



Greendale 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 New Native Woodland

5.2 Informal Public Access

6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Greendale Wood
Location:	Grindleton
Grid reference:	SD756455, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	7.21 hectares (17.82 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, planted to commemorate the Millennium. The original woodland was planted in the year 2000 and a small extension of just over 1 hectare was added in 2009. Local people were involved in both the design of the woodland via public consultation and were also involved in helping to plant the woodland via public tree planting days. The young woodland lies on either side of a small valley, with the Grindleton Brook flowing through the middle. It features mixed, broadleaf woodland and a path of damson trees, the damson reflect a bygone industry as the village of Grindleton was once home to a jam making factory.

2.2 Extended Description

The site was purchased in two stages. The first section was acquired by the Woodland Trust in May 2000. This occurred after a successful fundraising campaign, which was well supported and funded by local organisations and people, particularly the Lancashire Environmental Fund and Castle Cement. The wood was created as part of the Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' project, funded partly by the Millennium Commission to create 200 new woods throughout England & Wales to celebrate the millennium and provide new accessible woods for communities, with further funding from the Forestry Commission to aid the planting and maintenance. The second section was gifted to the Woodland Trust in April 2006. This extension is a total of 1.82 hectares and was formerly pasture land. In March 2009 the extension was planted with 2200 native broadleaf trees and shrubs. Woodland Creation is one of the sites Key Features.

The young woodland is 7.15 ha in size and was planted on 3 former pasture fields that slope south east and south west on either side of a small valley, with the Grindleton Brook flowing southwards through the middle. It is on the western edge of the village of Grindleton which is in a rural part of the Ribble Valley, although close to the busy town of Clitheroe. There are pasture fields immediately to the west and part of both the northern and southern boundaries. A road, houses and gardens are adjacent to the remaining north, south and the entire eastern boundary. The wood almost entirely surrounds the old Greendale Mill, which now has limited use, and is virtually in the centre of the site.

The wood can be accessed from several points. The easiest entrances to find are 2 informal access points from Buck Street to the south, which is a small road leading off the main road (Grindleton Brow and Sawley Road) through Grindleton, to the side of the Duke of York Hotel. Other well-used access points also lead from the village with two public footpaths leading from Main Street into the wood. On site there are the public footpaths and a network of permissive paths, which create several circular routes. These paths lead across to access points in the southern corner, and continue over adjacent fields. Management access is from 2 points on Buck Street. At the highest point on site there are good views southwards towards Pendle Hill. A couple of seats provide resting points, one near the village, one at the high point. Parking is available on nearby local roads but may be limited. The wood is used mainly by local people who arrive on foot, for quiet informal recreation. Informal Public Access is one of the sites Key Features.

Local people have been very involved with the acquisition, design, creation and naming of the wood. Greendale is a local name, with the mill in the middle being Greendale Mill. Damson trees, grown from suckers and cuttings of local trees, (for which the area is well-known) were planted alongside the path leading from Buck Street by the Duke of York Hotel as a Millennium feature. Detailed history of the site is not known, but a map of 1848 shows the layout of the fields and public footpaths as at acquisition, with stepping stones over the brook for the northern path. The site of Greendale Mill appears partly to be a wooded bank.

Prior to acquisition the fields were used for grazing, probably mainly sheep or cattle.

Boundaries to all the fields, road and neighbouring houses and gardens are well defined, mainly with fences and walls, and occasionally hedges as well. The boundary around the mill is not defined, but is slightly back from the wall of the mill itself.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Greendale Wood is located in the village of Grindleton which is approximately three miles from the town of Clitheroe. The wood can be accessed from several points. The easiest to find are 2 informal access points from Buck Street to the south, which is a small road leading off the main road (Grindleton Brow and Sawley Road) through Grindleton, to the side of the Duke of York Hotel. Other well used access points also lead from the village with two public footpaths leading from Main Street into the wood. On site there are the public footpaths and a network of permissive paths, which create several circular routes. These paths lead across to access points in the southern corner, and continue over adjacent fields. The paths are not surfaced and consist of natural grass; there are a couple of steep sections of path on site. They can get muddy and slippery when wet.

Parking is available on nearby local roads such as Main Street and Buck Street but may be limited.

Nearest public toilet: No public toilet is known within a five mile radius of this site

Nearest bus stop: The nearest bus stop is located on Grindelton Brow outside the Duke Of York pub which is around 10 yards from the main entrance to the site. Grindelton Brow is a village road with a pavement. Information from Traveline website.

Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Woodland Trusts long-term intention is to create and maintain a diversely structured (in terms of age and size classification) native broadleaved high forest woodland. This will be interspersed with areas of transitional and permanent open ground providing a mosaic of habitats and environments that will be a benefit to native flora and fauna.

The development of natural secondary woodland will be promoted through the encouragement of any further areas of natural regeneration, on areas not designated as long-term open spaces. Active thinning work will take place to help diversify the age and species structure of the site.

Public access will be maintained at its current level with 7 entrance points and approximately 900m of maintained paths. Consultation and involvement of local people will continue to be important.

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 New Native Woodland

Description

The young woodland is 7.15 hectares in size and was planted in two phases. The initial planting was carried out from December 2000 to January 2001 with a mix of 7,660 native trees and shrubs. Areas of open grassland have been left to form the paths and glades, and an open area also left on the steepest part of the bank, which held the greatest variety of wild flowers. The trust were gifted a parcel of land adjacent to the original site in 2006 which was then planted in 2009 with a further 2200 native trees and shrubs. 450 trees were restocked in 2014(in the 2009 planting area) due to ash dieback, these trees have been maintained with spot spray of glyphosate to stop them being outcompeted by coarse vegetation.

Significance

This is a small native broadleaved wood in an area with little woodland at all and certainly very little native woodland, the surrounding land use is dominated by farmland used for stock grazing hence it will improve the habitat in the local area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Initial tree growth has been rapid and the basic structure of the woodland will develop quite quickly. Although the fields had been almost entirely improved, small areas on the steep banks, hedgerows and gullies had not, and contained plants likely to thrive and spread into the young woodland. Grindleton Brook runs through the middle, and appears to be a good freshwater habitat. The site has a variety of land forms, aspects and variations in drainage. A considerable length of the boundaries abut further pasture fields. All of these factors will help to develop the conservation interest of the wood. However, the site is not connected to other woodland or other semi-natural habitats which will bring restrictions.

Factors Causing Change

Growth of young trees, tree diseases especially ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The aim is to create a high forest of mixed predominantly native broadleaves (at least 85% native). The wood will be managed predominantly as a recreational and landscape feature. This will involve maintaining the diverse mix of species, regeneration of both natives and non-native species will be accepted.

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

Active thinning work will be undertaken to ensure a diverse mix of trees in terms of both species and age.

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out in the final year of the current plan period. This will make recommendations as to the management of the site, key elements of which are likely to include the effects of ash disease, the development of natural regeneration and any future thinning requirements.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Informal public access consists of a 900 metres of circular grass paths mostly within the woodland and seven entrance points. Parking is available on nearby local roads but may be limited. The wood is well used mainly by local people who arrive on foot, for quiet informal recreation.

Significance

Greendale Wood is adjacent to the village of Grindleton, and within easy walking distance. It is a pleasant, attractive and peaceful area for local people to visit.

Opportunities & Constraints

The wood is well known in the village, visible, and access is good with many entrances, paths and good views. The path network connects with the surrounding countryside. The main constraint will be the fact that much of the site is sloping and many entrances have step-over or ladder stiles.

Factors Causing Change

Changes in level of use.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access will be maintained at its current level with 6 entrance points and approximately 900m of maintained paths. Consultation and involvement of local people will continue to be important.

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

Paths continue to be cut as necessary (3 times per year in 2016) to maintain easy public access. Other facilities such as welcome signs at the entrance and the 2 seats will be maintained annually.

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	7.15	Ash	2000	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Area

This establishing woodland is 7.15 hectares in size (16 acres) and was planted with mixed native broadleaves including ash, oak, birch, willow, hazel, hawthorn, damson & blackthorn in two phases (first area in 2000 & second area 2009) on pasture fields that slope south east and south west on either side of a small valley, with the Grindleton Brook flowing southwards through the middle. It is on the western edge of the village of Grindleton which is in a rural part of the Ribble Valley, although close to the busy town of Clitheroe.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2016	1a	Thin	0.50	4	2
2017	1a	Thin	1.50	20	30
2018	1a	Thin	1.50	20	30
2019	1a	Thin	1.50	20	30
2020	1a	Thin	1.50	20	30
2021	1a	Thin	1.50	20	30

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.