

Middleton Woods West

Community Woodland

Date (from/to)	20. 7. 2011
Date of last review [UKWAS 2.1.3]	N/A
Owner/tenant	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Agent/contact	Bob Thorp
Signed declaration of tenure rights and agreements to public availability of the plan [UKWAS 1.1.3/1.1.5/2.1.2]	

1 Background information

1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	Ilkley
Grid reference	SE118485
Total area (ha)	17.44

1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Middleton Wood West together with the adjoining eastern part form a backdrop on the eastern side of the Wharfe valley, to the town of Ilkley The whole of the valley is noted for its scenery and is a popular tourist destination. On both sides of the valley a series of woods with moors above and agriculture/settlements in the valley bottom make up the typical landscape mosaic. Middleton Woods are extremely well used for walking and are an important component of this overall landscape.

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1.3 History of Management

There are no records of recent management for this wood. During the epidemic of Dutch Elm Disease the wood's considerable stock of trees were felled and burned, these stumps continue to produce new growth

2 Woodland Information

2.1 Areas and features

Designated Areas	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Special areas for conservation (SACs)			
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Ramsar Sites (see note on Guidance)			
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)			
Other designations (e.g. National Park (NP) / World Heritage Site)			
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)			
Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)			
TPO / Conservation Area (CA)			Yes
Details Middleton Woods are designated a Bradford Wildlife Area, the southern and western boundaries adjoin the Ilkley conservation area			
Rare and important species	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Red Data Book or BAP species		Yes	
Rare, threatened, EPS or SAP species			
Details Yorkshire Ecology records the following species on the Middleton Woods site; bluebell, house sparrow, song thrush, starling, hawfinch, cuckoo, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnet, grasshopper warbler, spotted flycatcher, willow tit, marsh tit and fieldfare.			
Habitats	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)	ASNW	Yes	
Other semi-natural woodland			
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)			
Semi-natural features in PAWS			
Woodland margins and hedges			
Veteran and other notable trees		Yes	
Breeding sites			

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Habitats of notable species			
Unimproved grasslands			
Rides and open ground			
Valuable wildlife communities			
Feeding area			
Lowland heath			
Peatlands			
Others	Biodiversity	Yes	
Details All of the wood is ASNW and a UK BAP Deciduous Woodland			

Water	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Watercourses	Watercourses	Yes	
Lakes			
Ponds			
Wetland habitats			

Details

There are several small becks within the wood, some them seasonal

Landscape	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Landscape designated areas			
Landscape features			
Rock exposures		Yes	
Historic landscapes			
Areas of the woodland prominent from roads		Yes	
Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements	Woodlands	Yes	

Details

Gritstone outcrops throughout the wood, The wood is a prominent landscape feature visible from the most of Ilkley

Cultural features	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Public rights of way	Footpaths	Yes	
Prominent viewing points			
Existing permissive footpaths	Footpaths	Yes	
Proposed permissive footpaths			
Areas managed with traditional management systems			

Details

There are paths throughout the wood, the main one being wheelchair friendly for much of its length. The wood is completely open to public access

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Archaeological Features	Map No.	In Woodland	Adjacent to woodland
Scheduled monument			
Historical feature (Inc. designed landscapes, registered parks and gardens)			
Other			
N/A			

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

The wood contains alder, ash, beech, birch, oak, rowan, sycamore, thorn, copper beech, norway spruce and white poplar.
Beech, elder, oak, holly and sycamore form the understorey. Groundcover is somewhat sparse but consists of bluebells, bracken and some coarse grass where sufficient light enters the wood.

2.3 Site description

The wood is situated on the flanks of the Wharfe valley on land that slopes upwards from the river. There is a vehicle useable track into the wood, however there are parts of the wood that can only be accessed on foot due to sloping, boggy terrain and rock outcrops

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

The main hazard to the site are areas of sloping ground, boggy areas and rock outcrops. Constraints to any operations are the numbers of people who visit the wood and public concern for the welfare of the woodlands. Threats to the wood are few, very minor amounts of garden waste tipping and occasional camp fires.

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3 Long term vision, management objectives and strategy

3.1 Long term vision

The long term vision is to maintain a regenerating native broadleaf woodland on the site.

3.2 Management Objectives

- 1 To maintain a safe woodland for visitors to use for recreation and education.
- 2 Produce a mixed age class and species broadleaf wood of good biodiversity.
- 3 To manage the wood to UKWAS standards.

3.3 Strategy

To achieve the above, minimum intervention will be practised. The wood appears to be thriving, felling and arboricultural work being limited to necessary safety operations. Non native regeneration will be removed and the species balance and condition of the wood will be subject to ongoing monitoring

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?

No (delete as appropriate)

4 Management prescriptions/operations

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting
N/A

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4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

N/A

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

N/A

4.2 New planting

N/A

4.3 Other operations

N/A

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

N/A

4.4.2 Fire plan

In the event of a fire, actions for B.M.D.C. staff are

- 1 Contact the Fire and Rescue Service
- 2 Attend with beaters if possible
- 3 Close the wood to the public

Fire and Rescue will normally attend with one pump, and call upon further resources as necessary

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4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

If any pollutants are carried into the woods during forestry operations they will have been identified in the operational risk assesment, and suitable spill kits carried

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

A combination of ranger patrols, liason with the West Yorkshire Police and reporting by members of the public helps to keep misuse to a minimum

4.4.5 Protection of other identified services and values

N/A

4.5 Game management

N/A

4.6 Protecting and enhancing landscape, biodiversity and special features

4.6.1 Management of designated areas

N/A

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

Where possible standing deadwood will be left in place, all other deadwood will be left on site, arisings will be formed into habitat piles

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

The wood will be managed to comply with UKWAS standards

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

N/A

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

N/A

4.7 Management of social and cultural values

4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

The Ilkley area is rich in prehistoric rock carvings, mainly neolithic cup and ring stones. Before starting any operations likely to damage possible sites, Yorkshire Archeology will be consulted

4.7.2 Public access and impacts on local people

There are a number of paths throughout the site,. All of the wood is open to public access. The wood is used by two forest school groups and contains an orienteering circuit.

5 Consultation

Organisation/individual	Date received	Comment	Response/action
Public			Notification of intended works will be by signage

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6 Monitoring plan summary

Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used
Species, age mix and condition	Presence	Visual	Annually	B.M.D.C	To feedback to management plan
Footpaths	Condition	Visual	Annually	B.M.D.C.	To task work teams

7 Work programmes

7.1 Outline long-term work programme (2011-2031)

(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
All wood	Arboricultural/ forestry work as generated by surveys	/	/
Paths	Maintenance	/	/

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8 Costing Operations

All costs will be met by B.M.D.C

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
Woodlands	Identifies woodland
Watercourses	Identifies watercourses
ASNW	Identifies ASNW woodland
PAWS	Identifies PAWS woodland

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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10.1 Table A

Applicants seeking funding through a woodfuel initiative for harvesting machinery or wood fuel boilers, or wishing to apply for **EWGS Woodfuel WIG** must provide basic inventory data (WPG template 7.2) and estimate the total volume that is to be thinned and felled during the period of this plan, **by completing Table A.**

(Using inventory data from table 7.2, complete a timber volume estimate)

Cpt(s) (from table 7.2)	Main Species (BL/Con)	Total work Area (ha)	Estimated volume to be harvested during work periods (m3)		
			Yr 1 - 5	Yr 6 - 10	Yr 11 - 20
<i>Example 1a, 2, 3</i>	<i>Con</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

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10.2 Table B

This section must be fully completed by the applicant if they wish to gain felling licence approval from the Forestry Commission. The work detailed below must match the proposals set out in the plan. For details on how to complete this table, please refer to **EWGS4 – Woodland Regeneration** for guidance and Tree Felling guidance.

4. Cpt. / Sub Cpt.	5. Area (ha)	6. % area to be worked	7. Type of felling	8. % of felled area comprising:		9. Felling licence type	10. Change in woodland type		11. Preferred claim year	13. Restock mixture		14. % Estab. by natural regen	Standard proposals	12. Notes / Details
				BL	CON		From	To		Species	%			
				<i>1a</i>	<i>2.7</i>		<i>30%</i>	<i>SF</i>		-	<i>100</i>			

7.2 Short term programme monitoring

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Tree safety survey & actions					