



Hillview Community Woodland

Management Plan

2017-2022

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 Local Woodland Habitat	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Hillview Community Woodland
Location:	Enniskillen
Grid reference:	H241452, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 17
Area:	1.42 hectares (3.51 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Hillview wood is a small triangular area of wet woodland. It is bounded by public footpaths on the two northern sides and the Racecourse Lough to the west. A millennium feature of a circular stone seat was placed in the middle of the site in 2000.

2.2 Extended Description

Hillview wood is a small triangular, 1.4 ha block, of wet woodland, to the north west of a large shallow lough just north of Enniskillen town. In 1999 these were mown housing executive fields taken off the NIHE, and now its planted woodland beside the Racecourse Lough and within Enniskillen town boundary. It forms a scenic buffer to the upper housing estate & is bounded by public footpaths on the two northern sides and the Racecourse Lough to the west with a burn & reed beds to the south. This south edge of site meets the lough where a variety of wildfowl use the site.

A path runs from the councils Hillview estate path, through the site and to the lough side.

A millennium feature of a circular stone seat was placed in the middle of the site in 2000. In 2009 a wooden sculpture of a brown bear was placed by Owen Crawford, thought to be inspired by the last remaining records of bears roaming Ireland

Half the site is flat, wet & low lying along the lough shore and is mainly willow/alder scrub; whilst the other half is on a moderate to steep slope from Hillview estate down to the flat area which consists of unmanaged grasses, natural regeneration and the odd semi mature tree.

Most of the site (1 Ha) was planted in Jan 1999 with native broadleaves of alder, willow, ash and oak & the remaining 0.4 ha. Area is existing trees and open space next to the lough. The alder and willow beside the lough act as a biodiversity habitat and are regenerating along the lough.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access is available by footpaths from the Omagh Road and direct from the houses on the estate.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The aim is to continue establishment of the area as a community woodland and seek further involvement or management by the local community and/or the Devenish Partnership Forum as required.

The site will be managed by minimal intervention to achieve a high forest because it is a small wood with a primary aim being access.

The trees will be left to mature and natural regeneration will take over, especially beside the lough side, where alders and willow will expand into the lough edges.

The value of this site in the long term lies in its landscape setting, pockets of wet woodland forming along the loughside, access to the lough, and thus the quiet public enjoyment of this lough-side woodland.

Now the site is 16 years old the trees are closing canopy and over the paths throughout the site. A shrub layer is beginning to form throughout the woodland from the hawthorn and blackthorn hedgerows on the site. In the next few years this site will be assessed in terms of the need for ride and path widening as well as any restructuring/thinning 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

Good access off the council path to the lough & up to the housing above the wood. There's a gravel path from the entrance to the stone seat at the centre and a grass path from here to a stone seat at the lough shore.

Significance

The site was developed as a 'Woods on Your Doorstep' with the long term intentions of being a community woodland. Through public consultation, it was apparent that local people want access to the lough via the site. To provide access to a local woodland. To connect people to trees and woodland, to raise the profile of "local woodlands" and the voice for trees and woods in the landscape character area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities -

The entrance to the site is off a well used council path connecting Hillview estate to the town & a secondary school.

To extend / transplant some of the ground flora within the woodland adjacent to the site along the lough edge.

Make connections again with the community association within the housing area.

Make connections with the local anglers in the area

Small funding opportunities through Lough Erne LPS / Local Council

Constraints -

Some evidence of mis-use through burning on the circular seat on site.

Limited parking within the estate

Factors Causing Change

Closing of canopy over the paths creating issues with paths, anti-social behaviour, Natural Succession to ash, birch and alder/willow, climate change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish the planting as a working community woodland with benefit to both wildlife and local people within Hillview and the wider Enniskillen town. Continuing to provide access where appropriate to the level of use by the public.

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

Path to be maintained by mowing to a minimum 1m width for public access to the lough. Annual safety checks will ensure public safety. To assess the paths over the next few years for a need to widen rides and remove trees either side.

5.2 Local Woodland Habitat

Description

Hillview wood is a small triangular, 1.4 ha block, of wet woodland, to the north west of a large shallow lough just north of Enniskillen town. In 1999 these were mown housing executive fields taken off the NIHE, and now its planted woodland beside the Racecourse Lough and within Enniskillen town boundary. It forms a scenic buffer to the upper housing estate & is bounded by public footpaths on the two northern sides and the Racecourse Lough to the west with a burn & reed beds to the south. This south edge of site meets the lough where a variety of wildfowl use the site.

Significance

To connect people to trees and woodland, to raise the profile of "local woodlands" and the voice for trees and woods in the landscape character area. Wet woodland is a priority habitat in Northern Ireland, the newly planted woodland links with existing secondary woodland along Race Course Lough. As the woodland matures and the structure changes the site will become increasingly important for local wildlife around the lough and biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities -

Pilot study being developed around Community Woodlands
 Transplant of ground flora from adjacent loughside woodland
 Support through Lough Erne LPS / Local council
 Urban Woodlands - street tree initiative

Constraints -

Mis-use, some burning on site at circular seat
 Funding
 Invasive species

Factors Causing Change

Climate change, natural succession, tree disease - ash dieback, some japanese knotweed has been recorded within the area.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To look for opportunities where possible to extend and or link woodland to adjacent woodland habitat. To see the woodland become a useable community managed woodland for both people and wildlife.

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

To assess the woodland in the next few years in terms of structure and species composition in relation to resilience to threats, connectivity and disease.

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	1.40	Alder species	1998	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)		

The site comprises of all Cpt. 1A & runs from an existing wet woodland to the south & within the site, up to the north - a new planting below the council boundary of a tarmac path . This is a useful small area next to the lough on the edge of Enniskillen town

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.