



Gaddum's Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Gaddum's Wood
Location:	Wilmslow
Grid reference:	SJ801808, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 109
Area:	0.51 hectares (1.26 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A small, narrow linear strip of woodland in a rural setting which contains a mix of mature broadleaved trees and several tall mature Corsican pines. It has quite an interesting ground flora including bluebells, wild garlic, dogs mercury and celandine. There are two ponds located near the middle of the wood. There are no footpaths in the wood due to dense undergrowth, ditches and wet areas and is unsuitable for walking in but can be easily be viewed from the roadside.

2.2 Extended Description

Gaddums Wood is a small rural wood near Mobberley in East Cheshire. It is situated in a predominantly farming landscape with a mix of grazed pasture, arable fields, horse paddocks and small wooded copses in the surrounding area. The site is flat, like much of the surrounding landscape and abuts Davenport Lane to the north and east and pasture fields to the south and west. The western third of the wood is narrow with a small drainage ditch running from east to west; the central section is the widest and contains two seasonal ponds; and the south eastern section has a fairly open canopy after previous tree safety work resulted in several large trees being felled.

The key feature of the site is secondary woodland containing a mix of broadleaf and conifer species. The canopy is dominated by oak, beech, sycamore, lime, Corsican pine and horse chestnut with under storey including yew, holly, elm, elder, sycamore, and ash. There is considerable regeneration of holly, yew, sycamore and horse chestnut, and some suckering of elm from stumps and old root systems. The ground layer includes bramble, ferns, ivy, a variety of Umbelliferae, with bluebells and daffodils (probably garden escapes). Rhododendron was quite widespread in the eastern part of the wood but most of this has been cleared although there has been some regrowth from stumps.

It was owned by Mr and Mrs Gaddum between 1956 and 1981 and then left as a legacy to be managed by the Cheshire Landscape Trust (CLT). CLT realising that they did not have the resources for the long-term management of the wood then gifted it to the Woodland Trust in December 1994. Management intervention in the past has primarily been for tree safety and control of rhododendron.

Public access is permitted although there are no formal access points or footpaths in the wood and it is thought to be only occasionally used by local people.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Gaddum's Wood is located on Davenport Lane at the junction with Blakeley Lane near the village of Mobberley and is about 3 miles to the west of the town of Wilmslow.

There is no formal car parking at the wood, but visitors can park with care on Davenport Lane.

For more information on the bus routes and location of bus stops visit the traveline website <http://www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm>

There are no public toilets in the vicinity.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Gaddums Wood is to maintain a high forest canopy of mixed, predominantly broadleaves although some conifers will be accepted, and with a diverse structure, species and age composition. It will be managed primarily as a landscape feature and wildlife habitat through minimum management intervention to allow mature trees to thrive and young trees to regenerate where there are losses, and retaining fallen and standing deadwood where safe to do so.

The main driver for woodland operations will be for tree safety due to the close proximity of the road and nearby houses and to control invasive species such as rhododendron. The ponds will be left to natural succession.

Public access will be maintained at the current level with low key signage at boundaries and no formal access points or footpaths maintained within the wood.

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

There are no formal access points or footpaths within the wood although public access is permitted and can be gained at various points along Davenport Lane. A small Woodland Trust sign is located by the roadside. The small size of the wood and dense ground cover in the wood makes access difficult on site.

Significance

In accordance with the Woodland Trust's general aims the site is open to the public for quiet informal recreation. Cheshire has less than 5% woodland cover, therefore sites like Gaddums Wood managed for perpetuity serve as important landscape features and provide the opportunity for the public to access woodland close to where they live.

Opportunities & Constraints

The very small size of the wood and quiet rural location means that opportunities for public access and community involvement are limited. The Trust will continue to encourage neighbours to take an interest in the wood, through acting as eyes and ears.

Factors Causing Change

The site has been subject in the past to occasional misuse in the form of tipped garden waste, but not significant to impact on the woodland flora.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the current level of low key public access with no formal access or footpaths maintained within the wood.

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

During the plan period a Woodland Trust sign at the boundary will be maintained annually. Litter and fly tipping will be monitored and removed annually, and contact made with neighbours where tipping becomes an issue.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

The wood has a canopy of mixed broadleaf and coniferous trees, many of which are not regionally native. It has a reasonable structure in terms of species mix, age and size distribution. The understorey and natural regeneration includes sycamore, ash, yew, holly, elm, elder and horse chestnut. There are two seasonal ponds that in recent years have retained some water throughout the summer. An open drain runs through the western third of the site and empties into the Sugar Brook on the western boundary. Along the boundaries to Davenport Lane and the fields to the south of the wood are thorn hedges.

Significance

Although the site is small it is a mosaic of habitats that includes ponds, a ditch, hedgerows, mixed woodland with a stream and grassland adjacent to the wood. Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England with only 5% woodland cover and small woodlands such as this are important landscape features and as wildlife refuges.

Opportunities & Constraints

The very small size of the wood is a constraint to undertaking any management work. Tree safety work from time to time will provide opportunities to encourage natural regeneration of native species in the canopy and understorey. The ample natural regeneration includes holly, yew, sycamore, ash, birch, cherry and elm suckers, this offers the opportunity to ensure the successful establishment of desired regeneration and to develop an understorey of yew and holly at levels that do not suppress new regeneration or ground-flora.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive rhododendron could spread if not controlled.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain a high forest canopy of mixed, predominantly broadleaved species although some conifers will be accepted, with a varied structure in terms of species and age class distribution. The wood will be allowed to develop as naturally as possible and dead wood will be retained where safe to do so although tree safety will be a priority. Rhododendron will be eradicated to prevent it spreading. The ponds will be left to develop through natural succession.

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

The health of trees will be monitored at least once per plan period through the woodland condition assessment for any diseases, pests or threats. Tree safety inspections will be undertaken biannually as part of the site risk assessment process for public safety in high risk zones (i.e. roadside). No silvicultural or pond management work is planned during the plan period. The roadside hedge will be cut annually to maintain road visibility and safety. Rhododendron removal and stump treatment of regrowth will be undertaken annually as necessary to control any regrowth.

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	0.51	Mixed broadleaves	1940	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

The compartment is flat and approximately 35m at its widest, 300m long and runs roughly west to east alongside Davenport Lane turning southwards for about 100m at the eastern end. The north and east boundaries are defined by a patchy thorn hedge and in places post and rail fencing on Davenport Lane. The southern boundary is also defined by a thorn hedge next to grazing pasture. A small stream, Sugar Brook, abuts the western end of the wood. There is an overhead power line running parallel to the southern boundary although it is outside the wood apart from in the south eastern corner which it crosses. The compartment has a variety of age ranges from young regeneration to fully mature trees and includes oak (*Q. robur* & *Q. cerris*), beech, sycamore, lime, Corsican pine and horse chestnut in the canopy, with a patchy under storey including yew, holly, elm, elder, sycamore, and ash. There is considerable regeneration of holly, yew, sycamore and horse chestnut, and some suckering of elm from stumps and old root systems. Lower vegetation layers include rhododendron, bramble, ferns, ivy, a variety of Umbelliferae, with bluebells and daffodils (probably of domestic origin). A drainage ditch issuing from the cellar of Beech Tree House runs through the eastern third of the compartment, and two seasonal ponds occur in the central section.

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.