



Views About Management

A statement of English Nature's views about the management of Felbrigg Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

This statement represents English Nature's views about the management of the SSSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the site's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. English Nature has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of SSSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. Also, there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation. English Nature's written consent is still required before carrying out any operation likely to damage the features of special interest (see your SSSI notification papers for a list of these operations). English Nature welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Management Principles

There may be several different ways in which the wood can be managed to best conserve its value for wildlife - by promoting an appropriate woodland structure, by ensuring regeneration and by looking after the things that make this wood special. The attached notes give broad views on a range of regimes that may be appropriate on your site.

Wood pastures are typically mosaics of scattered old trees, often pollards, relatively extensive open areas (often acid grass or heath) with patches of scrub and young growth: the whole being maintained in this mixed state by higher levels of grazing than are common in woods with a coppice or high forest history. Many wood pastures now lack one or other of the components of the mosaic or are no longer grazed. Our preferred management is usually aimed at restoring the missing elements.

Old pollards may need attention in terms of reducing competition from younger growth or lightening the crown, for example, by repollarding. Dealing with old

pollards is a specialist job as each has a unique structure and context. Large cut branches, fallen dead wood or the remains of old trees should be left on site as they may contain populations of important fungi or invertebrates.

Grazing or cutting helps to maintain old trees in relatively open conditions, which is desirable where these are important for lichens on the lower trunks. Grazing or cutting also promotes open semi-natural vegetation with some scrub and young trees in between the trees.

Indeed, the pasture may be of conservation interest in its own right. Care needs to be taken to establish the most appropriate stocking density or cutting regime. The application of pesticides, including herbicides, and fertilizer will often be damaging and best avoided.

Where they are a threat to the interest of the wood, invasive introductions such as *Rhododendron ponticum* or Himalayan balsam should, where practical, be controlled.