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WOODLAND
TRUST

Great Triley Wood

Management Plan
2018-2023

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 Wet Woodland	
5.2 Informal Public Access	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Great Triley Wood
Location:	Abergavenny
Grid reference:	SO311181, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 161
Area:	6.32 hectares (15.62 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Park

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Great Triley Wood is a wet ancient semi natural woodland that is periodically flooded by the Afon Gafenni stream that runs through the site. These damp conditions provide ideal habitat for marsh marigold, water dropwort, wood avens and sedges. Access is permitted, but please be aware that ground conditions are difficult.

2.2 Extended Description

Great Triley Wood is an ancient semi-natural woodland located just north of Abergavenny, bordered by the busy A465 to the east and railway to the west. To the north and southeast lies active pasture land and to the southwest there is adjoining ancient floodplain woodland. It lies within an area with high concentrations of small pockets of ancient woodland which have little connectivity between them, including Coed y Cerrig owned by Natural Resources Wales to the west. Great Triley is a wet woodland, periodically flooded by the two forks of the Afon Gafenni river that pass from south to north across the site. The damp conditions created by this flooding provide ideal habitat for wet woodland species such as marsh marigold, water dropwort, wood avens and sedges. Drier areas of the wood also have a rich ground flora that includes numerous woodland specialists such as herb paris, yellow archangel and wood sorrel. Other woodland ground flora includes herb bennet, dog violet, sanicle, black bryony and bluebell. The canopy and shrub layers include a diversity of species and age classes and there is excellent fallen and standing dead wood habitat. Conservation features of this floodplain woodland are the waterways and the otters that have historically used the streams. Due to the lack of safe local parking, difficulty in accessing the site and the wet ground conditions it is considered that the site is unsuitable to promote public access. Access is permitted, but visitors should be aware that ground conditions are difficult.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Due to the lack of safe local parking, difficulty in accessing the site and the wet ground conditions it is considered that the site is unsuitable to promote public access: however access details have been recorded below for those who wish to visit.

Great Triley wood is located close to Mardy, a village just north-east of Abergavenny - about 2 ½ miles (4km) along the A465 Hereford road, north of the roundabout which marks the intersection of the A465 / A40. Coming from the roundabout, you see the signpost for Mardy to your left; it is less than a kilometre to the woods themselves from here. Continue straight past the turning for Mardy for a few hundred metres until you reach a tarmac pull-in on the left which holds a few cars. Note there is no parking at the house next to the woods. If you have missed the pull-in, you can continue past the woods and just about 250m beyond the far end of the woods you see a farm track to the left which has a public footpath signposted from it saying Hereford Old Road 0.6km. There is room to pull on to the grass verge here, but this is not official and the farm track mustn't be blocked. You can also turn around here or, by continuing a further mile to a 'P' lay-by this may be easier to turn around.

From the pull-in before the woods, continue walking northwards along the verge. This is a wide verge, but uneven. Care should be taken because the road has fast-moving traffic along it. After approx. 200m you pass a house on your left with private and keep clear outside of it. This marks the beginning of the woods. However, there is no entrance from the road side, so you have to continue another 300-400m until you come to a 5-bar field gate which is beyond the woods. Through the gate you can see another 5-bar gate to your left at the edge of the woods. This field is not a public right of way, but skirting around the edge, you quickly come to the Woodland Trust entrance, which is another 5-bar gate with a sign just beyond it.

General Overview of Entrance and Paths

There is one circular path around the site; though the ground is boggy in places there is a boardwalk in part. The path crosses over a river, which has no footbridge. Given that this is a floodplain close to the Gavenny river, even in dry periods, wellingtons are required.

Parking

Limited, see above.

Public Transport

Contact Traveline Cymru for most up to date public transport information: www.traveline.cymru/ or telephone 0300 200 2233

The nearest bus stop is Triley Farm, Crossways. This is near the footpath sign Hereford Old Road 0.6km, which in turn is about 250m from the woods. If coming from the Hereford direction you need to cross the road and walk towards Abergavenny, the woods are on the right hand side. A little further away, on the Abergavenny side is the Triley Mill stop, just on the Mardy road.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

It is the intention of the Trust to maintain Great Triley Wood as a mixed broadleaf high forest using minimum intervention. The process of regeneration in naturally occurring gaps appears to be sufficient to maintain a diversity of canopy species and age structure; it is likely that ash dieback will affect the canopy species composition. Along the western boundary coppicing will be continued on a five year rotation or as suitable, as a safety measure for the railway. The current access provisions will be maintained with visitors to the site understanding that paths are wet and muddy in places and there is no bridge over the stream. Stock proof fencing will be maintained around the site.

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 Wet Woodland

Description

This is an ancient semi-natural floodplain woodland with a diversity of native species and a complex age structure. There is a typical ancient woodland flora that includes wet woodland species. There is abundant standing and fallen dead wood. On the western boundary is an area of coppiced hazel, and along the northern boundary is an area of abandoned coppice.

Significance

Floodplain woodland is a rare habitat type in Britain and is a priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitat, and it is rare for ancient woodland to be on fertile floodplains. Ancient semi-natural woodland is an irreplaceable and threatened habitat type in Britain. Protection and restoration of ancient woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's objectives.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is an opportunity for minimal intervention management, with the western boundary along the railway being an exception to this regime, as it needs to be coppiced at intervals for safety reasons. Stock fencing is maintained to prevent livestock incursions.

Factors Causing Change

Chalara fraxinea (ash dieback) has been confirmed in the area but not observed on site, if found on site it will considerably alter species composition.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The floodplain woodland will be allowed to develop naturally as native broadleaved woodland, likely dominated by oak and alder. Standing and fallen deadwood volumes will occur at natural levels. Low level public access will continue to be maintained.

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

Allow natural development within the ancient semi natural woodland through minimum intervention. Maintain coppice along the railway on the western boundary every 5 years. Manage trees along the A465 on the eastern boundary when identified by tree safety inspections. Continue to exclude livestock. Control spread of invasive Himalayan Balsalm.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Management access exists across the site in the form of a circular footpath. Public access is permitted but no formal facilities for this are maintained. Access is difficult due to a lack of safe parking nearby, boggy footpaths and a stream running through the wood with no bridge crossing it. Because of difficult access, public access is not promoted, but is permitted.

Significance

Management access is maintained to enable coppicing and access to Himalayan balsam. The footpath appears to be lightly used by the public.

Opportunities & Constraints

Management access is maintained to be able to enable coppicing and access to Himalayan balsam. Informal public access within the site is constrained by the lack of safe local parking and also difficult terrain of the wet woodland.

Wellingtons are required even during dry periods.

Factors Causing Change

None.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Circular management access route maintained to enable coppicing and access to Himalayan balsam.

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

No formal provision for public access, though a management access route is available. This is maintained annually.

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	6.31	Ash	1900	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Wet Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Park

Great Triley is an ancient semi natural floodplain woodland with diverse woodland ground flora and excellent standing and fallen dead wood habitat. The canopy is dominated by ash, oak and birch and, in the wettest areas and along the streams, alder, with some superb examples of lapsed coppice. Cherry and wych elm are also present and occasional sycamore. The understory includes hazel, holly and hawthorn, with occasional spindle and rowan. There is a rich ground flora that includes wet woodland species such as marsh marigold and woodland specialists such as herb paris. On the western boundary, next to the railway line, is an area of coppiced hazel, and along the northern boundary is an area of abandoned coppice. The wood is crossed by two forks of the Afon Gafenni stream and is regularly flooded. There are numerous wet hollows and occasional ponds, and near the stream there are patches of invasive himalayan balsalm. There is a history of otters using the streams in the wood. The circular path through the wood is wet and muddy in places due to regular flooding; there is a boardwalk before the stream, there is no bridge over the stream.

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.