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WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Worney Wood

# Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	Worney Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Llysworney
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SS963745, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 170
<b>Area:</b>	4.99 hectares (12.33 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

### 2.2 Extended Description

Worney Wood occupies a gently sloping, west facing area of former fertile improved pasture on the northern outskirts of the village of Llysworney planted with native broadleaf trees as part of the Millennium Woods project. As part of this new woodland, permissive footpaths have been created which connect into public footpaths leading to the local village. In addition, a small pond to the North West boundary has been created along with open glades with views across the local village and surrounding countryside. These spaces are maintained with the intention of diversifying the space for the benefit of wildflowers, small mammals and invertebrates.

In 2000, as part of the 'Woods on your Doorstep' project to celebrate the millennium, Scots Pine feature trees were planted close to the main entrance of the site along the western boundary.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

**General Location:**

The nearest village to the site is Llysworney, near Cowbridge. Worney wood is to be found down a back lane towards Colwinston, about 50 metres out from Llysworney centre.

**General overview of paths and entrances:**

Public access is available via the public footpath running through the site. The path may be reached from a small track leading north from the minor public road between Llysworney and Colwinston.

Public access is available via the management access track, which leads to the start of the figure of eight shaped permissive path, adjacent to which is an information board and kissing gate at the entrance to the site. The paths through the site are unsurfaced, uneven although across flat ground, and can be wet in places.

**Parking:**

There is no car park at the site. If visiting the site it is best to park in Llysworney and walk out to the site along the minor road towards Colwinston, about 50 metres. On the right there is a small track leading off the road which takes the walker directly to the entrance to the site.

**Parking:**

Buses run via Llysworney on the Porthcawl - Cardiff route (First Cymru buses, <http://www.firstgroup.com>) approximately every hour, and on the Cowbridge - Barry route 144 (Thomas Motors of Barry, 01446 722800) approximately every two hours during the day..

**Public Toilets:**

The nearest public toilet is at the Town Hall Car Park on the High street in Cowbridge, approximately 4 miles away. There are disabled facilities and a RADAR key is required (source <http://www.directenquiries.com>).

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To create and maintain native broadleaved woodland from the planted trees at the millennium within a farmed landscape. All public and permissive footpaths and entrances will remain open and readily passable. The wide rides and open areas are managed so that scrub is restricted to the woodland margins. The pond is will provide an attractive visitor feature and a valuable wildlife habitat. The site's proximity to the local village allows it to become an important location for community use and so should be encouraged accordingly.

## 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

In 2000 local volunteers planted the site, a former pasture, with native broadleaves and a small amount of feature conifers. Species included ash, oak, field maple, alder, rowan, hawthorn, hazel, goat willow, beech, Scots pine and an assortment of woody shrubs. The planted trees have established well and consequently canopy closure was achieved in a high proportion of the site by 2011. Following discussion with local people at the sites creation stages, about 20% of the woodland has been left as open areas of grassland which includes a small pond to the north east alongside the main public footpath.

#### Significance

The trees were planted by the residents of the local village of Llysworney, leading to a sense of connection between the residents and the trees they planted. There is on-going local support for the site.

The planting of new native woodland is a Woodland Trust objective and contributes to Section 10.15 of Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan.

Locally and within the Vale of Glamorgan, woodland and new woodlands are a small proportion of land-use within a predominantly intensive agricultural landscape.

The new woodland contains areas of open space which were included in the initial design phases of the sites creation along with a small pond to the north east boundary. Open space within the local area is limited with availability limited to public footpaths across agricultural fields with little to no access for local people to woodlands.

Ponds are also a feature locally within the vale of Glamorgan with traditional ponds found at the centre of small villages such as the nearby Llysworney. The new pond which features on site will help link into the local network of small ponds and create a more dedicated 'wildlife' pond in a woodland setting.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to enhance the ecological value of the open areas of grassland by regular maintenance. Preferably this should be done to each large area of open ground in rotation so that there are habitat alternatives in any one phase.

Other opportunities exist around re-structuring ride edges as the site develops to improve overall age structure and maintenance of site.

Opportunities for local involvement to aid management of the site are a possibility.

Opportunities exist to maintain open areas of water on site.

Site constraints include the overall scale of the site with limited access through narrow country roads.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Natural succession to scrub in open areas and wider rides.

Diseases such as Ash Dieback.

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The site develops into a mature semi-natural broadleaved woodland with an oak and ash dominated canopy. An understory of shrubs and natural regeneration develops, along with a rich woodland ground flora. Approximately 20% of the site will be managed as open ground to enhance the diversity of the site.

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

Minimal silvicultural intervention other than that required by public safety. Mow the paths annually and top the open areas in rotation up to 50% of site per year.

Allow scrub to develop only at the woodland margins.

Create 5 year ride side management plan/map for coppicing and restructuring of woodland edges.

Maintain open spaces with regular cutting and maintain pond area to keep an open body of water present on site.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Public access exists across the whole site in the form of a figure of eight permissive path along grassed paths, leading from the main public and management entrance at the south-western end. A public footpath also bisects the site, running north-south through the western field.

A pond is present at the northern end of the western field. In the eastern field a carved wooden bench provides an attractive visitor feature. The site appears well used by the public, being situated to the north of the village of Llysworney, the residents of which planted the trees on site.

### Significance

The site is well used by the local residents of Llysworney, a small village to the south east of the site, with many of the residents helping to plant the new woodland at the millennium.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to increase the appeal of the site to visitors by regularly maintaining the pond to ensure that vegetation around the edge is not excessive and that light can reach the bottom of the pond. An attractive visitor feature would result, and the possibility of installing a bench could be investigated. This maintenance project could also be run in conjunction with a local school where possible.

Given that the site was planted by local people, opportunities exist to look to manage the site as part of a community partnership in some form with potential to transfer the site longer term to the local community.

### Factors Causing Change

Encroaching blackthorn scrub reducing the permissive access across the site.

Neighbouring land-uses impacting upon the 'country feel' of the site

Tree diseases causing gaps within canopies and requiring intervention.

Erosion of grassed footpaths due to high visitor numbers.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Informal public access continues to be present across the site as the woodland develops and the canopy closes. The permissive ride network develops into a mature grassland habitat with centres mown annually and edges retained as rough grassland which is topped every three to four years. The pond is maintained as a visitor feature, with the surrounding vegetation cut where necessary and the surface cleared.

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

The rides are kept open for easy pedestrian access through mowing on an annual basis.

Add grassland/ride maintenance to site work program to help diversify open spaces and maintain scrub encroachment issues.

The pond is open and clear of scrubby surrounding vegetation.

Maintain access furniture such as gate and stiles and keep site free of litter.

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## 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	4.99	Ash	2000	Wood establishment	Diseases	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

Gently to moderately sloping, southeast-facing woodland of newly planted broadleaves, planted in 2000 under The Woodland Trust's Woods On Your Doorstep scheme planted on former dairy pasture of deep brown earth surrounded on all sides by mature but maintained hedgerows.

Oak and Ash make up the main species planted. Hazel, hawthorn, field maple and other shrub species were planted. To the south western main entrance are a stand of Scots pine planted as a millennium feature.

By 2011 canopy closure had been achieved with some of the Ash reaching a height of 8 metres. The ground flora is characterised by grassland species but the species diversity is improving as time progresses. A small pond is present at the northern side. A network of permissive paths is present, including a circular route around the western field which can become wet during winter months. A carved bench along the route overlooking the village of Llysworney. An open glade forms part of the eastern half of this compartment with views over the surrounding countryside, with the sward becoming increasingly diverse botanically.

In 2015 Ash dieback was observed on site which will impact upon the overall character of the site in years to come.

## 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.