



Coose Trannack

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 Secondary 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Coose Trannack
Location:	Trannack, nr Helston
Grid reference:	SW662305, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 203
Area:	3.48 hectares (8.60 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Coose Trannack is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. As well as young broadleaf woodland, the site comprises three open grassland areas, which offer spectacular views across the Lizard, Mounts Bay and Penwith areas.

2.2 Extended Description

Created during the Trust's Woods On Your Doorstep project Coose Trannack was planted in late 2000 with native broadleaf species on an area of agricultural grassland located fairly centrally within the disparate communities of Trannack, Coverack Bridges and surrounding residences and lies directly next to the village Primary School. It is not heavily used by the wider community but is used regularly by more immediate neighbours for dog walking and by the school for educational activities and therefore provides an important amenity and area of open space. Due to its altitude relative to surrounding areas the wood is quite exposed and this has reduced the rate of growth and establishment of the trees and many trees have developed a windswept appearance with sloping sides and dead twigs in their crowns so typical of Cornish trees

It stands on the boundary between the granite outcrop around the Redruth and Camborne areas and the Upper Devonian (Mylor Slate Formation). The soil is a loam with gritty texture with frequent small granite 'boulders' below ground level providing good drainage, however, due to high loam content and surface compaction the ground can become quite wet and soft during wet weather. Standing on exposed high ground which slopes gently to the south the wood will form a prominent feature in an otherwise relatively un-wooded landscape. It is bounded on 3 sides by established dry-stone walls and hedge banks. The hedge banks are colonised with gorse and bramble as well as other plants and shrubs and offers shelter and nesting sites for many species and are maintained for both conservation and historical values. Major tree species are concentrated in the less exposed southern area while in the Northern area shrub species predominate to help combat exposure and retain views. The wood is divided by a network of tracks and paths and often the main tree species are limited to just a few small clumps with minor trees and shrubs planted for continuity of cover. A small clump of Monterey Pine planted in the north east corner of the site replicates hill top clumps historically planted across the county. The name Coose Trannack was chosen by the community as it is old Cornish for Wood of or at Trannack. The main access point is via a management and pedestrian gate off a public footpath that initially runs along a narrow lane. Shortly further along the lane the footpath deviates into the wood and runs along the inside of the eastern boundary, instead of following the lane on the outside, before exiting the wood onto agricultural land in the northern corner. There is no parking at the wood but limited parking is available on the nearby road and sometimes the school allows parking in their car park. The management gate must remain unblocked as it also acts as the entrance for a third party access across the wood. The wood is not currently well used other than by neighbours however the community were very active in acquiring and designing processes and the school use the woodland for a number of different activities including an annual cross country event. In addition to the tracks and paths three open grassland areas created on 'higher spots' provide vistas for visitors to enjoy the spectacular views from the Fal westwards across the Lizard Peninsula, Mounts Bay and West Penwith.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Coose Trannack lies in a rural location adjacent to Trannack CP School close to the village of Coverack Bridges. Follow the country lane 1mile west of the B3297 running from Helston to Redruth from Franchis Farm junction. At the school take the unsurfaced and often rutted private lane northwards for approximately 200m and the woodland entrance is on the left hand side. Entry for visitors is through a 1m wide Hunters gate onto the grassy tracks which vary from 10m to 2m in width. The ground slopes gently uphill from the entrance and remains fairly well drained throughout the year however the grass is coarse and can be tall and wet between path cutting operations

There are no parking facilities at the wood. There is some limited parking space on the adjacent roads although this can be congested and cause access problems at school 'drop-off' and 'pick-up' time. The school has in the past kindly allowed visitors to use the school car park to the south of the school however this is subject to responsible use, numbers of visitors and the level of use of the car park for school business at the time of visiting the wood.

Public bus services travel along the B3297 from Helston to Redruth regularly during the day, but do not appear to venture any closer to the wood than that. Visitors who wish to travel via the bus system should therefore get off at the Franchis Farm stop and be prepared to walk the 1mile along the lane to the wood.

3.2 Access / Walks

Entry for visitors is through a 1m wide Hunters gate onto the grassy tracks which vary from 10m to 2m in width. The ground slopes gently uphill from the entrance and remains fairly well drained throughout the year however the grass is coarse and can be tall and wet between path cutting operations. A public footpath enters the wood in the Northern corner and provides access links to the wider countryside

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term policy is to manage Coose Trannack towards an attractive mature broadleaf woodland with an understorey of woodland shrubs complimented by other habitats such as rough grassland and open glades, clumps of shrubs and scrub, wide rides, over mature trees and adjacent hedges. 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. The maturing woodland will be managed via limited intervention towards high forest under a continuous cover regime allowing the main tree species to develop and to start to diversify the age and size structure naturally. It is intended that the alder in the species mix will start to recede due to dry conditions and exposure at around 30 years creating open spaces and low density stocking where natural regeneration or structural diversity may start to occur. The remaining tree species will mature at 80-100years with the oak forming the climax woodland species with minor trees and shrubs as understorey and woodland edge element. The woodland will remain stunted and wind pruned due to exposure, however while the trees in the southern area of the wood should form a low level canopy the trees and shrubs in the northern area will remain considerably more stunted and wind pruned and will form a denser, scrubby appearance more reminiscent of moorland and coastal woods. Due to their ability to withstand exposure, and salt laden winds, it is intended that the small group of Monterey pine in the northern corner of the wood will grow to form a hill top clump of contorted but mature trees visible from some distance away. Due to the internal and external infrastructure as well as the exposure the wood is not well suited for silvicultural management regimes and therefore where intervention is required to help diversify structure, thinning and coppicing will be undertaken selectively and to help deliver other aims and objectives at the same time, such as woodland resilience, deadwood, boundary safety, and amenity enhancement. The path and track network will provide aesthetically pleasing walks at appropriate levels for the community needs. Areas of the wood planted with clumps of minor trees and shrubs will be managed as mixed woodland mosaic to provide wood edge habitat and keep the canopy to a height and size where tree safety will be more easily maintained and vistas from viewpoints will not be lost too quickly. The edges of the wide rides and open spaces will be managed by irregular mowing regimes to encourage naturalisation to rough grassland, scrub and natural low level woodland habitat types that will provide nectaring for insects, nesting cover and food sources.

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

Native broadleaf woodland planted in 2000 with native broadleaved species into improved grassland. Due to the exposure this high and open area gets the trees are establishing more slowly than would otherwise be expected in Cornwall. Oak forms a major part of woodland. Ash and Alder within the matrix have established quickly to provide mutual shelter for remaining trees to grow and have also closed canopy and started to suppress ruderal agricultural species. Native broadleaf shrubs and minor tree species will gradually form the understorey and wood edge habitats as well as encroaching woodland effects into the open areas. Shrubs are concentrated close to rides for amenity, in the northern areas of the wood to better combat the exposure and form scrub woodland and along southern boundary with school to reduce shading and improve tree safety in the future. It has three unplanted glades on the higher ground. Hedge-banks colonised with gorse, bramble and other flora form three boundaries and shrub and scrub encroachment extends to varying degrees into the wood from these to help develop the woodland habitat.

Significance

A substantial area of woodland habitat created in a relatively un-wooded landscape it will also afford shelter to neighbouring dwellings and school and offer additional rough grassland habitat. It is a corporate objective for the Trust and a commitment of the WOYD project to establish new native woodland habitat. 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 Coose Trannack we aim to create an exemplar for encouraging other land owners locally to plant and manage their woodland and therefore 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 broadleaf woodland across the UK. The wood helps to deliver national regional and local Biodiversity Action and Habitat plans

Opportunities & Constraints

Exposure may constrain future development and growth of trees, but will not adversely affect the woodland's value for conservation.

Factors Causing Change

Deer damage affecting natural tree and flora regeneration
 Loss of substantial proportion of the trees cover via Chalara (Ash Die back)
 Faster establishing species (ash/alder/willow) suppressing minor tree species which will stop them adding diversity to the wood
 Invasive species colonisation
 Exposure leading to continuing stress on trees and causing large scale die back or wind blow.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A healthy native broadleaf species high forest with open glades and woodland fringe areas in rides and boundary edges providing 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 wide rides and a tight canopied upland type wood in the northern areas. Areas of the planted with clumps of minor trees and shrubs will have naturalised with a scrubby canopy height and size helping to retain views and reduce tree safety issues in the future. Boundary hedge banks will have become incorporated into the woodland and support populations of woodland flora apart from areas where they cross open spaces/have higher light levels where they will support thorn and scrub habitat. Open glades, grassland areas and wide ride sides will have become naturalised with rough grasses, wild flowers and scrub providing varied habitats for colonising wildlife.

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

Develop a healthy, well stocked young woodland with a varied size structure, range of habitat types and open rides and glades.

Manage the young trees to maintain vigour and health, by removing all remaining tree shelters by the end of this plan period, controlling competing bramble, over dominant species and scrub where they may adversely affect smaller and stunted trees

Monitor levels of deer damage and undertake control measures as necessary

Manage track and open space edges against the planting areas on an irregular 2-4 year rotation regime to allow the colonisation of scrub and shrub where this doesn't compromise tree growth and health to improve habitat diversity

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 the rotational track edge cutting above as appropriate.

Coppicing of some localised areas of predominantly shrubs and alder adjacent to ride edges and glades where they are impeding access; where their shading is affecting richer floral areas through overhanging branches; where they are suppressing preferred species such as ash oak and minor species and where proactive management, especially around boundaries with dwellings, school and lane will maintain a lower canopy height and reduce future, shade and tree safety liabilities.

Manage eastern boundary adjacent to the lane/footpath to comply with Highways requirements, by flailing hedge as necessary.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

A network of wide grassy surfaced tracks and hidden pedestrian paths providing enjoyable and aesthetically pleasing access throughout the wood. Three glades located on areas of 'higher ground' will provide viewpoints with spectacular views out across the south Cornish coast from the Fal estuary over the Lizard and Mounts Bay to West Penwith. Extending from these in line with the best views and along the southern and eastern boundaries close to dwellings and school are areas of shrub/ minor tree clumps to keep canopy levels down and allow possible coppicing to maintain views, light levels and reduced tree safety liabilities in the future.

Significance

The Woodland Trust believes 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. Coose Trannack is close to the village school which forms the focal centre of the community and the school uses the woodland for educational and sporting activities. Through having access as a Key Feature of the wood this will help raise awareness in both the children and their families of the importance of woodland and is hoped that the wood will become well used by the community as a result.

Opportunities & Constraints

The school is very keen to use the woodland for environmental activities and as part of a cross country course.

Shrub clump areas will offer alternative habitat types, help to retain views for longer and maintain lane, adjacent property and School safety levels by keeping large trees back from boundaries.

Factors Causing Change

Loss of substantial proportion of the trees cover via Chalara (Ash Die back) changing the woods appearance

Faster establishing spp (ash/alder/willow) suppressing minor tree species which will stop them adding diversity to the wood

Invasive species colonisation

Exposure leading to continuing stress on trees and causing large scale die back or wind blow.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A network of attractive and safe grass surfaced tracks maintained to provide the required level of community and management access. Managed open grassland will provide areas where visitors can rest and enjoy the extensive views of the area. Shrubby areas and woodland glades will have naturalised plants and shrubs along their margins graduating between the differing heights and benefiting wildlife but also being aesthetically pleasing to visitors.

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

An easily accessible network of naturally surfaced and grassy tracks and paths that will sustain and maintain the steady but relatively low level of access required. Currently the wood is assessed to be of Access Category C offering low but sufficiently regular access levels to require management of the facilities provided

Manage tracks by mowing the central 3m wide strip for management and access reasons. Raise cut height and irregularity of mowing along track edges to promote a coarser and more conservationally valuable sward. Cut once in March, or as required, to facilitate and support school X country event then cut twice more during the year(usually May and August) to facilitate regular public access

Mow narrow pedestrian paths to min 1.5m width ensuring branches and growth does not encroach from the sides between cuts to hinder access

Manage open grassland areas to develop better conservation values by mowing bulk of the grass once annually to help encourage more visitors and allow them to enjoy them for leisure., As with tracks raise cut heights around edges with woodland to allow naturalisation and reduce cut numbers of these strips to once every 2-4 years to develop naturalised vegetation of differing heights to graduate from mown grass to shrub/tree heights for aesthetic and conservation benefits. Maintain gates, stiles, and signs, ensure tracks and paths are free from obstruction and clear litter annually to encourage safe and attractive access.

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	3.56	Mixed native broadleaves	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

Planted in November/ December 2000 with native broadleaved species on improved grassland. The ground slopes gently to the south, but due to its altitude relative to surrounding areas it is quite exposed. Soil is a friable loam with gritty texture with frequent small granite 'boulders' below ground. The surface can become quite soft during wet weather and 'cut up' with machinery wheels. Access within the wood is good with a network of wide grass tracks and narrower paths. Access to the wood is poor, but possible along narrow highways and a short length of un-surfaced lane to the wood's southern end. The management gate at this point also provides a third party access route along the southern boundary. Three open grassland areas have been created on 'higher spots' to act as viewpoints for visitors with the views being 'protected' by strategic shrub plantings. Further areas of shrubs and minor tree species are planted along the eastern boundary adjacent to the dwellings across the lane to keep canopy heights down and help to retain light levels and an area of open ground with shrub clumps has been planted towards the southern boundary adjacent to Trannack School to help improve visibility into the woodland for security reasons.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.60	0	0

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.