) male fern (Dyryopteris sp), bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scriptus). Three ponds and a water channel are situated within the compartment.						

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.

Windblow/Windthrow
Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.