COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Llanhaylow Wood

Management Plan
2014-2019

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Llanhaylow Wood
Location:	Gladestry
Grid reference:	SO226565, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 148
Area:	11.81 hectares (29.18 acres)
Designations:	Planted Ancient Woodland Site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Llanhaylow Wood is a former Forestry Commission site which is now being encouraged to regenerate. It lies just north of Gladestry, at the convergence of several footpaths and a cycle route.

2.2 Extended Description

Llanhaylow Wood is a former Forestry Commission-owned site that was planted with Douglas fir, Japanese larch, western hemlock, oak, Norway spruce and poplars around 1955. The site has been identified as a planted ancient woodland site. This has been identified as a Key Feature of the site. The site is remotely located in an attractive, undulating countryside extending down a west-facing hillside to Gilwern Brook, which forms part of the north-western boundary. The site links with ancient woodland outside of its boundaries along the Gilwern Brook.
The previous owner carried out thinning in approximately 1990 and the cleared areas appear to be regenerating well with broadleaves. A network of lightly used permissive footpaths and rides is present throughout the site and there is informal parking for a small number of cars at the southern end. Informal Public Access has been identified as a Key Feature. Conservation features of the site include streams and ponds, a wood bank and a large, attractive fallen willow across a track at the western end of the site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General location
Llanhaylow wood is located approximately 1 mile from the centre of Gladestry. Take the turning off the B4594 up a side road towards the church but instead of turning left to the church carry on straight up the road (which is a dead end).
Overview of Paths and entrances:
The south west corner of the site adjoins the public road. There is a track adjoining the western boundary, which is also a Public Byway. Furthermore a public Bridlepath [ref: GD1447] extends eastwards from the road and adjoins two lengths of the southern boundary. The route of the bridlepath partially co-incides with the route of the Management access. From the entrance to the site (at the end of the road), in order to reach the entrance to the wood, walk down the Byway and the entrance is approximately 200metres along on the right, with a Woodland Trust sign. This entrance will take you down a steep set of steps towards the stream in the bottom of the valley. There is a network of circular paths throughout the site, but walkers should be aware that these are very steep in places with several sets of steps.
There is an alternative entrance if instead of walking down the byway, walk along the Bridlepath which takes you through a gate and field (note with sheep - please keep dogs on leads) until you reach the entrance to the wood on your left.
Parking
There is room to park 2 cars at the entrance to the wood but please do not block the access for the neighbouring farms.
Public Transport
Sargents buses run a route between Huntington and Kington every Tuesday in the morning and returning in the afternoon. The bus stop is outside the Royal Oak Inn in Gladestry, approximately 1 mile from the site. For details of times of buses, phone Sargants on 01544 230481. (information gathered April 07).
Public Toilets
The nearest public toilets are approximately 7.1 miles away in Presteigne Presteigne Car park & Public Toilets, Hereford St (grid reference 331526/264322). There are disabled facilities which require a RADAR key (information from Powys County Council, December 2006).

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The woodland is managed to establish an intimately mixed, uneven-aged woodland of predominantly mixed native broadleaves appropriate to the area, such as oak, ash, rowan and hazel. The majority of mature, semi-mature and young naturally regenerated conifers will have been gradually removed according to Woodland Trust restoration best practice. The large, mature Douglas fir present near the boundary between sub-compartments 1a & b will have been retained, however, for aesthetic value. The small areas of planted trees will have developed into mixed broadleaf woodland. The network of paths will have been maintained for informal 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 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Prior to the planting of conifers within the site by the Forestry Commission in the 1950s, Llanhaylow consisted of semi-natural ancient woodland. The site has remained continuously wooded, however, and holds the designation of a planted ancient woodland site. Much of the original semi-natural woodland remains, with scattered large old oak and ash trees present, along with ancient woodland indicator species such as wood sorrel and opposite leaved golden saxifrage. Even in the areas that remain after the heavy thinning of the conifers in the early 1990s, much of the colonisation has been through natural regeneration and many native species continue to regenerate freely. This has been supplemented by planting of native broadleaves in some areas.

Significance

Planted ancient woodland. 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 return the site to its original semi-natural status by removing the existing conifers and controlling their regeneration. There is ample opportunity for re-colonisation of the site with native broadleaves through natural regeneration. Many of the conifers have been removed already, and on most of the site the Ancient Woodland features are considered secure. However some areas will require gradual thinning, in particular in ct. 1a. It will be necessary to thin the sub-dominant conifers along the stream bank in 1b and 1c, where the Ancient Woodland Features are considered threatened, albeit in small areas. Several of the older conifers, such as the large mature Douglas fir near to the northern boundary of sub-compartment 1a may be retained to over maturity. The other sub-dominant conifers will be gradually felled to waste, as extraction from this site is difficult.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Sycamore, natural regeneration of exotic conifers, threat of Chalara fraxinea

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland is gradually returned to its original semi-natural woodland status through the felling to waste of conifers, control of conifer regeneration and recruitment of native broadleaved regeneration. Ancient woodland components are secure and improving in condition and a number of broadleaved and large conifer trees are retained to over-maturity across the site. Broadleaved trees in the gully in sub-compartment 1a are subject to halo thinning on a 5-year basis in order to gradually release them and promote structural stability.

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

In sub-compartment 1a sned and cross-cut stems previously cut to waste. If practical winch-out large stems and extract. If extraction not practical then attempt to get as much timber on the ground so that it decays more quickly. Pull/brushcut conifer regeneration. Within the more accessible, flatter areas of 1b, selectively fell all conifers, particularly the WRC in the eastern extremity where it encroaches on broadleaved trees. Within the matrix of sub-compartment 1c target sub-dominant conifers to fell to waste, leaving larger specimens to grow on (mostly Douglas fir). Pull/brushcut conifer regeneration. These processes will not be completed during this plan period and will continue into the next. Maintain site stockproof.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Informal public access exists across the whole site in the form of a network of permissive rides and footpaths. The path network may be accessed from the southern, eastern and western ends of the site, and the eastern entrance, which also provides management access, has a kissing gate large enough to permit disabled access to the stretch of ride which leads eastwards to the pond and a glade where four paths meet. The site appears to be reasonably well used locally and an information board and Millennium model of the site are located near to the southernmost point of the wood, opposite Grove Cottage.

Significance

The site has an extensive network of permissive footpaths and tracks and appears to be reasonably well used locally.

Opportunities & Constraints

Informal public access within the site is constrained in places by the steepness of the terrain, particularly in the vicinity of the boundary between sub-compartments 1a and 1b. The planted, shallow-rooted poplars in the site are proving to be unstable (08) and there is a risk that they fall across footpaths. There is an opportunity to remove potentially unstable poplars adjacent to footpaths while carrying out PAWS restoration thinning if necessary.

Factors Causing Change

None

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Informal public access continues to exist within the site, and is maintained at the present level, with permissive paths remaining clear and open.

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

Annually maintain paths and ride centres and ensure steps remain safe to use.
Maintain pond as an attractive visitor feature and control surrounding vegetation to prevent over-shading.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	2.70	Mixed conifers	1955	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/ Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Moderately to steeply sloping sub-compartment of mainly planted conifers, interspersed with oak and ash. The Forestry Commission planted the conifers in 1955 and species include western hemlock, Douglas fir, grand fir and Norway spruce, last thinned in 2012. A fairly steep gully forms the majority of this sub-compartment with the land opening out to the north. The northern section also has a greater concentration of broadleaves, as a result of previous conifer thinning operations. In the gully, broadleaved regeneration is mainly suppressed by the western hemlock canopy, but where there is enough light there is broadleaved regeneration. A permissive footpath enters the wood from a public track about half way along the western boundary and runs through the northern end to cross the stream that separates this sub-compartment from the rest of the site. An ancient boundary bank runs along the western boundary. Ground flora associated with ancient woodland sites is locally frequent in the less-shaded areas.							
1b	7.10	Oak (sessile)	1970	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/ Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Moderately to steeply sloping, south-west facing sub-compartment that occupies the central portion of the site, between the two streams. Oak, ash and a minor element of mixed conifers form the canopy, the Forestry Commission having planted the site with Douglas fir, grand fir, Norway spruce, Japanese larch and western red cedar in 1955. The conifers were heavily thinned in the early 1990s and there is some conifer regeneration, however some cleared areas now comprise abundant native broadleaved regeneration and planted broadleaves. Locally abundant ground flora associated with ancient woodland sites is present, including bluebells, violets and some more rare species. A gate at the eastern end provides management and public access and several permissive paths are present.							

1c	2.10	Ash	1950	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/ Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Moderately to steeply sloping, south west facing sub-compartment that forms the northern end of the site. The Forestry Commission planted the sub-compartment with Douglas fir, grand fir, Norway spruce and western red cedar in the 1950s, however the majority of conifers have been removed and ash is the main canopy species. Following heavy conifer thinning in the early 1990s, there are now areas of open ground now populated by broadleaved regeneration, mostly ash and alder, with some planted oak. The conifers that remain have suffered fairly severe wind damage. A circular permissive path runs through this sub-compartment, in which streams form the northern, eastern and southern boundaries. Locally abundant ground flora associated with ancient woodland sites is present, including bluebells, violets and some more rare species. A large landscaped pond, which does not belong to the Woodland Trust, is also located close to the south-eastern boundary.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2018	1a	Thin	2.70	0	0
2023	1a	Thin	2.70	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.