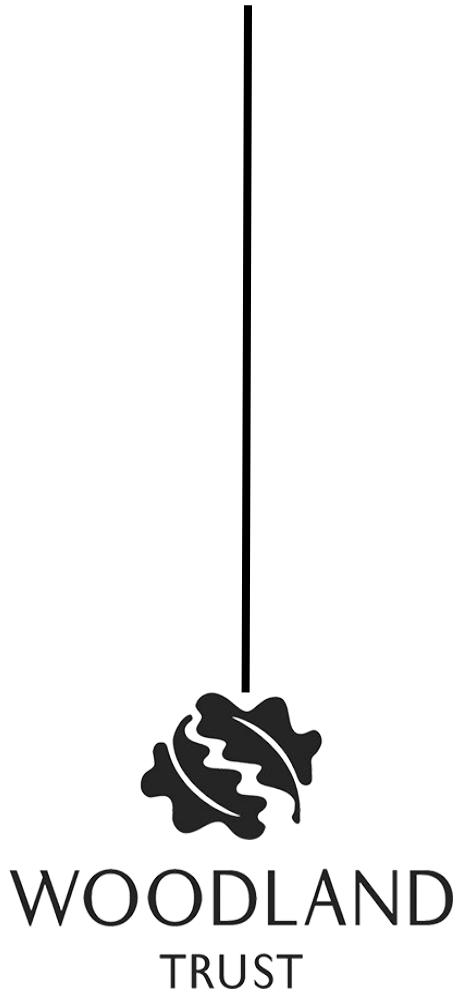
The Nuttery

(Plan period – 2025 to 2030)



Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

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

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.

2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.

3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.

4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.

5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.

6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.

7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.

8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.

9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.

10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

1. SITE DETAILS

The Nuttery

Location:	Newnham Grid reference: SP582595 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 152
Area:	0.53 hectares (1.31 acres)
External Designations:	Conservation Area
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The Nuttery is a small, predominantly flat site in the village of Newnham. The site is mostly composed of hazel coppice and was a commercial cobnut orchard at the turn of the 19th century. There is also mention of an orchard existing on the site from 1787 in some fashion. According to the previous owners, most of the nuts are "Kentish Cobs" (Lamberts Filberts cross pollinated with Pearsons Prolific - the true dessert cob) and a smaller number are shorter, fatter "Nottingham Cobs". The snowdrops, which have in the past carpeted the ground under the hazel, were harvested every year both as flowers in February and as green bulbs just after flowering time.

The Nuttery itself is well known locally (particularly for its snow drop display) and is an important cultural component of the local area. A number of locals worked in The Nuttery when it was still a productive orchard. Ground flora is characterised by cow parsley and ground elder (which disappear in early summer when the tree canopy is complete) and patchy nettle, bramble and coarse grasses in the areas exposed to the light. The snowdrops (Galanthus nivalis) are the last vestiges of those grown for sale and comprise both single and (mostly) double common varieties. Small numbers of wild flowers also persist including wood anemones, celandine and corydalis along with a few garden escapes.

After the Trust took over the site in 1989, a regular programme of hazel coppicing was re-introduced, with one line of the derelict hazel bushes being cut every year. In 2010 it was felt that the coppicing regime may have been too harsh, resulting in increased light levels, which encouraged the development of coarse vegetation that has swamped the snow drops in areas, along with prompting increased regeneration of ash, sycamore and thorn seeding in from the adjacent hedgerow. These will become detrimental to the original orchard characteristics of the site as it matures unless removed. Coppicing of the hazel itself was then put on hold with periodic monitoring taking place and further work being undertaken by a contractor to reduce the coarse vegetation and ash regeneration. The challenge now is to retain the key site characteristics and rejuvenate the hazel coppice for their long-term survival and health, whilst limiting the suppression of snowdrops from course vegetation growth. Community inclusion should be sought when making the decision where and how to rejuvenate the site and implement further coppicing.

Neighbouring land consists of a continuation of the orchard into adjacent properties, including the original orchard owners' house (still called The Nuttery), gardens, a very small area of broadleaf woodland and sheep and permanent pasture, with the field to the east being ridge and furrow. The hazel in the garden in the neighbouring property are cut on a cycle (and mown underneath throughout the growing season), which adds to the local structural diversity. Some of their stools are pruned instead of coppiced, as a trial. There is little other woodland in the local area, with the land predominantly made up of agricultural grassland.

The site also sits within a Conservation Area (Newnham), as designated by Daventry District Council on the 5th May 2011. Further information regarding the Conservation Area can be found at - https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-and-building-control/conservation-area-maps/?assetdet2736c0a9-8961-4e72-975f-c5711afe956e=28525

The site is mainly used by local people, although the display of snowdrops does provide a draw to visitors from further afield.
There is local parking, although restricted.
The entrance is located off Manor Lane, with access to the site through a pedestrian squeeze gap. The entrance is

marked by a Woodland Trust welcome sign at point of entry. The path network is generally level and has directional signage to try and reduce poaching of areas off the path network and limit visitors to areas threatened by declining ash (installed 2024).

Historical Significance:
Picked by women and children, the dried and sorted nuts were sold in Covent Garden, Coventry and Birmingham wholesale markets. The snowdrops were planted later and boxes of carefully packed posies were sent to the wholesale flower markets. The bulbs would have been dug up and sorted with the smaller ones being replanted back into the site to divide and multiply.
Traditionally in Northampton fruiting hazels would have been coppiced on a 15 - 20 year cycle, rather than pruned as some are today in Kent. Coppicing greatly prolongs the life of the hazel, providing a sustainable source of cobnuts and timber product which can be used for stakes and binders in traditional crafts such as hedgelaying. The coppicing stimulates new growth and better fruiting, this begins in the fifth year after cutting with the most usual harvest time at the beginning of October.
The orchard gradually became commercially unviable and coppicing was reduced, but thinning and pruning was maintained.

The key features for this site are:
KF1 Informal Public Access
KF2 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland/Other

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Considering the heritage and cultural value of the site locally, as well as the niche habitat that coppiced woodland provides, the long term policy will be to reintroduce active coppicing on the site over a 20 year cycle period. Managing the coppice, which has been in situ without break for over 200 yrs, will help ensure that healthy and robust coppice cover continues well into the future.

The aim of these intervention works will be to prolong the life of the hazel stools, continue with the traditional methods of management and to provide greater structural diversity, benefiting the flora and fauna that are attracted to actively managed coppice. Such species will include the snowdrops that have become an integral element of the site over its history. Decisions shall be made with input from the local community, though, where there is conflict, the interests of biodiversity take precedence over people.

Essential tree safety work will be carried out where required.
Public access will be maintained in perpetuity through a managed entrance and path network. Infrastructure such as entrances, gates and welcome signs will be maintained to a good standard and the wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors to use, through regular safety inspections. Footpath maintenance through cutting back of encroaching vegetation will also be carried out where this contributes to increasing the overall enjoyment and access of visitors to the site.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
Although small, the site is situated in the centre of the village of Newnham and is regularly visited by local people, particularly at snowdrop flowering time in February and March. A narrow path circles within the wood. Finger posts with directional arrows were installed in 2024 to highlight the official paths and to try and minimise damage to emerging snowdrops elsewhere and to restrict access to areas where there are declining ash trees and badger setts.
Significance
Other than Everdon Stubbs, it is one of the only areas with significant tree cover that is open to public access locally. Ideal for a quick visit and is a regular visiting place for residents. Snowdrop blooming period increases the sites significance and subsequent public usage.
Opportunities & Constraints
Constraints: Site is small and it only takes a few minutes to circumnavigate. No designated car park for visitors Does not link to the PROW network Badger setts on site Opportunities Very much a locally appreciated wood being a rare example of this type of coppice management and historical use Potential for better links with regular local site visitors, with the opportunity of establishing volunteer site wardens or a working group. Local parish newsletters for information sharing.
Factors Causing Change
Any increase in visitor numbers Over-maturity of hazel stools Increasing weather extremes (e.g. wetter winter weather can impact path surfaces/accessibility, as well as potential losses in snowdrops).
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Low-key public access will be maintained in perpetuity through a managed path network, entrances and regular safety checks. Infrastructure and facilities will be minimal and only essential signage used. Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for informal recreation reviewed accordingly. The historical significance of the site will be appreciated by

users. Public safety will be assessed through infrastructure monitoring and tree safety inspections conducted regularly.

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

The ongoing maintenance of the present footpath network, finger posts, furniture and site entrance will be done by contractors twice a year (including cutting vegetation around entrances and litter picking). Additional measures (such as repairs) will be assessed through annual "Informal Public Assess" feature monitoring. This will also include the refurbishment and replacement of existing entrance infrastructure and signage, as needed.
A small circular path will be cut into coarse vegetation in the spring/summer (where children continue to play), to allow reasonable public access whilst directing them away from setts and declining ash.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The site was managed as an coppiced orchard for nearly 200 years for the production of cobnuts (filberts) and, later on, snowdrops. A 15 year coppicing cycle was introduced in 1991 but by 2010 it was felt that that regime was too intense and was resulting in domination of the snowdrops by coarse vegetation. The continuation of coppicing is required to ensure the long-term viability of the site, to continue historic practices and to benefit biodiversity through structure diversification and varying light levels to the ground flora.
In April 2025, a meeting was held with Parish Council representatives and key local individuals, such as the neighbour from the Nuttery (house) and particularly interested locals. It was agreed that coppicing was necessary in the long-term for the site and that the short term objectives and management options described below were likely the most suitable for achieving this (when trying to avoid colonisation and dominance of the cut areas by course vegetation).

Significance

This site has a relatively long history as a coppiced woodland/nut orchard. Such places are rare in this part of the country; a unique woodland for Northamptonshire and the Woodland Trust.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
Small site
Minimal vehicle access
Coarse vegetation when opening up the ground to too much light
Home to protected wildlife species
Rabbits/Grey Squirrels

Opportunities:
Is a valuable wildlife habitat
The snow drops are a major attraction and are of great value to local people
The orchard has an important role in the local history of Newnham

Potential provision of coppiced hazel stems for hedge laying and horticultural use
Possible educational collaboration with local organisations

Factors Causing Change

Herbivore Damage
Tree pests and disease
Coarse vegetation or over maturity of orchard specimens

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Reintroduce active coppicing on the site over a 20 year period cycle, with each complete cycle covering 4 x 5 year management plan periods. Managing the coppice, which has been in situ without break for over 200 yrs, will help ensure that healthy and robust coppice cover continues well into the future.
Coppicing is next to take place within the northern section of the site where the resulting open ground will be shadier, is further from neighbouring undesirable seed sources and is less likely to result in masses of course vegetation. This will be monitored and controlled as deemed suitable (such as biannual cutting of course vegetation)

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

Establish the reintroduction of active coppicing and the control of coarse vegetation and regeneration of broad leaved species (other than hazel) through cutting as necessary.
Initially, during this plan period, coppicing will start at the north end of the site, where the resulting open ground will be shadier, is further from neighbouring undesirable seed sources and is less likely to result in masses of course vegetation. This will be monitored and controlled as deemed suitable (such as biannual cutting of course vegetation) (starting 2026). A row of hazel alongside the paths will be left uncut and likely managed by thinning/pruning (in the future, with the next coppice area).
Three rows of hazel adjacent to the previously coppiced plot (south east) will also be thinned/pruned - with 1/3-1/2 of the stems removed (instead of fully coppiced) - to trial and assess this method of stool regeneration (as is done in Kent) (2026).
Total area to be worked is approximately 0.05ha per cut.
Previous coppicing and use of deer exclusion plots have shown that impacts are low.

Environmental Assessments to be undertaken prior to coppicing. Any work to follow guidance within protected wildlife areas.

Cutting of coarse vegetation and natural broadleaf regeneration such as ash and sycamore (not hazel) between rows of hazel coppice will take place annually during July. Some of the older specimens growing in the central coppice areas will be felled (2026) to retain the main site features as a nuttery; though some hawthorns and any individuals towards the outside of the site will be retained to increase site resilience.

Essential tree safety work will be carried out where required.

Local people will be consulted before any work takes place via the management plan consultation process.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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,	July
2026	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,	May
2026	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	May
2026	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	October
2026	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	February
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,	May
2028	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,	May
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,	May
2030	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,	May

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.6	Hazel	1950	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Conservation Area
200-year-old planted hazel orchard. The only mature trees are ash that are contained within the surrounding boundary hedges. The hazel are planted at a regular 2m spacing in lines running north to south, much of this hazel has been coppiced in the last decade or so. Ground flora is relatively species poor although in areas snowdrops do dominate; these are the last vestiges of the snowdrops, which were cultivated as a commercial crop in times past. Small numbers of wild flowers also persist including wood anemones, celandine and corydalis. The Nuttery is to be managed as an orchard conducive to the preservation and development of the snow drops growing on site.The focus will be the reintroduction of active coppicing and the control of coarse vegetation and regeneration of broad leaved species (other than hazel) through cutting as neccesary and the promotion and maintenance of light levels conducive to the orchards development, Local people have a keen interest in The Nuttery and should be consulted on its management before any work takes place. Active badger sett identified on site. Entrances/exits to sett located on the southern boundary and towards the eastern section of the site.						

GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clearfell
Felling of all trees within a defined area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mixed Woodland
Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

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

Native Species
Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

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

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

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

Shrub Layer
Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

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

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

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

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

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

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