

Clough Lane Wood

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

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2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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5. Work Programme

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Clough Lane Wood

Location:	Simonstone Grid reference: SD777344 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	0.43 hectares (1.06 acres)
External Designations:	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Clough Lane is 0.42 hectares in size and consists of a long, thin strip of mature trees in the village of Simonstone near Clitheroe. To the south is a very busy main road the A671, to the north is pasture land and to the west is housing. The wood is a landscape feature and is one of many along this stretch of road most likely planted as part of a larger estate in the 19th Century. Several other Woodland Trust sites are within a few miles of the wood including Hagg Wood, Head Wood & Old Laund.

The land slopes gently from north to south and a small ditch drains just outside the sites western boundary. The soil type in the area locally is comprised of slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils.

The mature trees are predominantly ash, sycamore and oak, with some alder and a horse chestnut, dating from around 1860. On acquisition the wood also contained elm and beech, but these had to be felled for safety reasons especially as the elm died from Dutch elm disease. As these and others have been removed regeneration of ash, sycamore, and elm suckers has been prolific with some beech and oak. Regenerating elm is still suffering from Dutch elm disease when approximately 12-15 years old. The under storey consists mainly of hawthorn, elder and holly. There is a remnant hedge adjacent to the field. The woodland contains a small range of typical flora such as Lesser Celandine, Dogs Mercury and Ivy. Secondary Woodland is a key feature of this site.

The site was gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1984 by a neighbour. Very little is known about its history prior to acquisition but it most likely formed part of a larger estate.

A roadside footpath runs all along the southern boundary which is just outside Woodland Trust ownership . Public access is permitted within the woodland although it contains no formally maintained paths and it's thought to be only lightly used by local people . Informal Public Access is a key feature of the site.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Clough Lane will be allowed to grow and develop naturally, as a refuge for wildlife. The wood will be managed as high forest of mixed broadleaves, including non-native trees common to the local area. It will be managed predominantly as a landscape and conservation feature, through minimal intervention. Gaps will be created in the canopy due to trees naturally reaching senescence and tree safety operations.

Access will remain at a low level with no maintained formal routes.

Statutory obligations will continue to be met with respect to managing tree safety.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description
Small woodland composed predominantly of ash, sycamore and oak, with some alder and a horse chestnut, dating from around 1860. The under storey consists mainly of hawthorn, elder and holly. There is a remnant hedge adjacent to the field. The flora contains a small range of typical woodland species such as dogs mercury and bramble.
Significance
The wood is in a Special Landscape Area and the trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order. It is one of a series of woodlands in the area that are of landscape and wildlife value. Lancashire has relatively little woodland compared to other parts of the country and hence even small woods are of some significance. This wood has mature native trees dating from approximately 1860, some of which are becoming veterans.
Opportunities & Constraints
The very small size of the wood is the major limiting factor. Tree safety next to the busy main road is an important factor, and limits the trees that can safely be retained. Waterlogging issues and the associated impacts on stability and tree survival has been investigated and there is no drainage issue that is leading to the cause, just topography and the road development. Regeneration of various species is plentiful, and healthy, well-formed young trees can be selected and developed from an early age.
Factors Causing Change
Permanently wet ground, stability and tree disease - including impacts caused by waterlogging.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
High forest of mixed broadleaves, including non-native trees common to the local area. The wood will be managed predominantly as a landscape and conservation feature, with tree safety needs taking a high priority.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Monitoring once per plan period through the woodland condition assessment to ensure there is adequate regeneration and establishment of native broadleaved species to ensure continuity of the woodland. Otherwise works will be limited to the roadside tree safety operations.

4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

Description

<p>The woodland does not have any formal permissive routes, however public access is permitted to this site. The permanently wet ground would make establishing and maintaining formal pedestrian access challenging. Woodland Trust welcoming signs are present along the roadside.</p>
<p>Significance</p>
<p>Whilst no formal access routes exist in the woodland the public are still permitted access to this woodland for informal recreation.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p>
<p>Very small size and no formal permissive routes are maintained.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p>
<p>Maintain the current level of visitor access, no formalised paths are to be cut or maintained.</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p>
<p>Given the current extremely low level of visitor access, two Woodland Trust free standing signs to be maintained at least once during this plan period visible from the public highway to identify ownership. No formalised paths are to be cut or maintained. Works will be undertaken as required on a reactive basis, such as the occasional flytipping incident. Tree safety along the roadside will be undertaken on a frequency dictated by the tree safety policy, likely to be on an annual cycle.</p>

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2021	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	September
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2022	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.42	Ash	1860	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order
<p>0.42 hectares (1.44 acres) of well established secondary broadleaved woodland in the village of Simonstone, which is in a semi-rural part of Lancashire, although close to the busy urban areas of Padiham and Burnley. The woodland is accessible although it has no formally maintained footpaths within it. The woodland is flat and the ground permanently wet. Much of the surrounding land use is improved pasture land as well as housing in the village.</p>						

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

Registered Office:

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