



COED CADW  
WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Granner 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	Granner Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Presteigne
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SO270626, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 148
<b>Area:</b>	9.67 hectares (23.90 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Scheduled Ancient Monument

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Granner Wood lies on the Offa's Dyke long distance footpath, on a hill overlooking the village of Evanjobb. Comprising a scheduled ancient monument (Offa's Dyke), ancient woodland and planted trees from the 1950s, there is plenty to explore here.

### 2.2 Extended Description

Granner Wood is prominently located on a hill overlooking the village of Evanjobb. The wood is an ancient semi-natural woodland site (ASNW), which was replanted with sessile oak and a mix of conifers in the 1950s, so is classified as a Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS). It has naturally regenerating native broadleaved woodland with some recent native broadleaf planting. It is surrounded on all sides by improved pastureland, although there are also several sizeable ancient woodland sites in the area. Sessile oak occupies the lower slopes of the wood, while Douglas fir, noble fir and Japanese larch have been planted further upslope.

The highest point of the site has been planted with Scot's pine and this forms a visible skyline when the site is viewed from Evanjobb. The earthwork Offa's Dyke, a Scheduled Ancient Monument is present in the SW corner of the site, and its associated but separate, long distance public footpath bisects the site. Permissive paths link with this to form a circular route from the car park at the southern end.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

#### General Location:

Granner Wood is located on the hill above Evenjobb. Arriving into Evenjobb on the side road off the B4357 (signposted towards Evenjobb), take a right signposted towards Presteigne (5 miles). Take the next left by the post office and follow the road up the hill for approximately 1 mile, and the entrance to the wood is on the left. There is space for 1 car to park.

#### Overview of paths and entrances:

At the main entrance there is a kissing gate and another padlocked entrance gate. From here there is a level track which runs through the length of the site, with good walking conditions. Approximately 100 meters along this track, the Offas Dyke path cuts across the site. This can be followed down to the left and out of the wood or up a set of steps and through the wood.

#### Parking:

There is no car park and space for only one car to park at the entrance. Alternatively there may be room to park on the streets in Evenjobb and walk the mile uphill to the wood.

#### Public transport:

Sargeants run a service between Kington and Evenjobb once a day (information gathered April 07). For further details contact Powys County Council public transport 0845 607 6060.

#### Public Toilets:

The nearest public toilets are at Presteigne Car park & Public Toilets, Hereford St (grid reference 331526/264322) approximately 5 miles away, RADAR key is required. (information from Powys County Council, December 2006).

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The woodland will be comprised of native broadleaved species throughout, thus uniting the existing semi-natural Upland Oakwood with the rest of the site as exotic conifers are removed through gradual thinning. Public access will continue with paths, steps, gates and entrances maintained in a safe and welcoming condition, particularly along the important Offa's Dyke Path.

## 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 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

#### Description

Although designated as an Ancient Woodland Site, there is some historical evidence showing that the land was open in the early to mid 19th century. A natural secondary woodland habitat appears to be developing under the existing conifer canopy. The woodland type of this habitat appears to be W17 Upland Oakwood and most common regeneration species are oak, birch and rowan. Ground flora on the site is also indicative of this woodland type and includes bluebells, foxglove, honeysuckle. As the conifer canopy is thinned the site is developing into this woodland type.

#### Significance

Restoration of all PAWS is a WT priority. Ancient woodland and its features is an irreplaceable and threatened habitat type in Britain.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to aid the development of the native woodland habitat by gradually removing the existing conifer crop. Offa's Dyke Scheduled Ancient Monument is a minor constraint in any thinning operations.

#### Factors Causing Change

Invasive Rhododendron present in 1a and 1b. Natural Succession. Increase in deer numbers may adversely effect natural regeneration and restoration.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

A ASNW site comprised of mostly native broadleaved trees.

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

Successfully establish two small planted woodland areas. PAWS Zone 1, in 1a, continue to selectively thin conifers and extract. Throughout whole site pull/brushcut all conifer regeneration and spray all Rhododendron to eradicate it.



## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Public access is particularly key to this site as Offa's Dyke PROW runs through it, following the line of Offa's Dyke at the lower entrance from the road and then continuing parallel higher up the slope. A permissive path then links with this at the north-eastern and south-western ends to form a circular route. A small area for car parking is also present at the southern end of the site. The site is also well visited as it is near to the village of Evenjobb.

### Significance

The site is used by residents of Evenjobb and Offa's Dyke Path is a popular national route, attracting many walkers each year.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Two sets of wooden steps have been built in partnership with Powys CC as Offa's Dyke path improvements on the steeper sloped earthworks.

### Factors Causing Change

None identified.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site continues to provide informal public access, and a small car parking area and path network, especially Offa's Dyke PROW that is open and maintained.

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

Maintain path infrastructure, including infrastructure items that are Powys CC responsibility (steps and northern entrance gate).

### 5.3 Archaeological Feature

#### Description

Offa's Dyke - a boundary mound between Wales and England, built by King Offa of Mercia. The land is currently planted with trees although a short stretch from the entrance has been cleared. A long distance footpath follows the dyke for a short distance and then continues through the wood on a route parallel but separate to the route of the actual dyke.

#### Significance

Part of a national feature that goes the length of the Wales/England border. A Scheduled Ancient Monument.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Any work on the site will need SAM approval.

#### Factors Causing Change

Scrub growth on monument.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Offa's Dyke is present and visible and unaffected by recreational and forestry activities.

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

Ensure the section nearest the entrance remains clear of vegetation.

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## 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	6.10	Douglas fir	1952	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Moderately to steeply sloping, northwest facing sub compartment above the main ride consisting of mature conifers planted in 1952 and last thinned (DF only) in 2012. Douglas fir is the most common species, along with Scots pine, and small amounts of Japanese larch and noble fir. New planting of oak, cherry and silver birch totalling 0.2ha at extreme south of compartment 0.14ha and extreme north of compartment of 0.06ha. Sessile oak is also present along the ride edge and was planted at the same time. An understorey of mainly natural regeneration is present under the thinned canopy and mostly comprises ash, downy birch, hazel and rowan. Ground flora is also rich and includes wood sorrel, rush, bramble, dock, grasses, moss, bracken, thistle, gorse, willow herb, Sphagnum moss, foxglove, bluebells and assorted fungi. Two tracks, forming a circular walk, run around the edge of the sub compartment and a useable harvesting track runs through the centre. The easternmost track forms part of Offa's Dyke Path and there is provision for car parking at the southern end of the linked permissive track. The western boundary also follows parallel to the line of Offa's Dyke PROW, though is not part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

1b	3.58	Oak (sessile)	1952	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Landscape factors, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access, Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Scheduled Ancient Monument
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Moderately to steeply sloping, northwest facing sub compartment below the main ride, made up of sessile oak, planted in 1952. Downy birch and some beech are also present in the canopy. A varied understorey is present, the main species being ash regeneration and hazel coppice, with some sycamore. Ground flora is fairly patchy and typical of upland oakwood, with species including bramble, bracken, grasses, ragwort, wood sorrel, Sphagnum moss, honeysuckle, bluebells, gorse and assorted fungi. Rhododendron has been successfully cleared in the past. Near the entrance there is a small area of Douglas and noble fir and occasional larch, with an elder understorey that was thinned and a 0.07ha area of Douglas fir at the northern end that was clear-felled in 2012. New planting of oak, cherry and silver birch totalling 0.07ha at extreme north of compartment replacing the clear-felled Douglas fir.

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## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	2.00	0	0

## 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.