



Garth Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Garth Wood
Location:	Keswick
Grid reference:	NY280237, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 90
Area:	0.43 hectares (1.06 acres)
Designations:	National Park

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This small piece of woodland was donated to the Woodland Trust in 1988 and is popular with local residents.

2.2 Extended Description

Garth Wood was gifted to The Woodland Trust in 1988 and is a small square-shaped woodland just 0.43 hectares (1 acre) in size. It is located in an urban setting on the eastern outskirts of Keswick, within the Lake District National Park. To the east and west are houses and gardens, to the north Eleven Trees Road, and to the south grassland used for grazing. A squeeze style providing pedestrian access from Eleven Trees Road and a welcome sign are located in the middle of the northern boundary. This leads to a central track which is also the management access to the wood and the field beyond (which is private). The woodland is used mainly by local residents, tourists staying locally, and neighbours.

The woodland can be split into two distinct areas by a diagonal line running from the north west corner to the south east corner. Above this line (to the north east) the woodland is made up of mature and semi mature broadleaves thought to be planted around 1870 with sessile oak, beech, sycamore, small leaved lime, wild cherry, silver birch, sweet chestnut, red oak and holly. The shrub layer below the mature trees is made up of vigorous natural regeneration of holly, beech and, where light allows, ash, wild cherry and oak. Sycamore, rowan and hawthorn were also noted to be present though in fewer numbers, along with elder and yew. The herb layer, though sparse beneath the heavy beech canopy, is fairly diverse and includes ivy, bramble, wild raspberry, pignut, lesser celandine, common dock, greater plantain, nipplewort, rose-bay willowherb and ramsons as well as some small groups of bluebells, cultivated daffodils near the northern boundary and a number of grasses.

The remaining area of land to the south west, which was originally semi or unimproved pasture land, was planted in 1988. The trees are now well established and consist of ash, sessile oak, wild cherry, silver birch, holly, horse chestnut, bird cherry and rowan with hazel and hawthorn particularly along the southern boundary. Natural regeneration consisting mainly of ash and oak with some beech and rowan is strong along the edges of the mature woodland and where canopy shading naturally reduces grass competition.

Grasses here include common couch, sheep's fescue, annual meadow grass, Yorkshire fog and tufted hair grass dominate the herb layer though bramble, wild raspberry, rose-bay willow herb, plantains and lesser celandine are also present.

A small stone monument, erected in memory of the donor, is located beside the main track where it enters the younger trees.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Pedestrian access is through a squeeze style from Eleven Trees Road located in the middle of the northern boundary next to a Woodland Trust welcome sign. A 65m permissive path runs through the woodland from north to south along a track. This is also the management access for the wood and neighbours fields beyond. Visitors can easily walk along this and then through the woodland taking advantage of the open access but with no connecting rights of way walking is very limited. There is no formal parking; however it is possible to park adjacent to the woodland on Eleven Trees Road. Keswick town centre is only ½ mile away, and has good public transport links and facilities with toilets and refreshments. For travel information in the area contact Traveline north east and Cumbria, telephone 0871 200 2233 or visit their web site.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Trusts long term vision is to:

- 1) Conserve and enhance the biodiversity and ecological value of this small urban wood, and retain its landscape value. The wood links in with the neighbouring gardens and grazing fields provides a refuge for a variety of wildlife. Garth Wood will be managed by natural processes where possible, with continuous canopy cover, and accept the current mix of natural and naturalised species of tree, shrubs and plants. The aim will be to promote and develop stable mature trees, succession through natural regeneration, an uneven age structure and deadwood to create and maintain a variety of habitats.
- 2) Provide people with opportunities for informal access, recreation and a connection to nature with a mature woodland and its wildlife. This will be achieved by managing the current level of access, with the provision of one entrance and welcome sign. Public information through posters and local consultation will be provided to inform and involve visitors about the woodland and to enable them to gain a better understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment. The adjacent road, houses and gardens require a high level of tree safety, and if necessary for long term stability and preventing future issues, additional works will be considered.

It is anticipated that this approach will ensure the conservation of the woodland and maintain the current level of public access.

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

Public access to Garth Wood is from Eleven Trees Road through a squeeze style located half way along the northern boundary, with a Woodland Trust welcome sign located at this point. There is an informal path along a short track which is also the official access for neighbours getting to the field to the south (which is private). This, coupled with the open and inviting nature of the woodland, allows informal access throughout and despite its small size it is reasonably well-used, particularly by neighbours, local children and visitors staying in adjacent B&Bs. No formal parking exists but it is possible to park adjacent to the woodland on Eleven Trees Road.

Significance

Although small in size this woodland is part of a wider wooded landscape within the Lake District National Park, which attracts thousands of visitor annually, and the town of Keswick is very popular. There are hotels and guest houses adjacent to Garth Wood. It therefore has a high value to local people by landscaping the area and providing natural green space close to residential properties. Local school children during National Tree Week in 1988 planted many trees within Garth Wood which has helped foster continued interest in the woodland and its development. Garth Wood provides the opportunity for regular, small-scale informal recreation for people (including children) without the need for transport.

Opportunities & Constraints

No public rights of way exist within or around the woodland and there are no external links to more extensive routes however the adjacent road is used frequently by walkers as part of a circular route taking in the nearby stone circle (Castlerigg). The woodland could be extended to the south, but that is all and would not greatly increase its facilities or increase visitor numbers; it is well used by local residents, tourists staying locally and children and offers an extremely peaceful setting and somewhere pleasant to connect to and enjoy wildlife. Whilst no formal parking exists it is possible to park quite safely on Eleven Trees Road adjacent to the woodland, as most visitors are likely to be local or people walking by there is little need for parking.

Factors Causing Change

Garden Waste. Unauthorised use of garden gates. Third party access to adjacent field causing heavy use of track and drainage issues.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Trust will maintain informal access provision to Woodland Trust standard specifications at its current moderate level of use. Tree safety inspections will be regularly undertaken to ensure that local users, neighbours and visitors can enjoy the woodland for its landscape value and for peaceful recreation. Public information and posters will be used where appropriate to inform and involve visitors to the woodland and to promote greater understanding of the importance of woodland within the wider environment. The Trust will continue to work with the local community where possible on projects involving the woodland. The adjacent road, houses and gardens require a high level of tree safety, and if necessary for long term stability and preventing major future issues, proactive silvicultural works will be considered.

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

Regularly inspect boundaries (once during each plan) and undertake repairs, working with neighbouring owners as appropriate to ensure the site remains stockproof and there are no encroachments or garden rubbish dumping. Undertake regular safety inspections of mature trees to ensure safety of visitors, adjacent houses and the road. Ensure development of young woodland area and assess if pro-active silvicultural work is required to ensure long-term tree development and safety, every 5 years. Maintain and repair the pedestrian access with welcome sign to Woodland Trust specifications strimming and cutting encroaching vegetation from the entrance and roadside, and remove litter as necessary (in EMC annually). Continue to involve local people by consultation and direct practical action where appropriate.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Garth Wood is a small square-shaped woodland located in an urban setting on the eastern outskirts of Keswick and extends to 0.43ha. The woodland can be split into two distinct areas by a line running from the north west corner to the south east corner. Above this line (to the north east) the woodland is made up of mature and semi mature broadleaves thought to be planted around 1870 including sessile oak, beech, sycamore, small leaved lime, wild cherry, silver birch, sweet chestnut, red oak and holly. The shrub layer below the mature trees is made up of vigorous natural regeneration ash and oak with some beech and rowan. Holly, rowan, hawthorn were also noted to be present though in fewer numbers, along with one elder and one yew. The remaining area of land to the south west, which was originally semi or unimproved pasture land, was planted with mixed native broadleaves including ash, sessile oak, wild cherry, silver birch, holly, horse chestnut, bird cherry and rowan with hazel and hawthorn in 1988. In this area ash are approx 25% of the planting, and had early signs of ash dieback in 2018. The herb layer, though sparse beneath the heavy beech canopy is fairly diverse and includes ivy, bramble, wild raspberry as well as a few clumps of bluebells and cultivated daffodils

Significance

Garth Wood is a significant local landscape feature in a residential area of Keswick, it is within a local ancient woodland concentration, and a Biodiversity Priority Area. The wood is a key link between the urban environment and the countryside, including grassland and woodland to the south. Garth Wood is in an urban setting and helps to break up the visual impact of houses and bring the countryside to the local community. The mature woodland is diverse in terms of species and structure and provides cover, food and nesting sites for a variety of birds and small mammals.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to implement the Trusts long term vision set out in 'Keeping Woodlands Alive' by conserving and enhancing the woodland through management of a continuous canopy of trees, developing old trees and deadwood, ensuring succession, preferably through natural regeneration. The wood provides a good example of the benefits and possibilities of good woodland management of a small mature wood in a very urban setting. Retention of the mature canopy is constrained by the risk of safety due to the proximity of neighbouring houses, gardens and the road. With the proximity to urban properties it is possible that exotic species from gardens may colonise the woodland. Where colonisation poses a threat to the current overall mix of natural or naturalised species removal or control may be considered where sustainable, following the Trust's policy on non-native species. Where there is no threat the species can be accepted as part of the biodiversity and character of the woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive non-native species, tipping of garden waste, removal of trees for safety reasons. Ash dieback, in area planted 1988.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To conserve and enhance this mature, broadleaved, mixed species woodland with a variety of native and naturalised trees, shrub and associated ground flora. The wood will develop largely through natural processes maintaining continuous canopy cover, and habitats will develop and diversify naturally to produce a variety of age classes, mature and over mature trees (where they remain safe), deadwood habitats, and natural succession through natural regeneration.

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

Manage the existing mature and semi-mature trees to ensure their continued retention and development, through regular tree safety inspections. Monitor for the dumping of garden waste, especially non-native invasive species and if necessary take appropriate action following WT guidelines.

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	0.43	Mixed broadleaves	1870	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Legal issues	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	National Park

The wood, extending to 0.43ha, is enclosed in a post and wire fence and a small section of dry stone wall (on the western boundary) with a sparse hedge of native species to the north and south; and garden hedges of beech, holly and Lonicera to the east. To the north east the woodland is made up of mature and semi mature broadleaves totalling around 40 trees and thought to be planted about 1870. The species present are sessile oak, beech, sycamore, small leaved lime, wild cherry, silver birch, sweet chestnut, red oak and holly. The shrub layer below the mature trees is made up of vigorous natural regeneration of holly, beech and where light allows ash, wild cherry and oak. Sycamore, rowan, hawthorn were also noted to be present though in fewer numbers, along with one elder and one yew. The herb layer, though sparse beneath the heavy beech canopy is fairly diverse and includes ivy, bramble, wild raspberry as well as a few clumps of bluebells and cultivated daffodils. The area to the south west, originally unimproved pasture land, was planted with 200 trees ash, sessile oak, wild cherry, silver birch, holly, horse chestnut, bird cherry and rowan with hazel and hawthorn in 1988. In this area ash are approx 25% of the planting, and had early signs of ash dieback in 2018. Natural regeneration consisting mainly of ash and oak with some beech and rowan is strong along the edges of the mature trees and where canopy shading naturally reduces grass competition.

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.