

Pound Farm

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



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

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Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Pound Farm

Location:	Great Glemham Grid reference: TM322630 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 156
Area:	89.72 hectares (221.70 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Pound Farm is a 90-hectare site in rural Suffolk that was created between 1990 to 1993 on boulder clay over chalk. It is set in a rolling landscape of arable farmland, small, isolated woodland, and hedgerows. The original design was intended to mirror the surrounding landscape with a patchwork of new tree planting to complement the existing mature woodland, scrub, and open meadows linked by hedgerows which has been successfully achieved since its creation. There is a small stream running through the site and a further 5 ponds.

The tree planted compartments are now flourishing with well established trees that now require the first phases of woodland management to be carried out. The more mature remnant blocks of ancient semi natural woodland including Broom Covert, support typical W8 Ash - Field Maple - Dog's Mercury type woodland and contains an impressive ground flora including bluebells and ransoms in the spring. These areas have a high percentage of ash canopy cover and with ash dieback having taken its toll on the trees, the area has been closed off to maintain visitor safety and allow natural processes to take their course. The open grasslands are managed as traditional hay meadows with the grass being cut and baled in late summer. This encourages wildflowers such as knapweed, ox-eye daisy, pyramidal orchids and vetches to bloom. Hedgerows and fringing scrub areas have developed into important habitats that support threatened nesting birds such as nightingale and turtle dove. The ponds and streams add aquatic interest to the site with great crested newts recorded in many of the ponds.

The site is close to the market town of Framlingham and several small Suffolk villages. It is a popular site for recreational walking and quiet enjoyment of wildlife without getting overly busy. At the main entrance there is a car park that can accommodate half a dozen cars, leading to a network of footpaths that radiate throughout the site allowing short walks and longer rambles throughout the entire site, linking into adjacent public footpaths on neighbouring land. Due to the heavy suffolk clay the site does become waterlogged in winter. In the middle of the site is a tree charter pole celebrating the theme of nature, serving as a good focal point in the heart of the woodlands and an opportunity to listen to singing nightingales and calling turtle doves close by.

Key features within site:

f1: Informal Public Access

f2: New Native Woodland

f3: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

f4: Open Ground Habitat

f5: Ponds

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term management of Pound Farm will continue to maintain and develop the patchwork of woodland, meadowland, hedges and scrub habitat that was created, whilst protecting the remnant ancient woodland within the site. This will be undertaken by diversifying the woodland tree species and age structures to mitigate the impacts of current and future pests and pathogens, such as ash dieback, so their potential impact can be reduced. This will develop and improve the woodlands overall resilience to future pests and pathogens that may arise in the future, whilst developing and improving its diversity and protect its key components. This will take into account all the different habitats associated with the woodland ecosystem, resulting in a diverse multi-structured high forest, maintaining the current valuable flora and fauna at level where they will not become threatened and placed in decline. Browsing damage is a serious threat to the resilience of the woodland and will be addressed with ongoing monitoring and management of deer populations.

Secondary woodland

The long-term vision will be for the areas of secondary woodland that have developed into a single structure plantation to be thinned over the coming years. This will help the woodland to develop into a multi-structured high forest canopy with a diverse variety of tree species and age classes, including understorey species, natural regeneration and deadwood habitat. This will also assist in tackling ash dieback within these compartments. Where areas of ash planting has declined then natural gaps will form allowing natural regeneration to occur.

Ancient Woodland

The main area of ancient woodland (Broom Covert) has been excluded from visitor access due to the unstable nature of the mature ash trees as a consequence of ash dieback disease. As the ash continues to decline, natural processes will be allowed to continue with the standing and falling deadwood becoming an important habitat component on site. Natural regeneration will also be encouraged through fencing and deer management. If natural processes are unsuccessful then underplanting will be considered for the future with native species indicative to the region to help develop greater tree species diversity and eventually age structure within this compartment.

Meadow and open ground habitat

The long term intention will be to maintain the current floristically diverse meadows and open ground within the wood, enriching the overall diversity of the site. The desired condition of the meadows and open ground will be to have floristically diverse meadows and rides with good scrubby edge habit. This will be achieved by annual cut and removal of arisings from the meadows, alongside the introduction of grazing into some compartments in the future. This will be dependant on securing grant funding through countryside stewardship.

Ponds

The ponds adjacent habitats will be managed so there is a constant mixture of scrub and open rough grass habitats on the edges whilst not over shading the water habitat. The ponds themselves should be free of excessive debris, weed and silt so may require occasional clearance. New ponds may also be created in other areas to maintain different successional phases of pond development.

Public access

The long-term intention for public access is to maintain a sustainable level of use by keeping paths mown and free

from obstacles in perpetuity. Access features, internal infrastructure, and the car park will be maintained to high standards to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience of the site. Retaining the area of Broom Covert (mature ash dominated woodland severely affected with ash dieback), and one section of open grassland/tree colonisation zones as closed to visitor access also provides areas for wildlife to thrive, undisturbed by human presence. It is unlikely that further closures of areas affected by ash dieback will be required as the ash are much younger elsewhere on site and pose minimal threat to visitor safety.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description

The majority of the site is open to the public and is well signposted on the roadside with brown tourist signs off the B1119 leading to a hard surface car park with space for 10 cars. There are three pedestrian entrances with kissing gates situated at either end of a PROW and a new entrance situated in the south eastern corner of the site linking to the adjacent landowners permissive path network. A large interpretation board is situated adjacent to the main car park. There is an extensive network of footpaths and rides accessing the majority of the site with seating interspersed throughout the site. A full lap of the sites footpaths covers approximately 4km, shorter routes of 2km are also easily accessed.

There is a 'Tree Charter' pole located in the heart of the site, acting as a focal point and reference to the celebration of the Tree Chartership. The pole was installed in 2018 and is one of 11 Tree Charter poles located around the UK. They were crafted from Grown in Britain oak from the Crown Estate, carved by artist Simon Clements at the Sylva Wood Centre. Each pole has their own individual theme, this one being a celebration of 'Nature'.

Pound farm has an extensive network of wide rides that support a good variety of species associated with open ground and woodland verge. These include cowslips, primrose, ragged robin and pyramidal orchid and birds foot trefoil being the most notable. The rides are managed with the centres being cut on a regular basis, whilst the verges are cut once annually to allow rough grass habitat. The woodland ride edges are also coppiced on a 5-6 year rotation to maintain a good edge scrub and also to stop the rides from shading over and degrading the floristic diversity they offer to the site.

The area of Broom Covert which has a high percentage of dead/dying ash trees will remain closed to public access, alongside two areas of grassland/transitional tree habitat, both allowing space for wildlife to remain undisturbed from visitor pressures.

Significance

Pound Farm provides free, publicly accessible greenspace in what is otherwise a largely inaccessible agricultural landscape. Alongside this is its diversity of habitats, outlined earlier, which gives rise to considerable wildlife interest. There are various notable bird and wildflower species on site, including nightingale, turtle doves, barn owl and pyramidal orchid; the ponds allow a range of dragon and damselflies to thrive, and the rides and grass walkways are perfect for butterflies during spring and summer.

A stone's throw from Pound Farm is Queen Mary's Covert, which has some interesting historical significance. A suggested walking route currently links the two sites.

Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities. The large open meadows provide opportunities for picnicking and other appropriate informal recreation. The sections of the site where visitor access is not permitted creates spaces where wildlife can flourish undisturbed from visitor pressures.</p> <p>Constraints. Due to the soils within Pound farm during the winter months the site becomes very muddy and waterlogged in places and parts of the site are harder to access. A narrow footbridge restricts access to the southern end of the site. The car park is limited to approximately 10 cars which also restricts visitor numbers. It is unlikely that Pound Farm will become a destination site within this region of Suffolk as there the larger coastal nature reserves such as Minsmere and Dunwich which are more popular visitor destinations for longer walks/tourism.</p>
Factors Causing Change
Antisocial behaviour and vandalism.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Native broadleaved woodland with open public access for visitors to enjoy, with some areas where access is restricted to benefit wildlife. As a important greenspace locally, the access, interpretation, network of paths and infrastructure will be maintained to a high standard.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>Maintain site as an area of public open access, with ride system cut to a minimum of 4 times per year to a width of up to 1.5m and a final double width 4m cut. Maintain all paths obstacle free to allow unhindered access to the public. Maintain all internal structures in a safe usable condition.</p> <p>Work Program</p> <p>Undertake approximately 300m of ride side coppicing along main rides periodically during September- October. Cut back up to 3 metres from ride edge with all coppice waste to be stacked neatly at the back of the cut coppice area at the woodland edge.</p> <p>2024– 2029 Annual path cutting May, June, July, August 1.5 m path cut in centre of ride. September final full width 3m path cut.</p> <p>2025 - Replace ageing restrictive footbridge with a culvert.</p>

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description
Approximately 60 hectares of native broadleaved woodland was planted from 1990 to 1993. The main species planted were common ash, pedunculate oak, hornbeam, field maple, small leaved lime, wild cherry and silver birch, with hazel, common hawthorn, dog rose and spindle as ride edge and understorey species. The planting was undertaken in single

species blocks of 25 to 50 trees and this has created single species groups within the secondary woodland. The majority of the secondary woodland has reached maturity.

Ash dieback has led to a steady decline in the health and vitality of the ash component within the planted woodland areas. Ash was a major part of the secondary woodland taking up around 30% of the species mix and also being the dominant species naturally regenerating. Some ash has been thinned out, whilst some will be retained as deadwood habitats and glade creation.

As to be expected there are few specialist woodland ground flora species within the secondary woodland areas. More common flora species can be found in areas of open canopies alongside remnant arable weeds and bramble. Natural tree regeneration is dispersed throughout the secondary woodland areas, but it is lacking within areas of heavy canopy shade. The main tree species which are regenerating shadows the original planting mix, but common ash is by far the most profuse with pedunculate oak and field maple developing within localised groups. Hornbeam and wild cherry dispersed in small numbers mainly to the southern end of the site where the main planting density of these species.

Significance

The scale of the planting in the context of rural Suffolk is what makes it of key importance. The planting has developed into a well structured habitat providing valuable habitat for threatened bird species such as turtle dove and nightingale.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities - The size of Pound Farm has given The Woodland Trust the opportunity to maintain and diversify different stands within the site. There is a good opportunity to use Pound Farm as an example of successful tree planting schemes that complement the surrounding landscape. Areas of the site can be managed for wood fuel and timber management, hand in hand with wildlife conservation.

Constraints – populations of deer on, and off site. Continued browsing of natural regeneration. .
Ash dieback has significantly affected all common ash within the site. There is most significant canopy decline and complete death in Broom Covert. Some ash regeneration survives, but the majority succumbs to the disease after a while.

Factors Causing Change

Deer browsing and ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To manage Pound Farm, maintaining and enhancing the structural diversity and resilience of the secondary woodland to future pests and pathogens' through promoting natural regeneration of as many native tree species creating a structurally and species diverse woodland, with diverse standing and laying deadwood habitat. The upper canopies will be dominated with mixes of oak, cherry, lime and hornbeam. Understories will be comprised of mixes of hazel, field maple and other shrub species.

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

Continuation of a selective thinning regime to begin to manipulate the canopy structure to provide favourable conditions to allow natural regeneration to develop and begin to create a diverse age and tree species structure that

will be more resilient to future pests and pathogens. This will be undertaken over the current plan period and beyond. Common ash where possible will be retained but where there are concentrations these will be thinned. In other areas the mature ash will be left to decline and become a source of deadwood habitat, unless it will become a potential future tree safety issue.

Deer monitoring and seasonal culling will continue throughout the plan period and beyond to reduce browsing pressure on developing natural regeneration within the secondary woodland.

Work Programme

2024-28 Deer control management.

2024– 25. Undertake deer browsing survey and adjust deer cull numbers accordingly on level of browsing damage caused by deer on the secondary woodland components.

2024-28 Continuation of 20-25% canopy thinning within the secondary woodland compartments of approximately 7 hectares within the planned period to break up areas of the secondary woodland component that have single age class high forest canopy structure and allow natural regeneration to develop in the understory. Retain where feasible common ash, standing deadwood and woodland understory species.

4.3 f3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

There are two small semi-natural ancient woodland copses of 2 hectares, and one mature woodland block, Broom Covert, being the largest at 5.3 hectares. The canopies of both ancient woodlands are dominated by common ash, making up to 80-90% of the species mix in places, with field maple and pedunculate oak making up the rest of the species. Hazel, hawthorn and some elm make up the understorey species. Elm features most in the smaller copses of woodland.

Previous management comprised of coppicing, and it is estimated that it has not been coppiced since just after the second world war. The structure of the ancient woodland copses has developed to high forest and has lost much of its coppice structure and is predominantly a single age structure. The understorey varies greatly in density but is as a whole very suppressed. Overall there is a lack of natural regeneration due to ash dieback, deer browsing and shading. However, there are some patches where mature ash has either died or is declining that has created gaps in the canopy allowing light to reach the woodland floor. In these areas, if it escapes deer pressures, there is some evidence of natural regeneration becoming successful, but this is very localised.

Ground flora is not especially diverse and is dominated by dogs mercury, but there is also wood anemone, primrose, lesser celandine and red campion present. There is a good deadwood component both standing and laying within the ancient woodland.

Significance

Ancient woodland is very important within the context of such a large woodland creation site. It provides a seed bank for ancient woodland species, habitat for wildlife and a focal point in the landscape.

<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p>
<p>Opportunities - The size of Pound Farm has given The Woodland Trust the opportunity to create different stands within the site.</p> <p>There is a good opportunity to use the site as a example of best practice regarding managing a site for wildlife, wood fuel and timber management.</p> <p>Constraints – significant number of deer within the site (and off site) have impacted on the natural regeneration/colonisation within the wood.</p> <p>Ash dieback has significantly affected most common ash within the site, causing significant canopy decline, and also in many cases complete death. Ash regeneration has been severely affected in longevity, failing to establish and unlikely to survive to seed bearing age.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<p>Browsing damage from deer.</p> <p>Ash dieback.</p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>
<p>Manage the ancient woodland component of Pound Farm so that there is a diverse age and species structure with abundant understorey species, deadwood habitat, developing natural regeneration and ground flora. This can be achieved in part by observing for and protecting other tree species with the use of fencing/genguards and continued deer management. The higher canopy is unlikely to have much ash surviving amongst it in the future. Other species that might be expected to come in through regeneration include aspen, willow and, birch as they are all locally present, particularly within Broom covert. Shrub layers are likely to be dominated by field maple, hawthorn and blackthorn, again as they exist locally already. Diversification through planting would be beneficial to introduce species absent from these blocks such as hornbeam, wild service, lime and other lower canopy species.</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p>
<p>Monitor the progression of the decline in ash stability and regeneration of other tree species. If natural regeneration is looking unlikely, consider alternative methods of fencing/genguards, and, under planting with native tree species to diversify the range of native tree species within ancient woodland to develop and create a diverse age and tree species structure that will more resistant to future pests and pathogens. Under planting will be planted in random densities and species densities will be randomly dispersed, possibly facilitated by natural and assisted canopy gap formation.</p> <p>Annual deer monitoring and culling will continue within the plan period and further, to reduce browsing pressure on developing natural regeneration and ground flora within the ancient woodland.</p> <p>Work Programme</p> <p>2024. Undertake herbivore impact assessment to inform deer cull numbers. Monitor the already installed genguards and compare growth to surrounding vegetation. Move and adjust as required.</p>

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4.4 f4 Open Ground Habitat

<p>Description</p> <p>26.59 hectares of meadowland were created in 1992 using native seed mixes made up of red fescue, smooth stalked meadow grass, sheep's fescue, small-leaved timothy, sweet vernal grass and wildflowers (oxeye daisy, meadow buttercup, birds foot trefoil, salad burnet, black medick, ribwort plantain, selfheal, yarrow). The quality of meadowland varies greatly throughout the site with the most diverse being situated in the east of the site.</p> <p>Another 8 hectares (previously leased to Forest Research for ash trials) can now be included as a mosaic of open grassland areas with encroaching scrub and tree colonisation. There is opportunity to allow colonisation to continue with additional planting to increase the tree cover in these areas.</p> <p>Bordering the areas of open ground 4,200 metres of hedging (70% hawthorn, 20% blackthorn and 10% field maple, hazel, dogwood and spindle) have been planted. 70% of the planted hedge have been laid and are now cut annually or biannually. Remnants of existing hedgerows have been retained where possible and are not cut or laid and are left to develop as valuable scrub habitat.</p>
<p>Significance</p> <p>It is important to have open space within the context of a woodland creation site in order to diversify the varieties of different habitats, biodiversity and for public enjoyment.</p> <p>Hedgerows are crucial for wildlife - they link features, providing corridors between habitat islands. They are also valuable in providing shelter from wind and rain and are important in breaking up the landscape visually.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p> <p>Opportunities - Preserving the open ground habitats serves to maintain the link into the surrounding landscape. There is an opportunity to develop the planted hedgerows as a valuable habitat and wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Constraints - Encroaching scrub which forms a really valuable transitional habitat for nightingale and turtle dove, does periodically require management to keep in check the growth and maintain the ideal nesting habitats.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p> <p>Rank grass species out competing wildflowers. Risk of wildfire. Noxious weeds (creeping thistle and ragwort)</p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>

Continue to provide a floristically diverse open ground habitat within Pound farm by continuing to manage the meadows on a annual hay cutting regime, whilst providing abundant edge scrub and managed hedgerows that provide a further element to the sites habitat biodiversity. To complement the established hay cutting regime, conservation grazing should be implemented on some of the meadows (approx. 5ha) provided funding can be secured to pay capital costs for fencing and other associated costs.

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

Maintain the open ground habitat structure and diversity in accordance with traditional meadow management techniques to maintain a structured and diverse meadow habitat. Cutting Meadows annually and removing cuttings from site, verges as per cutting regime either cut bi-annually or left to develop scrub habitat. Introduce hay rattle to the grassland areas to reduce the vigour of grass species. Control levels of ragwort.

Continue to improve hedge structure through the periodic laying/coppicing of the planted hedges to maintain thick habitat structures.

Work Programme

2024-29 Cut and bale annually open grassland areas. Remove cutting from site – September

2024-29 Cut annually all internal and roadside hedges - October - November

2024-29 Lay approx 500m of hedge

4.5 f5 Pond

Description

Five ponds have been restored on the site - one was already established and the other four have been dug out. All created ponds have good edge vegetation and scrub, all are not over shaded and hold water throughout the summer and have good biodiversity in aquatic invertebrates, edge ground flora with pyramidal orchid, bee orchid, common spotted orchid, cowslip, primrose and birds foot trefoil present in varying densities around the pond verges. Great crested newts were present during survey in 2003 but there has been little evidence of activity of them since. One other ghost pond has been identified on site.

The pond closest to the car park has an invasive pond weed *Crassula helmsii*. This pond has been fenced off since 2003 and has stopped any spread to the other ponds. With the invasive pond weed being contained there has been no attempt to remove it due to the likely hood that it could not be fully removed without damaging the other components of the pond.

Significance

The ponds provide another habitat on the site increasing its biodiversity. 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 are also of interest to the public and since they have been dug out on the site of previous ponds they provide a link to the historic landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities - Most of the existing ponds have developed a good aquatic structure and bankside vegetation assemblage. Periodic maintenance of the existing ponds creates different successional stages, alongside creation of new ponds and restoration of a ghost pond will continue to develop this element of the site and represent a marginally larger percentage of land covering which would benefit many wildlife species.

Constraints - In 2003 there was found within one of the created ponds New Zealand stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*), which is an invasive exotic pond weed. Although contained within the single pond it is possible that it could spread to the others.

Disturbance by dogs.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Pond Weed, fish being introduced, succession and desiccation.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain all ponds as a diverse habitat feature within Pound Farm, with diverse aquatic and pond edge habitat that will add to the overall range of diverse habitats within the site. Restore ghost pond and create new ones away from visitor pressure.

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

Continue to develop pond verge/edge structure by increasing the percentage woody scrub and rough grass habitat. This will be achieved by increasing existing pond verge/edge scrub by allowing areas to develop naturally as woody scrub by increasing existing pond edge structure by 50%, through natural regeneration or if unsuccessful, planting.

Maintain fencing around pond that contains *Crassula helmsii* so it continues to be isolated from the general public or any other users that could potentially spread the invasive pond weed to the other ponds.

Work Programme.

2024 Maintain existing ponds, restore ghost pond and create two new ones.

2028-Partially clear vegetation from existing ponds to slow down succession.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	February
2025	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	February
2024	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	March
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	June
2025	AW - Management Access Capital	Works associated with installing new or replacement management access infrastructure. Such as management access gates, vehicle bridges, fencing and surfacing works.	July
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2025	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	September
2025	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	September
2025	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls etc	October
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	October
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	June

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	August
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2026	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	September
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	October
2026	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	October
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	June
2027	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	September
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	58.57	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	High forest		
<p>Native broadleaved woodland was planted in 1990 - 93 under the Farm Woodland Scheme and Woodland Grant Scheme. Species include pedunculate oak, ash, field maple, wild cherry, small-leaved lime, silver birch, Downy birch, alder, hornbeam, hazel, hawthorn, midland hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle and holly. The trees were planted in nine different stands according to soil types - ash-maple; hazel-ash; ash-lime; oak-lime; birch-oak; alder; hornbeam; oak pasture; hornbeam pasture. Trees were planted at 1100 per hectare and protected by spiral rabbit guards with a deer fence around the whole site. In 1997 and 1999 formative pruning was carried out.</p> <p>Wide rides were incorporated into the design and sown with a native grass mix (crested dog's tail, red fescue, meadow fescue, common bent, meadow foxtail, meadow barley, quaking grass) including 1% wildflowers (yarrow, black knapweed, ladies bedstraw, ox-eyed daisy, birds foot trefoil, ragged robin, ribwort plantain, primrose, cowslip, meadow buttercup, yellow rattle, sheep's sorrel, meadow saxifrage, white campion, betony).</p> <p>4,200 metres of hedging (70% hawthorn, 20 % blackthorn and 10% field maple, hazel, dogwood and spindle) were planted with protection and mulching around many of the compartment blocks. Four ponds are included in this compartment - one is an established pond and the other three have been dug out on the site of old ponds.</p> <p>The woodland compartments have now established and formed closed canopy in places, though the effect of ash dieback has created some openings. Hedgerows are now mature and support a variety of birdlife.</p>						
2a	4.56	Ash		High forest		
<p>Ancient woodland comprising ash, oak, field maple, sycamore, hazel, elm, hawthorn and elder with dog's mercury as the dominant ground flora species. Broom Covert shows evidence of past coppicing and has a path running through it with a small bridge.</p> <p>The mature ash is now steadily declining with ash dieback and has been left to natural causes.</p>						
3a	26.59	Open ground	1990	Non-wood habitat	Legal issues	
<p>Meadows were planted with grass and 2% wildflower seed in 1992 under the Countryside Premium Scheme. The grass species include red fescue, smooth-stalked meadow grass, sheep's fescue, small-leaved timothy and sweet vernal grass and the wildflowers include ox-eyed daisy, meadow buttercup, birds foot trefoil, salad burnet, black medick, ribwort plantain, selfheal and yarrow. For wildlife purposes some areas are cut and baled, others are cut</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>biannually and others are left uncut. Long term in would be beneficial to graze some of these grassland compartments. One restored pond is included in this compartment.</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.

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