



Clough Lane Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Clough Lane Wood
Location:	Simonstone
Grid reference:	SD777344, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	0.43 hectares (1.06 acres)
Designations:	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This long, thin strip of mature trees lies in the village of Simonstone, Lancashire. It is dominated by ash, sycamore and oak trees, with a catering of alder and horse chestnut. There is no public access within the wood, which is wet or waterlogged for much of the year, but a roadside footpath runs along the wood's southern boundary.

2.2 Extended 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 site was gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1984 by a neighbour.

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 its thought to be only lightly used by local people. Informal Public Access is a key feature of the site.

The wood is a landscape feature and is one of many along this stretch of road. Very little is known about its history prior to acquisition, but it appears to have similar characteristics to many of the surrounding woods and may have been part of an estate, possible with planting in the 19th century.

Secondary Woodland is also a key feature of this site. 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.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

There is no public access within the wood, which is wet or waterlogged for much of the year, but a roadside footpath runs along the wood's southern boundary.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Clough Lane will be managed as a mixed broadleaved, predominantly native high forest. Both native and non native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. Due to the close proximity of the road along the southern boundary tree safety work will need to be periodically undertaken and will be the main management driver for activity within the woodland. Gaps created by trees gradually reaching senescence, or by trees felled for safety reasons will be filled by natural regeneration. The woodland will require little active management other than ensuring that natural regeneration levels remain adequate. We will retain older trees of any species across the whole site as long as safety allows.

The roadside strip of 1.5m requires periodic coppicing (every 5 years minimum) to prevent encroachment onto adjacent footpath, damage to roadside wall and reduce tree safety needs.

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

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 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)

Tree safety inspections will be undertaken on a regular basis and work carried out if necessary for public safety. The site will be checked once during this plan period to assess whether there is sufficient regeneration to ensure the long term future of the canopy.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

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.

Significance

Whilst no formal access routes exist in the woodland the public are still permitted access to this woodland for informal recreation.

Opportunities & Constraints

Very small size and no formal permissive routes are maintained.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the current level of visitor access, no formalised paths are to be cut or maintained.

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

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.

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	0.42	Ash	1860	High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	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>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	1a	Coppice	0.20	3	0.5
2019	1a	Coppice	0.20	3	0.5
2021	1a	Coppice	0.20	3	0.5
2023	1a	Coppice	0.20	3	0.5

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.