



Littlewood

Management Plan 2009-2014

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Landscape Value	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
MAPS	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Littlewood
Location:	Dousland
Grid reference:	SX538684, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 201
Area:	0.32 hectares (0.79 acres)
Designations:	National Park

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A small linear wood that is well used by local people and appreciated for its amenity value. It provides a safe walking route along the road as there is no footpath. The local community has a keen interest in the wood and looking after it.

2.2 Extended Description

Littlewood is mature, even-aged, narrow woodland of mainly planted Beech with some Oak and Pine. It lies on the edge of Dartmoor National Park and is valuable in the local landscape despite its small size, as it is located adjacent to the main road through Dousland village and is surrounded by houses on all sides. To the west lies Yelverton, and to the east the open moors of Dartmoor begin to rise up above Dousland.

It is important to local people as a village amenity and for the public access it provides. The neighbouring properties enjoy shelter and protection from the trees, which act as a windbreak, and fine views of the mature trees. The single path through this linear wood allows visitors to avoid walking along the road, which has no pavements. In 2001 local people were consulted regarding the management plan, comments collated and a public meeting held in the wood to discuss in detail the proposals for Littlewood. One proposal was to create an additional entrance onto Iron Mine Lane; following consideration and discussion with the Parish Council it was decided in 2004 that the existing entrances are adequate and no additional work was necessary.

There is no formal management access point, there being two pedestrian access points, one at each end of the wood.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Direct from public highway at each end of the wood providing a linear route through Littlewood

Littlewood is situated in the village of Dousland, and runs parallel with the main road through the village.

There is no designated parking for this wood although there is space for a couple of cars in Iron Mine Lane no through road to pull in. There are two access points. The first is off the main road, around the corner from the Iron Mill Lane junction, and is a restricted gateway a couple of steps up a grassy bank. There is no room for pushchairs / wheelchairs through the gate. The second way into the wood is at the far end down three stone steps from the main road. The informal internal path that links the two entrances runs along the length of the wood. It is level with an even surface and remains in good condition after rain.

There is a bus stop 200m down the main road into the village.

The nearest toilets are in Tavistock. Bedford Car Park and Guildhall Car Park both have RADAR Key Access (Direct Enquiries Website www.directenquiries.com)

This information was correct on 4/1/10. For up to date local travel information see the travel line website www.travelline.org.uk

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Littlewood is a mature, even-aged planted woodland. In order to maintain its value in the landscape as the trees begin to senesce and die, and to address the considerable problem of tree safety along the roadside bank and the boundary of neighbouring properties, the wood has been thinned along its entire length. Those trees posing a safety risk now or identified in the future as likely to become a problem will be felled or crown reduced. This will allow light onto the ground to encourage natural regeneration. The remaining trees will also benefit from the increased light levels.

The ongoing removal of trees presenting a risk or likely to cause a future risk will have the effect of thinning the wood as well as creating conditions for future regeneration to occur.

Gaps created by the above work will be replaced with trees occurring through natural regeneration or restockings. Currently ash, holly and beech are regenerating in the wood. Any future operations will favour smaller-crowned species over larger trees like pine, beech and oak, in order to deal with the ongoing issue of tree safety. The declining health of the large old beech in the centre of the wood will be monitored closely; it may be necessary to reduce/fell this tree on tree safety grounds.

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 Informal Public Access

Description

Littlewood lies in the centre of a village community. An informal linear path runs through the centre of the wood with a pedestrian access at either end.

The level of likely use is moderate and tends to be used by local residents for dog walking

Significance

Littlewood is important to walkers who regular use the path through the wood as an alternative to the road. The neighbouring properties enjoy the shelter and views provided by the wood.

Increasing enjoyment of woodland is a Woodland Trust objective

Opportunities & Constraints

Path erosion and compaction.

Improved access created by ongoing tree works

Factors Causing Change

Path compaction and widening

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Access for public use and enjoyment will be retained without affecting woodland regeneration, particularly in areas that this is occurring. Paths should be accessible and easily walked, and entrances well-maintained and welcoming with signs.

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

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

5.2 Landscape Value

Description

Little Wood is located in the centre of Dousland village next to a road and surrounded by housing. It is much enjoyed by local residents with its mature beech, oak and pine trees. A large veteran beech tree, now dying back, sits on a bank in the centre of the wood.

Significance

Little Wood is a small but valuable landscape feature with mature trees set within Dousland village, providing a contrast to the open moors of Dartmoor. It lies within the boundary of Dartmoor National Park.

Opportunities & Constraints

A large amount of tree safety work or lack of regeneration to replace ageing trees may threaten landscape value. Some invasive grasses have entered the southern end of the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Natural senescence of mature trees

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will remain as a feature in the local village landscape as high forest of broadleaved mixed woodland, retaining old and veteran trees for as long as possible subject to tree safety constraints. Natural regeneration will rejuvenate the wood with younger species to achieve a mixed age woodland. Invasive grass and laurel will be eradicated to allow more room for regenerating or planted trees.

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

Natural regeneration in canopy gaps is at least in 'fair' condition - defined as 'some seedlings/saplings growing vigorously in canopy gaps

Invasive species -

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
------	--------------	-------------	--------

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.40	Beech	1880	null	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access, Landscape Value	National Park
<p>Mature linear woodland of mainly Beech with Oak and a few Scots Pine planted c1920. Understory of young beech and holly. Ground cover includes bramble and ivy although much is bare due to path erosion. At the southern end of the wood there is some laurel and invasive grass.</p>							

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.