

Kingstree Wood

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

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

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

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Informal Public Access
 - 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Kingstree Wood

Location:	Kineton	Grid	reference:	SP323518	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	151
Area:	3.42 hectares (8.45 acres)								
External Designations:	Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines								
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Kingstree Wood is a 3.4ha woodland creation site planted in November 1999. It was planted on former pasture as part of the Woodland Trust Woods On Your Doorstep initiative to celebrate the Millennium. The woodland name was given after a high donation towards the wood by Judith Kingstree. The site lies off Warwick Road (B4080) at Pittern Hill, just under 1 mile NW of Kineton, Warwickshire. Hawthorn hedges surround the elevated site, which lies between the mature native woodland Brick Kiln Coppice to the west and a newly planted woodland to the east. The main structure of an 18th century windmill can be seen from the site 200m to the SE at Windmill Farm.

The woodland has been planted with native trees such as oak, silver birch, rowan and ash making up the majority of the species, along with alder, ash and downy birch being more prominent in the damper SW quarter of the site. The shrub layer on ride edges consist of sallow, hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, wayfaring-tree and guelder-rose. Due to the age of the stands there is currently minimal understory in the woodland and very little ground flora other than grasses, mosses and coarse vegetation such as bramble. There is also very little regeneration of tree species, again due to the age of the woodland. Deer browsing has been noted in the far northern corner of the site however due to the low levels it has had little effect on the establishment of the planted trees. Five walnut trees planted as a Millennium Feature can be found to the eastern corner of the site where there is also a bench providing a place for visitors to rest and enjoy their surroundings.

A circular unsurfaced path can be found around the site leading from an impressive fenced entrance which includes a gate for the less able and an information board. The path widens into open glades which cover approximately 15% of the site and provides nice 'surprise' features when rounding the steeply winding paths. These can be quite damp and soft under foot during wetter months.

Key features for the site include Informal Public Access and New Native Woodland as briefly outlined above and further information for which can be found in section 5.0: Key Features.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The future aim for Kingstree Wood is as a structurally and species diverse native broadleaved woodland. There will be a mix of species, ages and structures within the wooded areas.

Now that the initial establishment period is over, the woodland will be allowed to develop naturally as far as possible, only intervening when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes in accordance with the Woodland Trusts Management Approach. Ride-side coppicing and removal of shrub encroachment will be likely, to maintain/improve public access and to mimic natural processes and create a variety of structures and habitats. A silvicultural thin will also likely be deemed appropriate following an inventory/mensuration of the site and to improve tree development, promote regeneration and potentially improve safety (through the promotion of more robust trees). We will also carry out essential work such as tree safety and access operations as prompted through the completion of trees safety inspections and key feature observations.

Paths will be cut and the entrance maintained so as to allow easy access. Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly. Public safety will be assessed regularly and tree safety inspections within the site made once the trees are mature. Paths and boundaries are areas for review, based on the level of use. The walnuts forming the millennium feature will need formative and high pruning as they mature, so they stand out as important, more formal trees.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
<p>Open public access is available over the whole site for quiet recreational use. In addition, there are roughly 600m of grass paths forming a circular route within the woodland. The grass is regularly mown to keep the paths clear and well defined.</p> <p>The entrance is suitable for wheelchair entry and the relatively flat nature of the ground would make further access around the site possible when the ground is firm. An information board is available to visitors here.</p>
Significance
<p>Kingstree Wood is the result of community co-operation in raising funds, assisting with the design and with the planting. It therefore has 'ownership' by this community who continue to provide input and enjoy the resource provided.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>The site is fairly small and there are no official direct path links to surrounding land. However there are a number of unofficial entrances including a stile from 3rd party land along the boundaries of the site. A surfaced footpath from Kinton extends much of the way towards Pittern Hill and a bridlepath passes through Windmill farm to the east.</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>Damage to site from unauthorised 3rd party access points. Encroachment of scrub (particularly blackthorn) onto pathways.</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>Open access will be retained throughout the whole of the site. The 600m of grass paths and entrances will be cut during the summer months to keep them clear and well defined and any trees/shrubs encroaching onto the site path will be scheduled into the work program to be regularly removed. Cyclical ride side coppicing will take place to keep access open, benefit visitor safety (by preventing stools from becoming overmatured) and to create a mixed structure across the site. Welcome signs and an information board will be maintained for visitors use at the entrance. Regular inspections will be made to check the visitor facilities.</p>
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>Mow internal paths three times each year to a minimum of 2 metres width (4m in late summer/autumn) and trim around entrances and signs. Carry out ride edge coppicing to maintain public access and habitat improvements where deemed beneficial through KF</p>

and Woodland Condition observations.

Monitor the use of unofficial entrances and the impact on the condition of the woodland.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description
<p>Trees have been planted in curved rows, 2.1 x 2.1m apart. They were protected by 75cm spiral guards. Trees have been planted into some quite large groups of single species, which tends to improve tree development and attraction to wildlife. Herbicide was used to control weeds around each tree station. The site was a grass ley prior to planting and this has led to few annual weed problems. The site had a five year establishment contract until the end of 2004.</p> <p>The site is almost opposite the semi-natural woodland Brick Kiln Coppice. It has also had a new broadleaf woodland planted to the east running towards Windmill Farm.</p> <p>The roadside hedge is quite mature and includes a substantial amount of elm. Some of the larger stems have become infected by Dutch elm disease and subsequently died back. The hedge has been included into the Zone A tree safety inspection due to its proximity to the road and is to be assessed every 24 months to prevent a hazards to road users.</p>
Significance
<p>The woodland will become an important landmark feature, falling as it does on top of a hill in an essentially open, arable landscape. It will also provide an important addition to the local green network, sitting between the existing mature woodland opposite and the new wooded site to the east.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>The size of the woodland means that it will always have a strong 'edge effect'. The value to wildlife remains high and is enhanced by the existing and new woodlands adjacent.</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>Pests and disease - Chalara/Ash dieback could pose a significant threat to areas where Ash has been planted as a single species.</p> <p>Increased browsing pressure.</p> <p>Overcrowding of planted trees, causing poor growth and safety issues.</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>Creating a resilient native broadleaf woodland, with a graded edge habitat of no less than 3.44ha. Promote diverse structure and species, through beneficial thinning, coppicing and promotion of natural regeneration. Preserving the group of walnut trees as a millennium feature.</p>
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>Inspect the woodland for any unexpected or undesirable changes that would affect the sites ability to continue establishing as a broadleaved native woodland.</p> <p>Assess condition of Walnut trees to see whether there is any requirement to carry out any require formative and high pruning.</p> <p>Assess hedge via zone A tree safety inspections, keeping trees clear of the highway and making safe where necessary.</p>

Promote a diversity of structure through cyclical ride-edge coppicing/pollarding of hazels and willows, providing browsing impacts are not detrimental to regrowth.

Monitor browsing levels across the site, encouraging natural regeneration of trees and shrubs.

A matrix thin may be deemed required/beneficial, following mensuration of the site.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	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	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December
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	December
2027	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	December
2027	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	3.44	Ash		Coppice		
<p>Compartment 1 covers the whole of Kingstree Wood where trees were planted in Nov 1999 into an established grassland ley. The boundaries are all thorn hedgerows and are now beginning to grow tall on all sides. A circular path winds around within the wood and widens to form three open glades. Trees are planted at 2.1m centres in gentle curves and were individually protected against rabbits, some deer browsing is occurring at the northern end however</p>						

Ancient Woodland

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

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

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

Ancient Woodland Site

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

Beating Up

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

Broadleaf

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

Canopy

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

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

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

Conifer

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

Continuous Cover forestry

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

Coppice

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

Exotic (non-native) Species

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

Field Layer

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

Group Fell

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

Long Term Retention

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

Minimum Intervention

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

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

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

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

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

Origin & Provenance

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

Re-Stocking

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

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

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

Sub-Compartment

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

Thinning

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

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

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

Weeding

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

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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