

Corner Copse

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

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

Appendix 1: Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

MAP

1. SITE DETAILS

Corner Copse

Location:	Ifold	Grid	reference:	TQ023305	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	186
Area:	1.70 hectares (4.20 acres)								
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Corner Copse is a 1.7ha section of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) in Ifold, West Sussex. The site sits within the Lowland Weald National Character Area (NCA), principally characterised by its bedrock of Weald Clay with broad, low-lying, undulating clay vales and outcrops of limestone and sandstone. This landscape is generally dominated by agriculture and livestock pasture, with 16% total woodland cover, of which 49% is designated ASNW. Three miles to the north-east of Corner Copse is the Chiddingfold Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated as such for being the largest oak woodland on Weald Clay and for its significant butterfly and moth populations, including the wood white butterfly. The SSSI includes another Woodland Trust site, Durfold Wood, a 17.56ha ASNW.

Reflective of the NCA, Corner Copse is immediately surrounded by pastoral grazing and scrub with old established hedgerows to the south and east, a small block of woodland with fishing ponds to the west and the village of Ifold (population of c.1,898) to the north. Foxbridge Lane, a scout hut and a private cottage form the west boundary, with Plaistow Road forming the north and wood banks forming the boundaries to the east and south.

The majority of the copse is reflective of the traditional 'coppice with standards' silvicultural management system with its oak dominated canopy and hazel understorey, gradually merging to well-established high forest towards the northern end. Other tree and shrub species include rowan, birch, wild service, blackthorn, dog rose, elder, field maple, hawthorn, hazel, holly and hornbeam with natural birch regeneration. The southern boundary merges into thick blackthorn hedges extending beyond the boundary bank, ditch and fence, providing a woodland edge wildlife corridor.

Bluebells are abundant in spring, with a variety of other ground flora present including lords and ladies, herb bennet, enchanter's nightshade, with occasional bramble and rosebay willow herb patches and betony, cinquefoil, self-heal and bugle on open edges.

There is a single unsurfaced permissive path of approximately 240m through the copse, from Foxbridge Lane to Plaistow Road, with entrances at both ends, including management access and an unsurfaced layby with parking for up to three cars adjacent to the Foxbridge Lane entrance.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In the long-term (50 years plus) Corner Copse will continue to be characterised by its canopy of pedunculate oak with mixed native broadleaves including hornbeam, aspen, birch and field maple and a dominant hazel understorey with native shrubs including hawthorn, holly and elder, with abundant ancient and mixed woodland ground flora.

As the wood is small in scale, the surrounding land provides the diversity of habitat (e.g. open space, other woodland types, watercourses, scrub and hedgerows) that Corner Copse alone cannot provide. Therefore, Corner Copse can function and be managed predominantly as a component of a wider mixed landscape and does not need to provide an extensive variety of habitats.

The canopy will evolve largely through natural processes, with minimal silvicultural intervention (e.g. ride-side coppicing) to supplement these processes where feasible and beneficial, as determined by a 5-yearly woodland ecological condition assessment. Consequently, the wood will have varying stages of scrub succession, temporary open space on ride edges, and areas of minimum or non-intervention to support both woodland edge communities and old-growth habitat niches in the understorey.

Re-stocking following any felling or natural loss of trees will be by natural regeneration, unless supplementary planting is a mandatory requirement for contractual or legal reasons (e.g. felling licence, grant, statutory plant health notice).

Herbivore impact (e.g. deer browsing) will not be preventing succession and establishment of native trees and understorey from natural regeneration, or resulting in significant losses of established trees (e.g. by ring-barking from squirrels) following appropriate assessment and management to prevent a detrimental impact, if required.

Dead or dying trees will only be felled if they pose a safety risk and where possible the resulting wood will be stacked within the wood to increase dead wood habitat. Where dead trees do not pose a safety risk they will be left to provide valuable standing deadwood habitat.

The wood will remain free of invasive non-native species.

Entrances and footpaths will be maintained to provide access for visitors.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	August
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	August
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	September
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2029	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

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.7	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Oak/hazel with hornbeam, birch, wild service, field maple, rowan, blackthorn, elder, field maple, hawthorn, holly and rare ash. Mixed ASNW and general woodland ground flora including bluebells, lords and ladies, herb bennet, wood avens, vetches, greater stitchwort, forget-me-not, St John's wort spp. primrose, sedge spp, lesser celandine, mosses, nettle, enchanter's nightshade, betony, cinquefoil, self-heal, foxglove and bugle. Occasional bramble and rosebay willow herb patches.						

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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