



The Drum

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	The Drum
Location:	Cargan
Grid reference:	D161186, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 9
Area:	8.39 hectares (20.73 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Woods on your Doorstep

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

The Drum is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It lies on the southern slopes of Slievenanee Mountain in the north of Glenravel, above Cargan village. It was planted with 15,000 native trees, and features open areas where raptors hunt, and small pools where frogs spawn.

2.2 Extended Description

The Drum is on the southern slopes of Slievenanee Mountain in the north of Glenravel above the village of Cargan. These rush covered fields were grazed until mid 2001 when the Trust acquired them for planting and access under the Woods on your Doorstep project. The Drum name derives from the winding gear left over from the iron ore mines above here, although little remains of these apart from red scars on the hillside. A 4m high rust coloured iron sculpture on the site illustrates this connection and it has been called the 'angel of the drum' after its resemblance to the Geordie sculpture.

Following extensive consultation with Glenravel Community Development Association the area was planted with 14k trees of native stock with the main species being oak, ash, rowan, Scots pine, birch and alder. Open meadow areas have been left at the top for plants like orchids and ragged robin which are profuse in spring, whilst also providing hunting territory for the many raptors around here, notably sparrow hawk, kestrel and buzzard. Small pools in the wetland allow frogs to spawn in spring and these are often black with tadpoles.

Free public access is provided across the whole site at all times. Access is off the Skerry East road which is up from the Cushendall road before Cargan at the Newtowncrommelin turn off.

The main path from the car park off the Skerry East Road affords great views down to Glenravel and across to the Antrim hills and Glenariff Forest. Over the past five years there has been an increase in the use of the car park for illegal fly tipping and or anti social behaviour which has more recently led to the temporary closure of the car park.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The site has good pedestrian access from the top car park off the Skerry East Road.

From Cargan village the car access is up the Legagrane Road and turn right at top onto Tuftarney Rd. then right again onto Skerry east 200m on the right is the site.

The turn off before Cargan: from Ballymena and off the Cushendall Road, is straight onto the right fork -entering Tuftarney Road - to the top and right onto Skerry east then 200m to the site on the right.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Approx 40% of the woodland planted has not taken due to the prevailing wind and site exposure, as well as the boggy wet soils.

The long term intention is to aim for an accessible upland fringe woodland which will be achieved by:

- continuing to manage the existing trees on site and continue to beat up the boundary 400m of mixed species rich hedge.
- maintaining paths through the site to the top of Skerry East road
- retaining the wetland and meadow (0.5ha) to the west and south of the site as wildlife conservation habitat (under WGS) as well as the landscape views.

When the woodland is established there should be minimal intervention, allowing the forest to develop without the need for thinning, partly due to the soils being so peaty and difficult to run machines upon, and in part due to the openness of the site reducing wind throw hazard. Voluntary or community management e.g. hazel coppice maybe possible depending on engagement of the local community.

The main access is used by locals and should be retained as open in the future.

Over time the wood will restructure itself without active intervention and any dead wood can be left "in situ" or in habitat piles.

Where opportunities arise through woodland creation and or partnerships we will seek where possible to connect this woodland with other adjacent habitats for a more resilient future landscape.

The site will be managed by minimal intervention to achieve a high forest, with a primary aim being to enhance the access and public enjoyment.

Upgrades to paths will be needed in the long term, especially in wetter areas.

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

As part of the Woods on Your Doorstep project, The Drum is a community woodland. Free public access is provided across the site at all times. Access to the wood is from the gravel car park at the top of the site, off the Skerry East Road that, leads into the planting on grass paths, which are side ditched at first, running down for 1km to the laneway at the bottom. The status of the farm lane is uncertain as the neighbour claims it is private yet locals claim it has always been used for walking since the 1950s mining period! The farm lane entrance has now been closed due to the ongoing dispute.

Significance

The access is to allow members of the public to enjoy a quiet rural location with a wide range of wildlife, fine views and unique features like the sculpture. The access facilities provide the opportunity to "increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland" one of the Woodland Trust's key objectives. It will be important to retain this informal public access.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

The upper path access from the car park is fine to use by the public, yet the lower access could pose problems, due to ownership and rights of way issues. The local Cargan Scout troupe has agreed with the neighbour to allow them to walk the route every month as part of their training. No car access is to be allowed to the lower site apart from the contractor for maintenance.

Opportunities:

As a Woods on Your Doorstep site this wood provides an opportunity for many local people and indeed visitors to the Antrim Glens, to enjoy the woodland.

Connecting the adjacent land owned by Mr McKeown as part of the Historical Society he is a member of and working with the Glenravel Community Association as part of their village renewal plans.

Factors Causing Change

Other - Some wet areas get water logged in winter making the path difficult to walk

Level of public use

Canopy closure

Vandalism - fly tipping and damage of entrance gate

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain informal public access through the site by providing facilities appropriate for the level of use. This will include the maintenance of the path to an acceptable standard and maintaining the provision of on-site information and infrastructure.

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

The path will be retained at a 1m width through mowing once a year & the ditches & culverts are to be cleared as necessary. The need for further path maintenance will be assessed each year as the trees on site are slow growing due to the extreme exposure.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

Over 14,000 trees were planted in 2001. Predominant species include scots pine, oak, ash, birch and aspen. Alder and rowan were planted in the wettest areas, scots pine and birch on the more exposed, steeper parts and oak on the heavier but less exposed soils. 1.7ha of open space has also been set aside to retain the views from within the woodland and to improve the existing wetland/meadow area.

Significance

The site is important for its 8 ha of mixed native planting which contributes to the public enjoyment of the site. 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". By creating and encouraging new woodland and restoring hedgerows the site will go some way to provide a link to other small existing patches of upland woodland within this area e.g. Glenariff Forest Park.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Although the trees lower down the site have thrived, the exposure and altitude have slowed the growth of the trees and development of the woodland further up the slope. All trees had spirals supported with canes to prevent rabbit and hare damage which will eventually need to be removed

Opportunities:

An opportunity to acquire additional land adjacent to this existing woodland may arise in the future. Links through the CCGHT (Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust)

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of scrub, Exposure, altitude and climate, wet conditions, tree disease

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish a mixed woodland managed as high forest with small open upland meadow areas. Where possible look for potential planting areas and linking this habitat with other existing woodland and open habitat within the area.

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

Annual boundary inspections will ensure the fencing remains stock proof to protect planting stock from grazing animals outside the wood. The trees at the lower end of the wood will be used to shelter and establish the struggling trees further up the slope. Look for opportunities to create structural and species diversity where possible.

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	8.50	Mixed broadleaves	2001	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Woods on your Doorstep

This land is set at the top of Glenravel in the Antrim Glens just above Cargan village. It was rough grassland that was bought in 2001 as a Woyd site. To the north is moorland and to the west is Slievenanee Mountain - the second highest in the glens.

The 8.5ha is an average 800ft above sea level and slopes to the south from the top of Skerry East Road down to a farm track running from Cargan village. It was part of a mining operation in the c18th and held the cable way to the iron ore mines on Slievenanee Mt. (hence the Drum name). There are very few stone remains on site except the gully left from loading ore to the trains; all of these are disused. In 2001 over 14k trees were planted along with a wet patch left for flora.

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.