



Bailey Wood

Management Plan 2008-2013

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

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.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, 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.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on 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 heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential 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 allow our woods to be used to support 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. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
10. Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Bailey Wood
Location:	Lovacott
Grid reference:	SS520275, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 180
Area:	0.25 hectares (0.62 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Extended Description

Bailey Wood is predominantly oak woodland situated to the north of the hamlet of Lower Lovacott in the parish of Newton Tracey. Set on a relatively level site the woodland sits above a narrow country lane to the west and bordering playing fields to the east. Planted on former pasture land in 1974 the woodland now provides shelter from prevailing winds for the playing field and informal access pathways for the enjoyment of the local community. In the wider landscape Bailey Wood forms part of a cluster of small woodlands in a largely arable setting with some connectivity to nearby woodlands via hedgerows and field boundaries.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Bailey Wood is situated four miles south of the North Devon town of Barnstaple and under a kilometre from the village of Newton Tracy, just outside the hamlet of Lower Lovacott. There is a small area in front of the gate to the school playing fields with room for a car to park. From there, go through the kissing gate and walk along the southern boundary of the fields until you reach a small entrance to your left. To access the wood walk up three steps and through a gap in the fence. The internal paths are muddy tracks that are not very wide although they are level.

The nearest bus stop is opposite the playing field gates and the nearest toilets are in Barnstaple. The toilets at Northwalk, the Pannier Market and Pilton Park all have RADAR accessible toilets (www.directenquiries.com) (correct as of 16/9/08)

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To maintain as a wooded feature in the local landscape, predominantly broadleaved, but accepting remaining Scots Pine as part of the mix, and encouraging a diverse age structure. It is envisaged that selective thinning will help to maintain the stability of the woodland by allowing trees of good health and vigour to freely develop. Selection of trees for felling will be measured on the need to enhance public enjoyment.

To enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of the woodland by providing access paths to users of neighbouring playing fields and the local community in line with WT corporate objectives

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Landscape Value

Description

Sandwiched between a lane and the playing fields, the wood is very visible on the local landscape of Lower Lovacott, providing variety in the agricultural landscape

Significance

Woodland cover in the immediate locality is low, and there are not thought to be other woodland blocks in Lower Lovacott. Thus although small Bailey Wood contributes to variety in the landscape, particularly in forming a backdrop to the playing fields.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: to maintain and enhance the wood as a feature in the local landscape

Constraints: currently no usable vehicular access, although possibly access could be negotiated on an ad hoc basis across the playing fields.

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of..Insufficient natural regeneration and grazing damage

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain as a wooded feature in the local landscape, predominantly broadleaved, but accepting remaining Scots Pine as part of the mix. Encouraging a diverse age structure, by selectively thinning.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Ensure that the woodland remains healthy and continues to develop into a habitat that encourages natural regeneration of both shrub and tree species.

Continued monitoring of grazing damage by squirrels and deer which may affect the health and natural regeneration. Monitoring by observation walking a random route through the wood. Control to be carried out if required as per WT guidelines if damage exceeds moderate levels.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

2 formal gaps in the fence allow access to the site from the adjacent playing field. Given the small size of the wood, and low population nearby, use is relatively low and local, and is likely to include children using the wood as an extension to the playing area. Originally there were no formal access points created, but following creation of the playing fields, access was created in response to demand

Significance

Woodland Trust objective to increase enjoyment of woodland.

Given its location adjacent to the playing fields, the wood forms an extension to the recreational opportunities in the local area. The local school has recently shown an interest in using the wood as an educational resource.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity: to continue provision of low key access in line with expected low local use, with management to be appropriate to the fact that access is likely to include unsupervised children - eg in assessing the level of risk at the site

Constraints: size and layout of the site restricts the length of path available

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Low key use by the local population, including unsupervised children from the playing fields
Involvement with the local school to create an ongoing educational resource.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Ensure that the woodland continues to provide a safe, well maintained environment with good accessibility that the public can enjoy.
Access points and public footpaths should be maintained to a level appropriate to the use and type of demand from the local population.
Explore and develop the woodland as an educational resource for the local school

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.40	Oak (pedunculate)	1974	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Informal Public Access, Landscape Value	

Planted in 1974 on pasture with 700 Scots Pine and 300 Oak. Subsequent thinning has reversed this proportion so that now canopy is approximately 70% oak and 25% Scots Pine, with occasional silver birch, lime, field maple and bird cherry. Occasional mature ash on the boundaries. Shrub layer includes hazel, elder, hawthorn, spreading out from the hedges. Lightly thinned regularly between 1981 and 1989, in 1997 and small number of trees removed in 2000. Following last main thinning in 1997, canopy has not yet closed again. Occasional trees are becoming overtopped by their neighbours, which will lead to some 'self thinning'.

Currently no pest damage evident, but this will be monitored during site visits.

There is a reservoir of woodland flora on the edges that may be able to spread naturally as the bramble becomes suppressed.

GLOSSARY

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. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

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