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WOODLAND
TRUST

Lanteague 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Lanteague Wood
Location:	Llanteg
Grid reference:	SN179093, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 158
Area:	10.06 hectares (24.86 acres)
Designations:	National Park

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This new woodland site lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and has been newly planted with native broadleaf trees including Ash, Oak, Beech, Hawthorn and Crab Apple. It is only just over a kilometre from the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path and there is a link by bridleway from Llanteg. There is a small car park, some benches and some grassy footpaths through the planted area.

2.2 Extended Description

This new woodland lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and at acquisition in 1999 the site consisted of four almost rectangular fields with a small open sided 'dutch' barn to the centre of the site.

The two easternmost fields, where the soil was deeper, had become improved grassland whilst the two western fields which sloped down to the stream which forms the western boundary were largely un-improved grassland. In these western fields the soil is thin and stony above solid rock and the habitats reflected these conditions.

The area of thin soils was fenced off and although grazed occasionally over the succeeding years has been allowed to develop naturally into wet woodland and scrub with a high proportion of open ground.

The upper areas of the site were planted with native broadleaved trees and shrubs. The predominant species being Ash and Oak, the subsidiary species being Beech, Rowan, Wild cherry, Whitebeam, Damson and Crab apple. Hawthorn, Alder buckthorn and Hazel were planted as shrub species along the path margins.

A comprehensive pattern of mown-grass paths was established serving the bulk of the planted area. No formal path was constructed through the western fenced area. However it is hoped to establish a path following established desire lines in this area during this plan period so as to create a longer circular walk for those visitors so motivated.

The wood is just off the main A477 trunk road that takes many thousands of holiday makers to the resorts of Pembrokeshire. A small car park has been constructed at the main entrance. Alternately the site can be reached from the village safely on foot by the use of a bridle-way from Llanteg.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location:

Lanteague Wood is about half a mile from the Village of Llanteg on the A447 between St Clears and Pembroke Dock and is 200m from the hamlet of Llanteglos. It is reached from the village via a quiet flat B road with no pavement. There is also a National Trust property nearby (Colby Woodland Garden) and the Pembrokeshire Coast Path is nearby as well as a number of other footpaths.

Paths and entrances:

There is a pedestrian gate at the main entrance and a squeeze gap at the secondary entrance. There are several paths around the site including a circular path. The paths are grassy and mainly flat but are uneven in places. There are stiles between the planted area and the grazed lower part of the valley which is steep and very uneven.

Public transport:

There is a bus stop at Llanteg filling station with buses to Carmarthen bus station and Pembroke Dock once a day in each direction (Service number 333) . For more details see www.traveline.org.uk or call 0870608 2608. There are train stations in Whitland about 6 miles to the north and in Stepside about 4 miles to the south west.

Parking:

There is a Woodland Trust car park at the site with space for about 5 cars.

Toilets:

There are no public toilets within 5 miles of this site.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To allow the site to develop naturally both within the planted zone and the western area that was left un-planted through combination of minimal intervention (except for tree safety) and natural thinning interventions except where disease may be prevalent and intervention needed to secure canopy cover.

Both the zones have areas of open ground which enhance the habitat diversity and will be retained and managed.

Public access will be maintained annually through the onsite permissive network of footpaths and small car parking area to the north west.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

A series of permissive footpaths which navigate around the young woodland site created as part of the millennium 'Woods on your Doorstep' project in 2000. The site offers a series of grassed footpath leading from the country lane close to the village of Llanteg which allow access across level surfaces leading fro a small car park and roadside entrances for pedestrians.

Significance

This woodland is the only accessible new woodland in the area and is of importance to the local village of Llanteg as a local amenity.

The site lies within the Pembrokeshire Coastal National Park and offers visitors a stop off point, linked in the same valley as the National Trust property 'Colby woodland gardens' and offers superb views across surrounding countryside.

Opportunities & Constraints

The continuation of the lane to the site is private and leads to a small estate of houses and some farms. Care must be taken to respect this. The surface of some stretches of the footpaths are rocky whilst other are muddy reflecting the local geological conditions.

Opportunities exist to improve the site through better signage and signposting for visitors to the national park in the area.

Factors Causing Change

level of use by the public - damage to footpath surfaces through poaching during winter months.

Water logging caused by blocked drains and ditches.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Pathways maintained according to site use. Car parking facilities will remain open and welcoming with clearly marked signage and maintained entrance furniture.

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

Carry out annual maintenance to the network of footpaths across the site which will include regular maintenance of the site car parking facility.

Mow the desire-line through sub-compartment 2a in order to create a longer circular route and remove the internal boundary fence now that grazing of the site is no longer needed.

Carry out tree safety management to affected stands with Ash dieback on annual basis to remove hazard.

5.2 Wet Woodland

Description

Wetland habitats in both the planted and unplanted zones as well as along the stream margins which feature across site within compartment 1a and 2a.

Significance

Wetland habitat is in decline nationally and allows a varied ground flora habitat within an area of concentrated intensive agricultural land usage.

Opportunities & Constraints

Pond silted up with first 5 years and will not be re-instated.

Access to the site is limited due to associated ground conditions.

Factors Causing Change

Absence of grazing within compartment 2a leading to increased levels of scrub and lack of diversity within open ground spaces.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain a varied wetland habitat, river, wet river valley bottom and boggy open ground dominated by rushes and willow species, with emphasis on diversification of sward height and volumes of scrub across the habitat.

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

In conjunction with annual footpath management, carry out scrub and open space management through mechanical means where possible.

5.3 New Native Woodland

Description

Planted as a millennium Woods on your Doorstep site. Approximately 7.5 ha planted with significant areas of open ground when the conditions were too wet to plant. Has resulted in a highly variable woodland mosaic . Canopy composition includes a predominance of Ash species, Oak, Beech and hazel with scattering willow and alder across wettest parts of the site.

Significance

Expansion of native woodland adjacent to existing ancient semi natural woodland locally and within an intensive agricultural landscape. This new woodland is the only new woodland to be available as a local amenity.

Opportunities & Constraints

Increase woodland cover through natural regeneration on site.

constraints include difficult ground conditions in winter months with waterlogging in places.

Factors Causing Change

The main factor causing change is the on-set of Ash dieback within the site, first recorded in 2017. This will have an impact upon the main stands found along the northern boundary which have a high percentage of Ash within them and show little signs of natural regeneration and will likely lead to increases in coarse vegetation across the area.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Creation and development of a new native woodland with open ground and varied woodland types developing over time, e.g. ash, alder, willow around the boggy areas and oak, ash, cherry on the drier slopes which include a network of public access provisions.

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

Carry out stand assessment of progression of Ash dieback and monitor levels of natural regeneration by mapping worst effected areas and populate work program should action be necessary.

Control scrub along path sides and coppice areas of tree encroachment to diversify stand age classes in conjunction with tree safety management for Ash dieback.

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	8.04	Ash	2001	Wood establishment	Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, Wet Woodland	National Park
<p>Formed from the easternmost parts of the original four fields, the planted land is on old fields divided by low internal hedges which have become part of the new woodland canopy.</p> <p>The compartment is mainly level/ gently sloping towards the South and comprises of a dominant Ash canopy with Oak, Beech, alder and blackthorn most present with groups of Hazel found scattered across the area.</p> <p>The land tends to retain water due to thin soil layer with rock beneath. Most fields have frequent large rocks at the surface. Steep slope in western edge towards the stream in sub compartment 2a is dry and has exposed boulders that are good for insects. Flora includes birds foot trefoil, devils bit scabious, bramble patches and occasional hawthorn which also has a permissive footpath crossing the area and former agricultural building at the centre.</p>							
2a	2.02	Mixed native broadleaves	2001	Wood pasture	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Wet Woodland	National Park
<p>Steeper land bordering the river. The narrow strip along the river is level and wet and contains numerous wetland flora, marsh marigold, marsh pennywort, rushes and willow. It is left unplanted as it is valuable wetland habitat. Steep slope in western edge towards the stream is dry and has exposed boulders that are good for insects. Flora includes birdsfoot trefoil, devils bit scabious, bramble patches and occasional hawthorn. This area has been left unplanted and has been grazed by horses in summer in the past although now not considered a practical solution given the location of the open space so mechanical means of management are adopted.</p> <p>The area is gradually being colonised by bramble, gorse and scrub including some areas of fast growing ash in places.</p>							

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.