



WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

BACKGROUND

Escrick Park Estate woodland dates back to Anglo Saxon and Norman times when the park was established as hunting lands. The enclosure of the park land occurred in the mid-1800s, with 19th and 20th century landscaping of the parks and surrounding area that continued the tradition of woodland as a central landscape feature. Whilst broadleaf species have dominated the landscape, conifer species (pines, larch, firs) that take advantage of the light soils have been established throughout the 20th century to provide the estate with a sustainable timber yield. Extensive permissive walking and horse-riding routes have been established over the estate to provide public access. The long-term vision is to manage the woodland to safeguard its sustainability, restructure the over-mature stands, enhancing biodiversity and resilience, and protect and improve the Site of Special Scientific Interest status of the extensive common land.

The estate currently comprises 24 sites composed of 33% broadleaved trees, 18% coniferous trees, 5% open ground and 44% heath/common woodland.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

F&W Forestry has been appointed as a service provider for woodland and tree management for Escrick Park Estate. We are undertaking a 10-year review of the current Long-Term Forest Plan (LTFP) that sets out the intended management over the next 20 years, including felling and restocking proposals.

The areas of mature woodland will be restructured with clear-felling and restocking of the sites with diverse broadleaved and conifer species to increase the woodland's resilience to the ever-changing climate. We plan to manage the remainder of the woodlands under a combination of continuous cover forestry and thinning regimes (removal of rows or selected individual trees). We will increase the species and age class diversity of the woodland.

Some sites contain areas of biological importance designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Sites, and those containing protected species or heritage features. Our woodland management plans aim to enhance sites' resilience and biodiversity potential. We will seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity and link habitats, e.g., ponds, wildlife corridors, open space.

Creating diversity in forest species and structure helps promote resilience to environmental threats such as fire and storm damage, climate change, and erosion, plus reduces threats from disease, invasive species and animal browsing.

During forest operations, Public Rights of Way and recreation facilities will, wherever possible, be preserved and maintained within the constraints of managing public safety.

ESCRICK PARK WOODLANDS

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Restructure the woodland by increasing the rate of clear-felling and restocking of non-native, over-mature stands to reach more sustainable regeneration levels.
- ❖ Maintain and improve both the landscape and amenity value of the woodlands, especially in areas of high public use.
- ❖ Enhance biodiversity by increasing the percentage of oak towards the Estate's historic levels through PAWS restoration.
- ❖ Maximise areas of favourable harvesting access through the establishment of high value spruce, increasing species diversity where compatible with PAWS restoration.
- ❖ Maintain the Skipwith Common woodland component at current levels through both thinning and the prevention of birch encroachment, in accordance with Natural England's objectives for the nature reserve.
- ❖ Maintain and protect important features associated with historical, archaeological and conservation areas.



CONSULTATION & FEEDBACK

Part of forest management planning is to contact statutory bodies, neighbours and any other local interested parties to establish potential sensitivities, constraints or opportunities that could influence the future design, development and management of the woodlands.

The Long-Term Forest Plans and maps showing proposed felling and restocking plans for each area are available for viewing and download on our website: fwforestry.co.uk/escrick-park-estate

F&W Forestry would value your input into this process and welcomes your feedback on these woodlands and the future proposals. Feedback forms can be accessed via the QR code:



<https://forms.office.com/r/mJ4Gf1t6gw>

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