



Thruscross Reservoir

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

Yorkshire Water’s woodland estate was originally planted around reservoirs to protect the catchment and water quality. It provides valuable wildlife habitat, enhances biodiversity and also provides the backdrop for thousands of visitors to enjoy access. The woodland estate is certified as sustainably managed under the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation scheme and comprises 1618.5 hectares (3999.3 acres). The long-term vision is to manage the woodland to safeguard its sustainability, protecting the catchment and water quality, enhancing biodiversity and resilience and providing opportunities for recreation.

The estate is divided into three geographical areas:

- ❖ North: 24 sites composed of 38% broadleaved trees, 57% coniferous trees, and 5% open ground
- ❖ Midlands: 23 sites composed of 46% broadleaved trees, 36% coniferous trees, and 18% open ground
- ❖ South: 11 sites composed of 36% broadleaved trees, 60% coniferous trees, and 5% open ground



Dale Dike Reservoir

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Fountains Forestry Ltd. have been appointed as service providers for Woodland & Tree Management for Yorkshire Water Services Ltd. We are developing Long-Term Forest Plans (LTFP) for each area that set out the intended management over the next 20 years, including felling and restocking proposals.



Midhope Reservoir

We plan to manage the majority of the woodlands under continuous cover forestry with thinning (removal of rows or selected individual trees) being the main intervention. Areas which have suffered from or at risk of wind-related damage will be felled to a wind-firm edge and replanted in line with Forestry Commission guidance.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To safeguard the quantity and quality of the raw water supply with no preventable pollution incidents or disruption of supply.
- ❖ To manage a significant proportion of the woodland under continuous cover forestry and long-term retention using natural regeneration and through the planting of trees and shrubs.
- ❖ To deliver economically viable silviculture while protecting, enhancing and increasing woodland resilience, biodiversity opportunities and increasing species and age diversity.
- ❖ To maintain and enhance current opportunities for promotion of increased wellbeing opportunities within the woodland while deterring anti-social activities.
- ❖ To respond to tree diseases outbreaks, taking advice from the relevant authorities.

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



Underbank Reservoir

CONSULTATION & FEEDBACK

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

Yorkshire Water 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.

The LTFPs and maps showing proposed felling and restocking plans for each area are available for viewing and download on our website:

<https://www.fountainsforestry.co.uk/YWWM>



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Midhope Reservoir

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. Others lie within National Parks, Conservation areas, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or contain 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 threats from disease, invasive species and animal browsing.