



Cypress Park

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Cypress Park
Location:	Donaghadee
Grid reference:	J589789, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 15
Area:	0.93 hectares (2.30 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Cypress Park is a small community wood of young woodland, comprising oak, ash and alder as its main species. The wood forms a focal point for the residents of new nearby housing estates.

2.2 Extended Description

This small community woodland (Woyd) of native trees on a hill of grassland has been converted into young woodland, and is now a focal point for the new housing estates in south Donaghadee. The main species are oak, ash and alder with some scots pine on top. With path links to the water tower and the town via the old railway line it has good usage and regular walkers.

The entire site was planted in Dec. 2000 and the trees are now fairly well established. The 150m of paths provide access throughout the site and offer wide views to the Irish Sea and the Copeland Isles off Donaghadee.

Whilst there are no community groups in the private housing estates nearby, many of the residents and the local school came out to support the first planting in March 2001 where a feature of three logs was placed in the entrance at the base of the hill.

The establishment of trees has worked and many residents have complemented us on the improvement in the hills character.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access is currently available off Seahill Road corner and off the old/ex railway line path to the town & water tower park

The management access is off the Seahill Road & Cypress Park corner hammerhead of the public highway. Whilst the property certificate suggests that the road is not maintained by DoE it was constructed to adoptable standard and apparently in NIHE estates there can be long delays in adoption.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention is the establishment of the 1ha of community woodland primarily for public access.

Access is provided by a maintained 150m long grass path.

The option to upgrade the access will remain should the public use require it, funding will be sought to upgrade the lower path to allow access for wheelchairs.

The edges are all NIHE maintained and provide a decent buffer to the site with no maintenance by WT.

The site will be managed by minimal intervention to achieve a high forest because it is a small wood with the primary aim being access.

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

The community woodland access is at the corner where Seahill road and Cypress Park Road meet. There are two paths; one from the hammer head to the old rail line path & one up hill to the water tower view point.

Significance

The access was established with the Housing Executive under the Woyd contract and fulfills the WT objective of increasing peoples awareness and enjoyment of woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Not much opportunity for expansion, however it is a very well used site, meeting with the Trust's aim of increasing peoples awareness of woodland.

Factors Causing Change

vandalism

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To retain the 1 ha of community wood with access across the whole site to the water tower and town via the 150m of paths on site.

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

Continue to maintain the paths until canopy closure and/or the usage is established such that we do not have to mow at all. The 5 entrances are simple squeeze posts and need minimal maintenance, however checks will take place to ensure public safety across the site. Repairs are carried out when required.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

0.9ha planted with native trees in 2000 as part of the Woods on Your Doorstep community woodland creation project.

Significance

The aim of the Woods on Your Doorstep project was to create community woodland. This also fulfills one of the Woodland Trust's key aims, to increase new native woodland. In addition woodland creation will add a variety of habitats to the site and improve its biodiversity value.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraint - Slight vandalism, but this has reduced significantly

Opportunity - The development of secondary woodland. The development of a valuable habitat for local biodiversity.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To encourage the development of a self-sustaining native woodland with public access and a good habitat for local biodiversity

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

The wood is fully stocked. Vandalism to the young trees is minimal. The need to thin/restructure the woodland will be assessed in a future plan, for the period of this plan minimal intervention is needed.

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	0.94	Scots pine	2000	null		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>A small grass hill gifted by the Housing Executive in 2000, on the southern edge of Donaghadee private housing estates. On the eastern slope of the water tower hill, next to the old railway line, now a footpath, and looking out to the Irish Sea and the Copeland Isles.</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.