

Brandy Hole Woodlands

| | |
|---|--|
| Date (from/to) | 1 st April 2014-31 st March 2019 |
| Date of last review [UKWAS 2.1.3] | New Plan |
| Owner/tenant | Calderdale Council |
| Agent/contact | Robin Dalton |
| Signed declaration of tenure rights and agreements to public availability of the plan [UKWAS 1.1.3/1.1.5/2.1.2] | This management plan and its supporting documents are held on www.forestplans.co.uk which is available to the public. |

1 Background information

1.1 Location

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Nearest town, village or feature | Greetland |
| Grid reference | SE0821 6108 |
| Total area (ha) | 1.04 ha |

1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Brandy Hole wood is the remaining fragment of a mature sessile oak woodland which has been replaced by housing. It is now surrounded on all sides by residential housing. It is partially visible from Saddleworth Road, the B6114.

1.3 History of Management

The site has seen little management in recent years other than that required to maintain the health and safety of visitors.

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2 Woodland Information

2.1 Areas and features

| Designated Areas | Map No. | In Woodland | Adjacent to woodland |
|---|---------|-------------|----------------------|
| Special areas for conservation (SACs) | | N | N |
| Special Protection Areas (SPAs) | | N | N |
| Ramsar Sites (see note on Guidance) | | N | N |
| National Nature Reserves (NNRs) | | N | N |
| Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | | N | N |
| Other designations (e.g. National Park (NP) / World Heritage Site) | | N | N |
| Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) | | N | N |
| Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) | | N | N |
| TPO / Conservation Area (CA) | | N | N |
| Details | | | |
| Rare and important species | Map No. | In Woodland | Adjacent to woodland |
| Red Data Book or BAP species | | ? | ? |
| Rare, threatened, EPS or SAP species | | ? | ? |
| A full assessment of BAP species present at the site will occur in year one of this plan. None have been reported. | | | |
| Habitats | Map No. | In Woodland | Adjacent to woodland |
| Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) | | ? | N |
| Other semi-natural woodland | | Y | Y |
| Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) | | N | N |
| Semi-natural features in PAWS | | N | N |
| Woodland margins and hedges | | Y | Y |
| Veteran and other notable trees | | Y | N |
| Breeding sites | | ? | ? |
| Habitats of notable species | | N | N |
| Unimproved grasslands | | N | N |
| Rides and open ground | | N | N |
| Valuable wildlife communities | | ? | ? |
| Feeding area | | N | N |
| Lowland heath | | N | N |
| Peatlands | | N | N |
| Others | | N | N |
| Details: The whole compartment is a good example of of a semi natural woodland with upland oak characteristics occurs. The age of the trees suggest that this woodland is ancient but not registered as such. Its highly urban setting means that | | | |

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it has been protected from deer damage. Natural regeneration and age structure diversity is therefore excellent at this site.

| Water | Map No. | In Woodland | Adjacent to woodland |
|---|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Watercourses | | Y | Y |
| Lakes | | N | N |
| Ponds | | N | N |
| Wetland habitats | | | |
| Details: Two small streams run through the site | | | |
| Landscape | Map No. | In Woodland | Adjacent to woodland |
| Landscape designated areas | | N | N |
| Landscape features | | N | N |
| Rock exposures | | N | N |
| Historic landscapes | | N | N |
| Areas of the woodland prominent from roads | | N | |
| Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements | | N | |
| Details: | | | |
| Cultural features | Map No. | In Woodland | Adjacent to woodland |
| Public rights of way | | N | Y |
| Prominent viewing points | | N | N |
| Existing permissive footpaths | 3 | Y | Y |
| Proposed permissive footpaths | | N | N |
| Areas managed with traditional management systems | | N | N |
| | | | |
| Archaeological Features | Map No. | In Woodland | Adjacent to woodland |
| Scheduled monument | | N | N |
| Historical feature (Inc. designed landscapes, registered parks and gardens) | | N | N |
| Other | | | |
| | | | |

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

These woods are dominated by mature sessile oak with regenerating oak and ash in the sub-canopy. The shrub layer is in parts dominated by holly but also contains elder, elm, hawthorn. The highly urban setting combined with its small size and high biodiversity value leaves this wood unsuitable for timber production. The key resources offered by this wood therefore arise from ongoing public access, visual amenity, biodiversity, and soil and water protection.

2.3 Site description

Compartment 1

Mature sessile oak with ash and oak at a range of ages regenerating in the sub canopy. Native ground flora includes bramble, bluebell and Herb Bennet. Native components in the shrub layer include elder, hawthorn and holly.

There is a small amount of regeneration of non-native trees as well as the growth of invasive exotic plants including Laurel and snowberry which have translocated from adjacent properties is apparent in the wood.

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

Laurel, snowberry and other invasive exotics are growing on the edges of the woodland and if left unchecked could out-compete native ground flora.

Natural regeneration Sycamore, Horse Chestnut and aspen should be removed and the dominance of holly in the shrub layer should be restricted to allow the regeneration of native tree and shrub species.

The site also sees an element of fly tipping of garden refuse from neighbouring properties, littering, and dog mess; typical of an area with such high public use.

3 Long term vision, management objectives and strategy

3.1 Long term vision

To create a woodland diverse in species and structure with good resilience to climate change. It maximises opportunities for biodiversity and provides a positive visitor experience while contributing to the needs of society.

3.2 Management Objectives

- 1/ To promote the benefits and opportunities of sustainable management of broadleaved native woodlands to as wide an audience as possible.
- 2/ To test innovation for the better delivery of sustainable woodland management.
- 3/ To maximise the benefits to biodiversity.
- 4/ To deliver a safe, enjoyable, and inclusive public experience.
- 5/ To create a viable forestry market place in the South Pennines.
- 6/ To maximise the opportunities for economic return where it does not conflict with objectives 1-5.

3.3 Strategy

This work will be delivered through a mixture of contract, volunteer and in house labour. It will be funded through timber income, the sale of non-timber forest products, and grant funding where appropriate.

3.4 Woodfuel Initiative

Would you be interested in receiving information on funding opportunities for the purchase of harvesting machinery or wood fuel boilers, or for grants that support timber production from your woodlands?

Yes

4 Management prescriptions/operations

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting

Timber will not be harvested from this site. The most economically viable use will be made of timber arising from health and safety works and works to enhance access and biodiversity at the site.

4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

No felling or restructuring is proposed beyond that required to maintain health and safety at the site.

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

Natural regenerating has seen to be effective at this site. This will be allowed to continue.

4.2 New planting

A small number of Hazel will be planted to increase diversity within the shrub layer at this site. These will be of stock of local provenance and will be planted without protection in areas with the greatest light levels.

The decision not to protect the plants with tree shelters is due to the evidence on the ground that deer damage is not currently occurring in this woodland. This is presumably due to its highly urban setting.

4.3 Other operations

All Operations will conform to the UK Forestry Standard which can be found at:
[www.**forestry**.gov.uk/theukforestrystandard](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/theukforestrystandard)

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

Annual monitoring will check for significant pest and disease issues. Any significant findings will be reported to the Forestry Commission and action taken accordingly. No significant issues with pests and/or diseases currently exist.

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Chalara fraxinea is the tree disease that poses the greatest threat to this woodland. Regular monitoring for its presence will be undertaken. Any findings will be reported to the Forestry Commission and dealt with as per their instruction.

4.4.2 Fire plan

No plan exists for this site as under current climatic conditions it is considered very low fire risk. In abnormal climatic scenarios this may be reviewed and a fire plan put in place.

4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

All waste arising from woodland operations will be immediately removed from site following the operation and where possible recycled.

All chainsaw/trimmer operatives must carry a spill kit and use non-spill fuel cans.

Large machinery operatives must carry spill kits and refuel at an agreed location. Their fuel must be stored in a double bunded tank.

The environmental policy must be held and understood by all staff and contractors working on site.

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

Fly tipping is an issue at this site. 'No Tipping' signs are present on site. Neighbours will be informed of the law regarding the unauthorised tipping of waste by letter.

4.4.5 Protection of other identified services and values

None

4.5 Game management

None

4.6 Protecting and enhancing landscape, biodiversity and special features

4.6.1 Management of designated areas

None

4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity and other special features [UKWAS 2.1.1/6.1.1]

None have been identified. During the first year of this plan, monitoring will be undertaken to assess the presence of High Conservation Value Features.

4.6.3 Special measures for ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and semi-natural woodland (SNW)

This woodland is being management as if it was ASNW with all mature sessile oak being classed as veteran trees. No felling or restructuring is required. Holly dominance will be reduced and non-native plants and trees will be removed.

4.6.4 Special measures for plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS)

None

4.6.5 Measures to mitigate impacts on landscape and neighbouring land [UKWAS 3.1.2]

None

4.7 Management of social and cultural values

4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

None

4.7.2 Public access and impacts on local people

Operations will be well signed, disruptions to the pathways will be kept to a minimum and no footpath closures will be necessary for the delivery of this plan.

Footpath and access maintenance will be carried out in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act.

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5 Consultation

| Organisation/individual | Date received | Comment | Response/action |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|
| Calderdale Council | | | |
| Halifax Scientific Soc. | | | |
| Calderdale Bird Conservation Group | | | |
| Calderdale Moth Group?? | | | |
| Neighbours | | | |
| Forestry Commission | | | |

6 Monitoring plan summary

| Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement | Indicator | Method of assessment | Monitoring period | Responsibility | How will information be used |
|--|---|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Boundary trees | Dead Diseased or Dangerous trees | Professional Survey | Annual | Calderdale Council | Identified trees will be removed |
| Deadwood | Stems per hectare | Site visit | Annual | Calderdale Council | Lack will prompt management intervention |
| Litter | Absent /present | Site survey | Quarterly | Calderdale Council | If litter is present in large quantities the council fly tipping team will be informed |
| Himalayan Balsam | Absent /present | Site survey | Monthly Apr-Oct | Calderdale Council | Presence will prompt management intervention |
| Non Native tree Species | Absent /present | Site survey | Annual | Calderdale Council | Presence will prompt management intervention |
| Pests and diseases | Absent /present | Site survey | On-going | Calderdale Council | Presence will prompt |

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|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| | | | | | management intervention |
|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------|

7 Work programmes

7.1 Outline long-term work programme (2019 - 2038)

(Use this table to outline medium to long term areas of work)

| Cpt. Ref or Name | Activity | Year (<i>tick</i>) | |
|------------------|---|----------------------|-------|
| | | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| 1 | Continued inspections (litter, tipping, health and safety) | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1 | Continued encouragement and recruitment of native regeneration and control of holly encroachment. | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | |
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7.2 Short-term work programme (2014 - 2018)

(Use this table to collect basic inventory data for the woodland areas you propose to work during the next 5 years)

| Cpt. Ref / Name | Area (ha) | Main Species | P. Year | Yield Class | Activity | Year | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------------|---|------|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | 1.04 | SOK | | | Species audit | √ | | | | |
| | | | | | Supplementary planting with hazel in areas where more light is penetrating the canopy | | √ | | | |
| | | | | | Restriction of holly encroachment | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| | | | | | Removal of non-native species | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| | | | | | Health and safety monitoring of trees, particularly on boundary with local residents. | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| | | | | | Quarterly litter collection and monitoring of fly-tipping. | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| | | | | | Letter to residents explaining legislation regarding fly-tipping | √ | | | | |
| | | | | | Annual vegetation cut on desire paths | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
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8 Costing Operations

Outline projected costs and income over plan period. Please read guidance note for further information.

9 Maps

It is recommended that you show as much information on subject based maps as possible. For example, a map showing site constraints or a concept map showing the main proposals.

List all maps here and append to plan:

| Map no./Title | Description |
|---------------|-------------|
| | |
| | |
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| | |

10 Thinning, felling and restocking proposals

The template and guidance should be carefully followed to aid production of a good management plan, and ensure that we can pay the grant.

Most of the template will need to be completed by everyone, but the following sections are not compulsory, unless you wish to apply for woodfuel grants or Category B approval.

- You must complete **Section 10, Table A** if you want to use the plan to gain Wood Fuel WIG support or seek funding through other wood fuel initiatives.
- You must complete **Section 10, Table B** if you want to gain 10 year thinning and felling approval and / or meet the requirements of Category B.

This section **should not be completed** for any other applications.

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