

Vision and Objectives for New England Wood Extract from Draft Woodland Management Plan

Vision

New England Wood, Cuckfield is 10.7 hectares of broadleaf woodland, owned by a single purpose charitable trust since 1980. The purpose expressed in the original trust deed remains: to improve, protect and conserve [the wood] for the public benefit and as broad-leaved woodland. To establish, form, maintain and manage for the public benefit a nature reserve for the conservation and control of wild plants and other vegetation and of the wild creatures of any description living naturally therein.

With effective groups of trustees and volunteers maintaining the wood, including the established 2.9km of paths and 13 footbridges, and a broad variety of species and structure, our long-term focus is to enhance the woodland habitat, increase public benefits from the woodland - primarily recreation and education, and enhance the wood's resilience to climate change.

The additional near-term focus is taking the opportunity of the recent death of ash trees to die-back (approximately 20% of the wood canopy) to restructure and diversify the wood to better meet our objectives as these areas regenerate.

Objectives

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Retain and improve the biodiversity of the woodland, increasing its resilience to climate change.
2	Maintain safe public access throughout the wood to a variety of different woodland habitats.
3	Increase the number of educational and volunteering activities taking place within the woods.
4	Ensure the success of an appropriate range of canopy and under-storey species in areas of ash removal, managing mammal damage as necessary.
5	Maintain the path network, with timber harvested from the wood so far as practical.
6	Provide product from the wood in to the local and educational community where possible, consistent with managing for maximum biodiversity and community benefit, and bearing in mind the poor quality of access.
7	Through grants, and potentially small-scale sale of product from the wood, improve the wood's financial resilience.
8	Ensure all working practices are met in accordance with UK Forestry Standard guidelines (UKFS) and with regard to Health & Safety regulations.