



The Greenwood

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 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Secondary Woodland	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	The Greenwood
Location:	Bingley
Grid reference:	SE109406, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 104
Area:	0.78 hectares (1.93 acres)
Designations:	Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A narrow piece of woodland running between two housing developments and basically is used as a shortcut between other housing developments. It is mixed woodland with a footpath running through it which is in places wide and surfaced but mostly narrow and unsurfaced.

2.2 Extended Description

Bryant Homes Limited, who was developing 30 new houses on the adjacent land, donated the site to the Trust on the 29th December 1995, as it was a condition of the planning permission that the woodland was protected. A contribution of £35,000 was also made towards its future management. This small, urban mature woodland was formerly part of a Victorian woodland garden to Green Hill Hall. The main access drive ran through the wood with a lodge (now demolished) situated on the south-eastern boundary. The site occupies a steep prominent hillside location above the town of Bingley, in the Aire Valley. Within the woodland are clearly defined former garden paths, some surfaced, edged and lines with stones.

The wood contributes to the limited woodland cover on the north side of the Aire Valley at this point, although large woodlands exist on the southern side of the valley as part of the St Ives Estate. The woodland also forms an attractive backcloth to the new housing development and providing a separation between the estate and the old Victorian residence of Green Hill Hall to the west. In the 1900's the area appeared reasonably well wooded with residential development appearing to be responsible for the loss of the woodland area.

A surfaced public footpath runs through the site, which is reasonably well used, forming a through route from the Bingley and the residential areas in the south on to the moorland to the north.

The wood contains a mixture of mainly mature trees, including sycamore, beech, lime, oak, ash, elm, field maple, holly, laburnum and yew. Shrub under-story includes holly, laurel, privet, box, hazel, snowberry, rhododendron, elder and bramble. An odd cypress tree is also present at the southern end of the wood. Parts of the wood have ancient woodland ground flora species such as dog's mercury, ramsons, bluebells and lesser celandine. Regeneration where present is dominated by ash, but dieback is present and this is unlikely to form a major woodland component in the future. Beech and sycamore are likely to be the main canopy species.

The wood is surrounded by residential development with a high close-boarded fence forming the boundary to the new development on the east. A fence forms the north-western boundary, adjacent to Green Hill Hall. The western boundary is formed by the remnants of an old metal parkland fence and the short southern boundary is undefined.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

The Greenwood is situated to the north of the town of Bingley in West Yorkshire. From the centre of Bingley, The Greenwood can be approached by heading north from the traffic lights on the A650(T) on the road to Eldwick. Follow the road up the hill for approximately 0.5 miles before turning left on the minor road to Greenhill. After a further 0.5 miles the wood can be found on the left, near the junction to the lane to Crossflatts. The road is very wide at this point and roadside parking for a small number of cars can be found. A field access gate abuts the road with a pedestrian gate alongside.

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The entrance is via a pedestrian access gate followed by a short flight of steps.

The site contains one public footpath (240m) which runs north south through the wood. It has a gentle slope and is un-surfaced. If followed further the footpath runs for approximately 0.5 miles through mainly residential areas towards the centre of Bingley.

PARKING

Roadside parking near the entrance to the site.

PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles

BUS STOPS

Bingley - Nearest bus stop - to be confirmed.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Further information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Greenwood will be managed as high forest, and should continue to form an intrinsic part of the local landscape with a canopy cover likely dominated by sycamore and beech. The woodland will be structurally diverse in terms of age and size classification with a mix of older trees, natural regeneration, well developed shrub layer and diverse ground flora. Tree safety should be the main driver for woodland intervention in the future. Public access will be maintained at the current level with at least one main (public) footpath, although there could be the opportunity to open up some of the former historic garden paths.

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

The wood provides an attractive section (240m) of the public footpath, which runs through the centre of the site, linking the urban area of Bingley to the open countryside of Rombalds Moor to the north. Unmanaged paths associated with the former Victorian garden of the hall adjacent still exist and are used occasionally.

Significance

The Greenwood forms an attractive local landscape feature on the popular public footpath, which runs through the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Views of the adjacent houses, tall close boarded fencing, and garden debris dumped in the wood detracts from the appearance of the wood. The wood also contains a number of overgrown footpaths, which were part of the original Victorian garden. These are neat stone edge sided paths and their clearance could reinstate a circular path within the wood. It is unlikely that such work would greatly increase public usage so the work might only be considered if funds were available in the future.

Factors Causing Change

Increased public access.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have a well-maintained public footpath (240m) that enables good access all the year round with 2 access points.

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

Maintenance of the paths, entrances and signage to be undertaken at least once per year, and clearance/ maintenance of the steps and the management parking area inside the gateway to the north side of the wood on at least one occasion during the plan period.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The wood contains a mixture of broadleaf trees, shrubs and ground flora species. The main tree species are sycamore (50%) beech (20%) and lime (10%) with other species present such as ash, oak, wych and English elm, horse chestnut, field maple, holly, laburnum and yew (10%). Shrub under-story is dominated by holly, snowberry, rhododendron, laurel, but with some elder and privet. Parts of the wood have ancient woodland ground flora species such as dog's mercury, ramsons, bluebells, lesser celandine. The narrow strip of woodland occupies a prominent landscape location, on the valley sides above the town of Bingley. The wood is therefore clearly visible in the area and forms a valuable contribution to the local landscape.

Significance

The area of Airedale surrounding the woodland is dominated by mainly grass pastures and residential areas with woodland cover forming a very limited resource, both in landscape terms and as a habitat for wildlife. The wood is therefore a valuable landscape feature and helps to provide a diversity of wildlife habitats.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site contains a number of exotic species, no doubt reflecting its historical background as part of a Victorian woodland garden. This character could be maintained although control of rhododendron and other species may be needed to avoid these becoming over dominant. The removal and control of garden rubbish is needed to avoid the site becoming degraded by these influences. The wood is bounded by residential development with trees being in relatively close proximity to houses. Tree inspections and careful monitoring of the site is therefore clearly required, with action taken to remove trees where necessary.

The woodland composition is almost wholly overmature specimens of beech sycamore and ash, and there is very little opportunity for regeneration apart from through tree safety or larger scale selective felling of trees which would also provide an opportunity for regen and also work towards the effective management of tree safety

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration

Loss of mature trees through old age and safety issues. Loss of mature trees through old age and safety issues., Spread of rhododendron

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long-term intention is to maintain this mixed broadleaved woodland through natural regeneration, including shrub species. Through active intervention the wood will hopefully develop naturally a more diverse age structure including an ongoing supply of decaying wood to increase and safeguard the continuity of the deadwood habitat. The character of the Victorian woodland garden to be maintained, including the control of species such as rhododendron. The management and replacement of boundary trees in the long term will be with smaller growing species, including holly to provide screening to the fence and houses from the footpaths.

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

Further removal of overmature beech and sycamore may be necessary during the current plan period as part of the intervention work to encourage regeneration, as the assessment of the current thinning work is assessed.

Monitoring of natural regeneration and the extent of rhododendron during the plan period as part of the key feature and woodland condition observations. Tree safety inspections to be carried out annually and work undertaken where necessary, in response to immediate or long-term tree safety issues.

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	0.78	Sycamore	1940	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Tree Preservation Order

The compartment contains a mixture of mature (p.1900) broadleaved trees, shrubs and ground flora species on a gentle to moderate south facing slope. The main tree species are sycamore (50%) beech (20%) and lime (10%) with other species present such as ash, oak, wych and English elm, horse chestnut, field maple, holly, laburnum and yew (20%). Shrub under-story is dominated by holly, snowberry, rhododendron, laurel, but with some elder and privet. Parts of the wood have ancient woodland ground flora species such as dog's mercury, ramsons, bluebells and lesser celandine. The ground flora is dominated by ivy species. Rhododendron and laurel forms a significant component on the southern boundary to the properties.

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.