



Memorial Plantation

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 Planted Ancient Woodland Site	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Memorial Plantation
Location:	Burton in Lonsdale
Grid reference:	SD655718, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 97
Area:	1.26 hectares (3.11 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A very small mixed woodland accessed from playing fields to the north. Dogs are not allowed on the playing field so cannot be taken into the wood.

2.2 Extended Description

Memorial Plantation is situated south east of Burton-in-Lonsdale village centre. Memorial Plantation is a very small mixed woodland of mature oak, ash, sycamore, beech and Scots pine, with an under storey of hawthorn, holly and elder. It is located on a north facing slope, bounded to the north by playing fields and a minor road to the east and west by improved pasture land and to the south by a small area of gill woodland of a very similar woodland composition to Memorial Plantation.

Part of the woodland was newly planted in December 1998 with native species including ash, oak, rowan, hazel, wild cherry and holly, all planted in 1.2m tubex tubes and shrub guards at 3.0m spacing's (shelters removed in 2005). The ground flora is a mix of improved grass species, as the area planted was previously tipped with builders subsoil from a local development, levelled and seeded immediately prior to planting

The mature woodland has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO No. 19 - administered by Craven District Council), and the site is within an Area of Great Landscape Value. Ground flora is generally sparse, although there are some species which could indicate ancient origins (especially considering it is a gill woodland and close to the River Greta where there is a long chain of broken ancient woodlands following the river valley), and as the woodland does appear as mature woodland on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1850. Access to the woodland is only available via the playing fields - noting that no dogs are allowed on the recreation area and hence no dogs can be taken into the woodland area. No formal routes are maintained within either the establishing woodland or the mature woodland area. Limited parking is available for 5-6 cars on the roadside lay-by opposite the playing fields on the roadside.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The woodland area borders the village recreation field to the south east of Burton In Lonsdale village centre,. Access to the woodland is only available via the playing fields - noting that no dogs are allowed on the recreation area and hence no dogs can be taken into the woodland area. No formal routes are maintained within either the establishing woodland or the mature woodland area. Limited parking is available for 5-6 cars on the roadside layby opposite the playing fields .

Greta Wood (also Woodland Trust) is less than 5 minutes walk to the west and provides a gentle riverside walk through mature ancient woodland on public footpaths (no parking is available at Greta Wood) alongside the River Greta.

Bus routes run through to the main street of Burton in Lonsdale, from where it is a 300m walk to the woodlands. Information from the traveline website.

Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2608. The nearest public toilets are located in the Local Authority car park in Ingleton, approximately 5km to the east.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Overall future management will follow minimum-intervention management principles, through natural losses and regeneration allow the development of a lowland, predominantly broadleaved high forest. Regeneration on this site is dominated by ash, although sycamore and beech are expected to remain a significant component of the woodland through natural regeneration.

However with the onset of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), some intervention in the short term may be required within the established young woodland (planted 1998) Cpt. 1b to create a more resilient woodland as the majority of the planting is ash. Therefore under-planting with a mixture of broadleaved species will ensure that this area continues to develop into high forest.

Access levels are not expected to increase greatly, although it is expected that as the woodland planting matures and becomes more attractive, so there may be desire line paths develop which will not be maintained but will be accepted as an integral part of the woodland.

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

Whilst the woodland does not have any formal permissive routes, the Woodland Trust allow full access, although these rights are little used as the woodland is adjacent to playing fields and the steeply sloping mature woodland does not lend itself to easy access. Limited use is made of the Woodland Creation area via the permissive squeeze stiles, where Woodland Trust welcoming signs are situated.

Significance

The woodland although small with relatively poor access does form an important backdrop to the village and especially to the sports fields and grassed areas, adding character in an area where small woodlands are commonplace. It also forms part of a larger broken chain of ancient woodlands following the course of the River Greta and as such forms part of a larger woodland habitat.

Opportunities & Constraints

Very small size, steep slopes and no formal permissive routes maintained. Opportunity for development of a maintained route through the woodland creation area if requested, but would not add significantly to the accessible woodland in the immediate area.

Factors Causing Change

The public are free to access all of the woodland at present and are not restricted to any paths, however with the onset of *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* the safety of this may have to be reviewed.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the existing level of access, allowing informal access throughout the wood with no formal routes maintained. No future path creation to be undertaken within the mature woodland area due to the existing open access adjacent, due to the woodland terrain, the very small nature of the woodland and the easily accessible woodland in the immediate vicinity.

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

Monitor the use of the woodland at least once every five years to check on the development of paths and if these are entering areas with a high ash composition. Ensure annually that the Woodland Trust areas of ownership are marked with welcoming signs.

5.2 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Mixed woodland of mature oak, ash, sycamore, beech and Scots pine on a north facing slope, with an understory of hawthorn, holly and elder. Bounded to the south by improved lowland pasture and a small area of gill woodland of an identical type to Memorial Plantation, and to the north by an area of woodland creation (Woodland Trust, native planting) and playing fields.

Significance

Although the site has no formal Ancient Woodland Designations (due to its size - not being surveyed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.) the site does appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps, and does show signs of ancient woodland origins through the ground flora. The woodland is also part of a broken chain of woodlands following the River Greta, which provide essential woodland habitat in a part of the county where ancient woodland is limited and that remaining is usually small in nature and limited to riversides and generally more inaccessible terrain.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity through the management of any regeneration to promote the re-creation of a native broadleaved woodland site. Although this would take many years of intervention as there are a large number of mature sycamore and beech on site. Considering the small woodland size and the composition of many woodlands in the local area it would be more practical to allow the regeneration of any species on site to maintain a healthy lowland broadleaved woodland on the site, managed by minimum intervention.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Sycamore, Invasive Beech, Deer Damage, Rabbit Damage, pest and diseases, climate change.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain broadleaved woodland on this probable ASNW site. Managed through minimum intervention to retain lowland broadleaved woodland on site.

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

Monitor the development and species regenerating every 5 years, to ensure that a satisfactory level of regeneration is occurring throughout the woodland, or regenerating where gaps in the canopy allow.

Underplant Cpt. 1b in 2017 with a range of broadleaved tree and shrub species to create a more resilient woodland prior to the eventual loss of ash from the woodland mixture.

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	0.60	Mixed broadleaves	1900	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Area of Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Mixed woodland of mature oak, ash, sycamore, beech and Scots pine on a north facing slope, with an generally sparse understorey of hawthorn, holly and elder. Bounded to the south by improved lowland pasture and a small area of gill woodland of a very similar woodland composition to Memorial Plantation, and to the north by an area of woodland creation (Woodland Trust, native woodland planting from 1998) and then playing fields.</p>							
1b	0.70	Ash	1998	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Area of Landscape Value
<p>The sub-compartment is composed of ash, oak, rowan, hazel, wild cherry and holly, planted in 1.2m tubex tubes and shrubguards at 3.0m spacing's in December 1998 (shelters removed in 2005). The ground flora is a mix of improved grass species on a well drained fine loamy soil over limestone. The site is on flat land bounded to the south by the mature woodland of Memorial Plantation, which although planted, almost certainly has ancient native origins, and by playing fields to the north. Permissive access into the area is via two squeeze stiles but not formal paths are cut or maintained.</p>							

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.