



King John's Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk 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:	King John's Wood
Location:	Helston
Grid reference:	SW657286, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 203
Area:	1.44 hectares (3.56 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

King John's Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. A former waste ground, it lies on the slopes of the Cober Valley, on the outskirts of the Gweal Wartha housing development at Helston. It comprises a mixture of native broadleaf trees, and offers great views across the valley.

2.2 Extended Description

Created as part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' project King John's Wood was planted in February 2001 with native broadleaf species on an area of waste grassland located on the outskirts of the Gweal Wartha housing development at Helston. It lies on sloping, but undulating ground on the west facing valley slopes of the Cober Valley and offers very good views across and down the valley. The section of the Cober Valley along the western edge of Helston has a number of small fragmented woodlands through it. Therefore while King John's Wood is quite small in size it does contribute well to linking and extending the woodland habitat in that area. It is used regularly by the local community for dog walking and therefore provides an important amenity and area of open space

It overlies Upper Devonian rock (Mylor Slate Formation) and therefore the soils are of clay-loam types with shellat throughout and while they drain well under the woodland cover, they can be wet and heavy on paths where poaching and compaction occurs. Because of its location adjacent to a series of developments and an industrial estate the wood was subject to regular and heavy dumping, rubbish disposal and fly tipping over the years prior to acquisition and although much of this was cleared prior to planting there are still some areas where bits become apparent as the woodland matures and suppresses ground cover.

The wood is stocked with native broadleaved species, with a predominance of shrubs and minor trees along the boundaries with adjacent houses and main tree species lower down the slopes where it adjoins existing hedges and woodland. Within the original site there was an area of rough grassland, which was incorporated in the woodland design to retain views, improve access and as a woodland associated habitat. It is bounded to the north by an established hedge with scrub woodland and a young planted woodland beyond. To the south the boundary hedge supports semi-mature trees and adjoins a public open space/playing field. To the west there is further areas of woodland on the valley slopes and an old disused quarry, which is fenced off from the wood and further shielded by a retained thorn scrub strip. These thorn retentions extend into the NW corner and along much of the northern boundary and provide a valuable habitat and cover for local wildlife as the new wood grows. Due to its proximity to a relatively large development the site is crisscrossed with pipelines and other underground services and the requirement to leave these corridors unplanted has created the opportunity to use them as a path network and create more open glades throughout.

The wood is easily accessible from the adjacent developments via 3 narrow paths. The entrance at the north-eastern corner carries a public footpath which then crosses the site and exits on the western boundary. Another exit in the sites southwest corner also joins to this footpath. Within the wood the ground is uneven and although in general it slopes gently in some places slopes are steep and can be slippery in wet weather. All paths are grassy or naturally surfaced.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

King John's Wood lies adjacent to the Gweal Wartha housing development on the north-western outskirts of Helston. From the town and surrounding areas it can be accessed by following the B3297 northwards and turning into the Water-ma-trout Industrial Estate and following the road downhill to the housing estate. The wood is easily accessible from the adjacent developments via 3 narrow paths all of which are surfaced with tarmac up to the wood's boundary and all are designated as public footpaths to the point of entry. A public footpath enters at the northeast corner, crosses the site diagonally and exits on the western boundary where it follows on the outside of the boundary. The responsibility for the formation and maintenance of this footpath through the wood rests with the Parish Council. Another exit in the site's southwest corner also joins to this footpath. The ground in the wood is uneven and in some places slopes are steep and slippery. All paths are grassy or naturally surfaced. None of the entrances are restricted by access furniture. A couple of seats exist near the east boundary in an area that offers good views across the valley. There are no public facilities close to the wood; however its proximity to housing does mean there is good access, limited roadside parking and public transport routes. Public transport services run regularly each day from Helston to Redruth along the A3297. A stop exists at the Substation, Gweal Wartha, Lowertown and from here the wood is approximately 200m away along the residential road.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision for King John's Wood is of an attractive mature broadleaf woodland with an understorey of woodland shrubs complimented by other habitats such as rough grassland and open glades, clumps of retained shrubs and scrub with mature trees on adjacent hedges and land. This will help meet the Trust's aims of creating more native woods and areas rich in trees and help double the area of woodland cover across the UK. The maturing woodland will generally be managed as high forest under a continuous cover regime to allow the main tree species to develop and to start to diversify the age and size structure. It is intended that the alder in the species mix will start to recede due to dry conditions at around 30 years creating open spaces and areas of lower density stocking where natural regeneration or structural diversity may start to occur. The ash and gean will mature at 80-100years with the oak forming the climax woodland species with minor trees and shrubs as understorey and woodland edge element. Eventually, due to the small area of the wood, there will only be a small number of mature oak with large spreading open grown crowns interspersed with shrubs and minor tree species. The path will provide aesthetically pleasing walks at appropriate levels for the community needs. Areas around the boundaries of the wood with retained or planted clumps of shrubs will provide wood edge habitat and keep the canopy to a height and size where future tree safety will be more easily maintained and viewpoints will not be lost too quickly. The open grassland area will have a rich sward but the edges will have naturalised to rough grassland and colonised with scrub and natural low level woodland habitat types give 'graduation' between wooded blocks and offer nesting cover and food sources for wildlife.

It helps to fulfil 3 of the Trust's aims of creating native woods and places rich in trees, protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future and inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

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 Secondary Woodland

Description

A small native broadleaf woodland that offers benefits by linking up and extending adjacent wooded and scrub areas within the Cober Valley and provides valuable access to residents of the adjacent housing development. Native broadleaf woodland planted in 2001 with native broadleaved species into an area of rough land. Oak forms major part of woodland. Ash and Alder within the matrix established quickly providing shelter and canopy closure to suppress ruderal species. Native broadleaf shrubs and minor tree species will form the understorey and wood edge habitats along the woodlands north, east and south boundaries and around the edges of the open grassland glade. These will provide aesthetic benefits, reduce tree safety liabilities in the future, reduce shading, help to maintain views and create a more welcoming impression. It has one open grassy glade close to its northern boundary where an old meadow remained and supported good insect populations at the time of acquisition. Hedges form two boundaries and the third boundary adjoins an area of woodland and a quarry, which all support remnant populations of locally native plants and animals that will gradually spread into the woodland. Shrub and scrub encroachment extends to varying degrees into the wood from each boundary and this has been left to compliment the woodland habitat.

Significance

The Woodland Trust believes that there should be twice as much native tree cover in the UK as there is at present. Through the creation and management of King John's Wood we aim to create an exemplar woodland that will help deliver our aims of protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future as well as helping to double the area of existing woodland across the UK. King John's wood provides a woodland/natural area that will compliment and extend the woodland elements close by and improve the habitat's sustainability.

Opportunities & Constraints

Fly tipping of garden waste occurs fairly regularly with other materials tipped on occasions. Access into the wood is via a number of footpaths which are narrow and often steep and therefore unsuitable for machinery/vehicular access. This may limit access for future management, however as the wood is small it is unlikely that large equipment will need to access the site for woodland management. However the site is criss-crossed by a number of underground water and sewer pipes and other services. Substantial damage might be caused to the wood if utilities need to access and excavate the site to repair/maintain their infrastructure.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Knotweed re-establishing, Fly Tipping, Vandalism esp neighbours cutting trees, Ash Die Back or other pest/disease, Utility companies exercising their statutory rights to access and maintain their services.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A healthy native broadleaf species high forest with an open glade, path ways and a diverse age and size structure with a good proportion of mature trees having large spreading 'open grown' type crowns. Common alder will have receded allowing Ash and Gean to mature and Oak to form climax woodland species. Minor trees and shrubs will form a diverse understorey and woodland edge element around glades and boundaries. . The open grassland area will have become colonised by rough grasses, wild flowers and scrub providing varied habitats, and nectaring areas for wildlife as well as maintaining the vista/ viewpoint area for visitor's enjoyment.

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

Develop a healthy and vigorous, well stocked young woodland with a varied size structure, range of open and woodland associated habitat types and developing woodland flora populations.

Manage the young trees to maintain vigour and health, by removing tree shelters as they become un-needed, control competing bramble and scrub where it adversely affects trees and monitor levels of vandalism and damage.

Manage edges of grassland area to allow the colonisation of scrub and shrub to improve habitat diversity where this doesn't compromise tree growth and health by reducing the intensity of mowing against the planting to an irregular regime on a 2-4 year rotation

Allow natural regeneration and colonisation of scrub and tree species to develop throughout to provide a more diverse spacing and give natural gradation between planting blocks, hedges, glades and rides linking this to a rotational track edge cutting as appropriate

Control and eradicate Japanese Knotweed and any other non-native invasives that might colonise the site

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

A network of pedestrian naturally surfaced paths linking the open viewpoint and areas of open ground to the external path network. Areas of shrub clump plantings and scrub retentions will retain vistas and views as well as provide a wooded effect, but at the same time keeping trees back from adjacent property boundaries.

Significance

As King John's Wood is located adjacent to the Gweal Wartha housing development it is quite well used by the local 'active' community for dog walking and as such it fulfils the Trust's belief that everyone should recognise that trees and woods are an essential part of a healthy environment and that there should be a wood with open access close to everyone's home. It will also provide woodland recreation, away from managed playing fields and hence raises awareness of WT and woodlands in general.

Opportunities & Constraints

Underground services that criss-cross the site pose potential management and woodland development constraints.

Factors Causing Change

Increase in levels of use.
Abuse, misuse of and unauthorised access to the woodland via 'un-gated' access points.
Fly tipping of garden waste by some neighbours.
Cutting/lopping of trees by some neighbours

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A woodland that is well integrated with the adjacent housing development, path network and infrastructure and offering a welcoming network of attractive and safe paths maintained to provide the required level of community and management access. Managed open grassland and shrub areas and woodland glades with naturalised plants and shrubs along their margins graduating between the differing heights and benefiting wildlife but also being aesthetically pleasing to visitors. The access points and tracks will be maintained at a level appropriate to need. The open grassland area will have become colonised by rough grasses, wild flowers and scrub providing varied habitats, and nectaring areas for wildlife as well as maintaining the vista/ viewpoint area for visitor's enjoyment.

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

A woodland that is well integrated with the adjacent housing development, path network and infrastructure and offering a welcoming network of attractive and safe paths maintained to provide the required level of community and management access. Managed open grassland and shrub areas and woodland glades with naturalised plants and shrubs along their margins graduating between the differing heights and benefiting wildlife but also being aesthetically pleasing to visitors. The access points and tracks will be maintained at a level appropriate to need. The open grassland area will have become colonised by rough grasses, wild flowers and scrub providing varied habitats, and nectaring areas for wildlife as well as maintaining the vista/ viewpoint area for visitor's enjoyment.

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	1.50	Mixed native broadleaves	2001	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Secondary Woodland	

A small Woods On Your Doorstep woodland planted in 2001. It is stocked with native broadleaved species, with a predominance of retained and planted shrubs and minor trees particularly adjacent to the houses and other boundaries with major tree species concentrated in groups lower down the slopes where it adjoins existing hedges and woodland. It stands on sloping and uneven ground on the west facing valley slope. The soil is a fairly heavy clay/loam but remains fairly free draining due to shellat content, which has been disturbed, compacted and littered with rubbish during building on adjacent land. It is bounded to the north and south by established hedges and to the west by a wooded area and quarry. Thorn retentions of varying width and density extend along the North and West boundaries. An area of rough grassland has been retained centrally for amenity and as a woodland associated habitat. It is crisscrossed with pipelines and services and their unplanted corridors have been used as the path network. Ground flora is predominantly rough grass and bramble although naturalised garden plants and weeds common to disturbed and waste ground are also evident. Two clumps of knotweed were present at the time of planting but were controlled during maintenance contracts; however they may reoccur in the period of this plan if the roots have not been completely killed.

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.