

John's Wood

(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. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Informal Public Access
 - 4.2 f2 New Native Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

John's Wood

Location:	Coveney	Grid	reference:	TL491823	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	143
Area:	0.76 hectares (1.88 acres)								
External Designations:	Area of Special Control, Cambridgeshire Woodland Fund								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

A small broadleaved woodland within the Cambridgeshire village of Coveney. The dominant trees species are ash and oak, with a minor component of field maple, willow, elm, hazel and hawthorn.

The wood was planted entirely by the local community in January of 1995 on a grass field. The design is simple yet has used the existing local landscape to good effect to provide the nearby village of Coveney with a place to walk and experience a woodland habitat, in a heavily managed arable landscape. A single grass path loops around the site approximately 10m in from the boundary taking the visitor from the single entrance point in the west to a small grass glade on the eastern edge of the wood where views of Ely cathedral can be enjoyed.

The village and the wood are situated on a small rise of chalk and glacially derived clay in the generally flat modern fenland landscape.

The wood is named after John Fyfe Chairman of the Coveney Parish Council for many years

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Johns Wood will be allowed to develop through natural process and good silvicultural management, into a well structured and resilient native broadleaved woodland.

The Woods dominant tree species will be Oak and Field Maple with a supporting species mix of Ash, Elm and Willow

Ash will still be a component of the site, but will provide the important feature of, standing and fallen deadwood habitat within the wood due to Ash Dieback. The areas where the Ash have died and opened up the canopy, will provide areas for ground flora and natural regeneration to flourish, and provide an understorey layer.

The shrub component of the site will include species such as Hazel, Hawthorn, and Blackthorn alongside other regenerating species

The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Low key public access will be maintained at the site and the paths, signs and other furniture that allows safe access for the public will be maintained in good order. The wood is primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Coveney and the other immediately neighbouring parishes. The wood will be part of the much wider access provision in the area

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
<p>John's wood was planted as part of the Cambridgeshire Woodland Fund project. Local people were involved in the fundraising, design, planting and maintenance. There was a great deal of community involvement at the inception of the wood. Within easy walking distance of the village of Coveney it is accessible from the village main street via an old drove road.</p> <p>There are 250m of paths throughout the site and a small open glade near the eastern boundary. The wood is well used for quite enjoyment and is close enough to be accessible to most people in the village.</p>
Significance
<p>The wood was very much a product of the local community's interest in creating woodland resource. There is very little woodland of any kind in the locality, the nearest being approximately 4 miles away in Ely. There is no woodland open for free public access within 10km's other than a neighbouring Woodland Trust site at Haddenham.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a very small wood which limits the wood's interest to those living in the immediate vicinity- No public rights of way immediately linking the wood to the wider countryside <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Community support for the wood could be developed and in the future this could enable the wood to be self managed by a local community group
Factors Causing Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- vandalism- fly tipping- Ash dieback
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>The woodland will be open to the public in perpetuity. Low key public access will be maintained at the site and the paths, signs and other furniture that allows safe access for the public will be maintained in good order. The wood is</p>

primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Coveney and the other immediately neighbouring parishes. The wood will be part of the much wider access provision in the area.

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

The 250m 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 viewpoint to Ely Cathedral will be reestablished and maintained, by regular coppicing of trees and scrub .

Reestablish viewpoint- Autumn 2027

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 - August 2030

- August 2035

Tree Safety surveys

-Zone B Tree Safety Inspections to be carried out every 36 months

4.2 f2 New Native Woodland

Description

A young native woodland planted in 1995. It is composed of mixed broadleaved woodland and dominated by oak and ash with a variety of shrubs and other trees including willow, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, and some elm which was once common place in Cambridgeshire. The design also compliments the existing hedge and scrub areas adjacent to the site and includes a grassy paths and an open glade. Planted at a wide spacing on good soils the wood has developed very well in spite of its small size. There are well-established hedges of hawthorn around much of the perimeter of the wood with a few mature trees in the southern boundary hedge. There has been some natural colonisation of the wood by the bramble and hawthorn from the surrounding hedges and some natural regeneration of ash. The trees within the planting have mostly thrived within the protection of the surrounding hedge. The wood slopes gently down to the east and is on a calcareous clay soil.

Significance

Cambridgeshire is one of the least wooded counties in England and this part of Cambridgeshire is one of the least wooded districts. The wood therefore makes a valuable semi-natural contribution to this intensively managed landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

<p>Opportunities</p> <p>-Natural colonisation of trees and shrubs from the adjacent hedge.</p> <p>Constraints</p> <p>-The small size of the wood - difficult management access limit .</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>- Ash dieback - Deer</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>Johns Wood will be allowed to develop through natural process and good silvicultural management, into a well structured and resilient native broadleaved woodland.</p> <p>The Woods dominant tree species will be Oak and Field Maple with a supporting species mix of Ash, Elm and Willow .</p> <p>Ash will still be a component of the site, but will provide the important feature of, standing and fallen deadwood habitat within the wood due to Ash Dieback. The areas where the Ash have died and opened up the canopy, will provide areas for ground flora and natural regeneration to flourish, and provide an understorey layer.</p> <p>The shrub component of the site will include species such as Hazel, Hawthorn, and Blackthorn alongside other regenerating species</p>
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>Woodland Management</p> <p>To improve the structure and resilience of Johns Wood small scale, fell to waste thinning operations will be undertaken to improve light levels and improve structural diversity within the wood. This operation will primarily focus on Ash suffering from ash dieback particularly around the paths.</p> <p>Thinning operation- Autumn 2028 - Autumn 2033</p> <p>Woodland Condition Monitoring</p> <p>Undertake assessments of woodland condition every five years, Works to be ordered through observation actions as required.</p> <p>-Woodland Ecological condition assessment - July 2029</p>

- July 2034

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	November
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	December
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
2028	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	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.74	Ash	1995	High forest	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	
This compartment comprises the whole wood. The wood was planted in January 1995 and is composed of approx 35% ash and 35% oak with smaller proportions of willow, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, and dog rose as well as some experimental disease resistant elm.						

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.

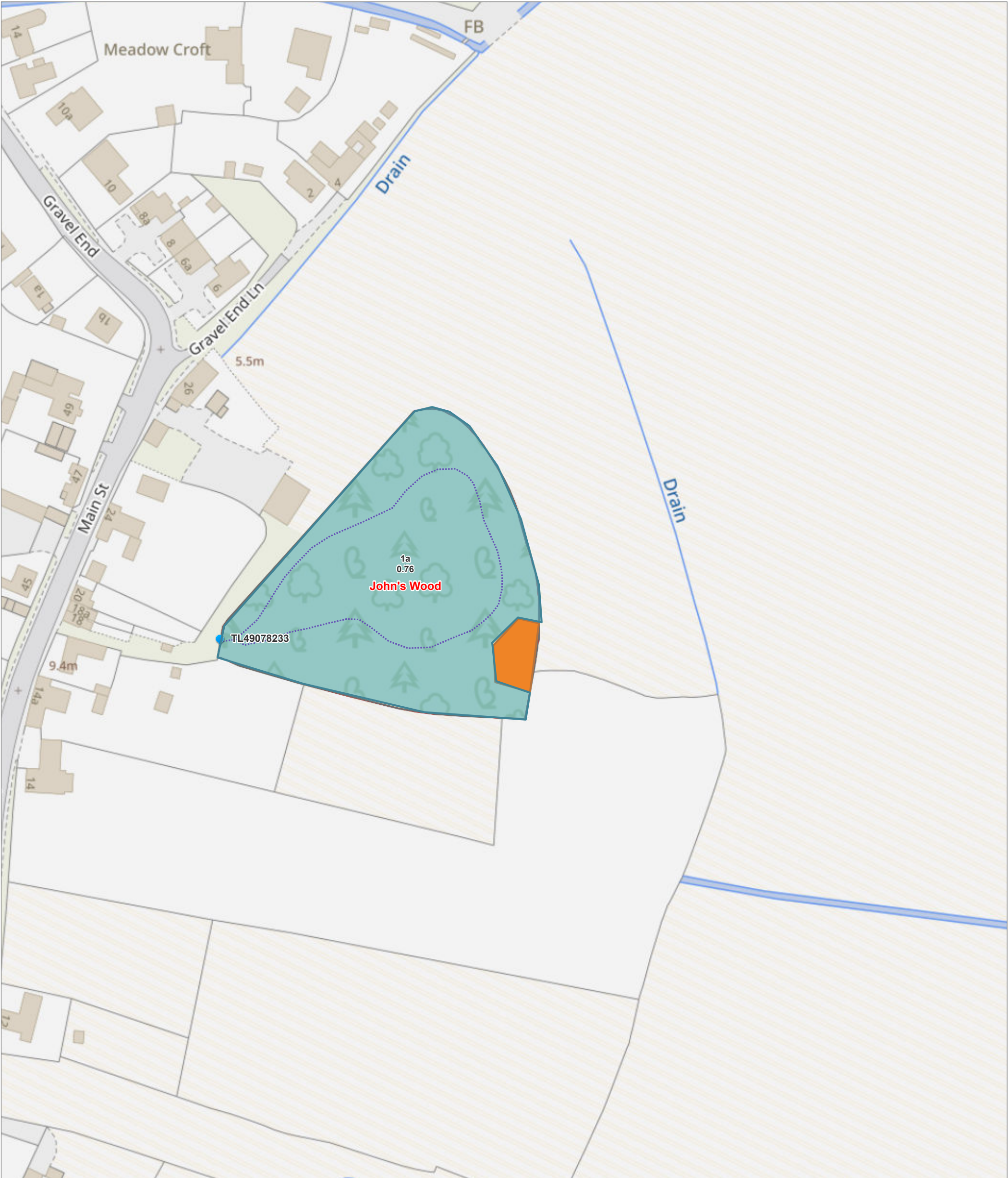
Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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Access Points

Access points

Path Network

Permissive-Footpath

SubCompartments

Woodland Trust Site Boundary



View reestablishment - Autumn 2027



Thinning Works Autumn 2028 & 2033

Johns Wood Management Plan
Works Map 2025-2035

0 25 50 m

Scale: 1:1,249 @A3

Date: 18 September 2025

Author:



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