



Howard's Wood

Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Howard's Wood
Location:	Timbrelham, nr Launceston
Grid reference:	SX367802, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 201
Area:	1.50 hectares (3.71 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This wood is small and steep with limited access but it offers superb views across the upper Tamar Valley. It is also an important landscape feature as it extends the area of broadleaf trees and adds to the wooded appearance of the valley. Not widely visited although it is used by local people.

2.2 Extended Description

Howard's Woods stands on what were two steeply sloping, east facing fields on the side of the Tamar Valley at Timbrelham south of Launceston. The wood was partly planted in 1987 with Oak, Ash, Lime, and wild cherry with a shrub/minor tree element of hawthorn, field maple and rowan around areas of existing wood with semi-mature Oak and sycamore and natural regeneration of oak and thorn it overlooks the upper Tamar Valley. While the ground flora is not rich it is dense in places, especially in the northern area where there is a dense population of dog's mercury and bluebells with numerous orchids developing.

As it is small and steep wood in a very rural area Howard's Wood offers very limited public access but is used by a small number of neighbours on a regular basis. Despite this it does, however, form an important part of the local landscape adding to the existing wooded appearance of the valley and extending the area of native broadleaved wooded onto which it joins. It helps fulfil the Trusts objectives of creating new native woodland and creating and enhancing woodland biodiversity. Public access is via an unlocked management gate in the eastern boundary off the country lane close to the neighbouring houses. The path is immediately steep and covered with ground flora or bare earth where shade has limited growth. After a steep gradient the path levels as it follows the west boundary before sloping steeply back to the entrance.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Howard's Wood stands on the western valley slopes of the River Tamer at Greystone Bridge 3miles south of the town of Launceston along the B3362 to Tavistock. Public access is available through a 2.7m management gate that remains unlocked, directly from the public highway on the eastern boundary. This lane can be accessed by turning south immediately at the western end of Greystone Bridge. Opposite the gate is a small 'layby' at the entrance of an adjacent drive that is suitable for the parking of a single car. Parking should be with care so as not to restrict the neighbour's access. Within the wood the 'circular' path slopes steeply up immediately inside the gate and rises to the western boundary. Once there it levels out and follows along inside the hedge for a short distance before sloping steeply down to the eastern boundary and back to the gate. Due to the bluebell populations and shading cast by the dense, young woodland the path surfaces can tend to be slippery throughout the year and therefore unsuitable for unsteady walkers. Its isolated location and small size mean it offers little recreational value to public living further away than the adjacent properties.

There appears to be no bus service along the B3362 however services do run along the A388 from Launceston to Callington. There is a stop at Little Comfort, Lezant, but this leaves a 1.5mile walk along country lanes to access the wood, which given the wood's small size is likely to be impractical.

No information is currently available about toilet facilities locally however there are none close to the wood and the closest towns of Launceston and Callington are approximately 3miles and 8miles away respectively.

Information for toilet facilities found at www.cornwall.gov.uk on their A-Z search under public conveniences and via the National Disabled Access Register at www.directenquiries.com. Public transport information obtained from www.travelinesw.com.uk or via 0870 608 2 608. Information collected January 2007

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Howard's Wood is one of a number of small properties which together comprise the Trust's 'wild spaces'. These are largely left to nature to take its course with only minimal management input, usually to ensure public safety or to meet legal obligations.

The woodland will be allowed to develop as a predominantly native species broadleaf high forest with the structural diversity provided by scrub and coppice that develops naturally throughout or via management of areas under overhead cables and along path edges where natural processes where are not having the desired effect

Felled, fallen and broken trees will be retained to form deadwood habitat. The paths and entrance facilities will be managed annually as required to maintain appropriate levels of access already present and in line with its access category D. This will help meet the Trusts aims of protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future and inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. It will also compliment the conservation values of the adjacent woodland and the amenity and aesthetic values of the wood in the landscape and to visitors.

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

Description
Significance
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

5.2
Description
Significance
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

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	1.50	Mixed native broadleaves	1987	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc		

Two steeply sloping former fields with an easterly aspect in the Tamar Valley 3miles south of Launceston. The wood was planted in 1987 with an intimate mixture of Oak, Ash, Lime, and wild cherry with a shrub/minor tree element of hawthorn, field maple and rowan. The planting complimented an area of advanced sycamore, hazel and oak natural regeneration in the northern area of the wood and trees on an internal hedge and around a small quarry located centrally in the wood. These were retained and have been managed since acquisition towards high forest and help generate some structural diversity. Soils are generally quite heavy clay loams over shellat. Due to slope the site is seldom wet, but the surfaces tend to be slippery especially where the canopy shade has suppressed ground flora. Although small and steep the wood offers an attractive circular route and views across the valley. Ground flora is limited by shading, but the northern section of the wood supports a good population of dog's mercury, orchids and bluebells. There is a large badger sett in the SW corner of the wood that extends along the western boundary hedge

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	1a	Thin	0.25	5	1.25

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.