



Daisy Hill Wood

Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Daisy Hill Wood
Location:	Newry
Grid reference:	J077265, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 29
Area:	2.92 hectares (7.22 acres)
Designations:	Great Landscape Value

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Daisy Hill Wood is a prominent feature on the hill, which rises above the city of Newry. It features non-native species, an abundance of spring wildflowers, newly planted trees and mature hedges. Bats, hedgehogs and long-eared owls are some of the many species of wildlife that call Daisy Hill Wood home.

2.2 Extended Description

Daisyhill Wood is a main feature on the hill above Newry city and most people there would know the site from its history as a plant nursery for 100 years from 1890 to 1990. Daisy Hill can be seen from all of the Newry Basin and from the Carlingford Lough. The wood may have been on an older woodland site, given that it has swathes of bluebells and primroses but most of the wood has been planted from the exotic species that the nursery used to grow.

There are many trees and shrubs of non native origin, such as the Robinia pseudoacacia, a varied selection of conifers, bamboo, privet and cherries and these form the main canopy of the wood. There are occasional oak, ash and sycamore in the original banks and hedges originating from when it was a parkland estate. The main woodland has a mixed species canopy and yet with large areas of the north under invasive plants like laurel and hogweed, these are being controlled, but at present no control of Hogweed is evident on neighbouring land, which will lead to further invasion.

At the bottom of the hill the access is less than 700m from the main street of Newry and from the top the access is from the main housing estates and St Malachys school. The path follows the old estate paths which contour the site and form a circular route, these now are the basis for access and were improved with gravel in 2001, and the drainage improved in 2003, with further improvements in 2006.

Newry and Mourne District Council erected an 8ft palisade and mesh fencing around the entire perimeter to try and stop joyriding and anti-social behaviour, as until recently this has been a major problem within the wood and the surrounding area.

Given the history and the accessibility of this site it plays a key role as a community woodland under the Woyd scheme and has a biodiversity role as a staging post for bird and mammal species. Most people in Newry know it as the old Daisyhill Nursery site and the various mature exotic tree species and shrubs fully reinforce this historical connection.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access is gained from the gate at the Pound Road and Daisyhill road junction, which in turn is off the Monaghan Row from the Camlough Rd. near the city centre.

Follow the signs to Daisyhill Hospital or Newry College from the main roads and turn at the Camlough Road roundabout onto Monaghan Row then left again on to Pound Road. Park on the right next to a row of houses on Daisyhill.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The site will be managed appropriately to maintain the mixed high forest as a recreational and accessible site because its primary aim is in its access and enjoyment by local people, this includes the control of the extensive range of non-native species.

Over time the wood will be slowly restructured with active intervention, mainly by the complete removal of the invasive species (laurel, knotweed, bamboo and hogweed) and by highlighting the mature trees with the removal of invasive species around them, which should allow for ground flora recovery. This work will be carried out in winter and so will not disturb the nesting season. In the long term minimal intervention will be required as Ash and sycamore regeneration will occur.

It would not be possible to remove the introduced mature trees and shrubs without destroying the structure of this woodland, and regeneration is occurring where the invasive species are removed so that in the long term the intention is for there to be a mixed species wood, of introduced, exotic, native trees and shrubs. Where possible look for potential planting areas and linking this habitat with other existing woodland.

The access paths will be maintained by the annual clearance of paths to a 2m x 2m corridor and the gates and signage will be repaired as and when necessary.

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, Daisyhill is a community woodland. There is one main access point at the Pound Road and Daisyhill Road junction. This allows free access to the wood at all times. An information board is located at this entrance and welcome signs are attached to the gate posts. There were serious problems with joyriders burning out cars in the council owned land lying west of the site, however, the council have put up a fence around the boundaries of the wood and the upper fields and to date this has proved very effective. There is an element of antisocial behaviour with young individuals using the wood as a drinking venue. The majority of the understorey invasive and non-native species have been removed to try and make the woods more open and help members of the public feel safer as they walk around.

Significance

This wood is an important landscape feature above Newry and is held in high regard due to its history as a nursery and it being viewed from most of the city. Many people use the paths from the estates. Also the council have a sub-committee dedicated to improving the open land above this woodland and this should improve the access in the long term. The access facilities provide the opportunity to "increase people's enjoyment of woodland", one of the Woodland Trust's key objectives.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

The opportunity was to fully access the wood from the city via the lower path which carries on up to the top of the hill into the other open council lands. The main constraint is in the level of vandalism and litter incurred on the lower path, which is to the detriment of the public's enjoyment and the wood's appearance. Antisocial behaviour also deters the public from enjoying this woodland, especially at night.

Opportunities

The council have erected a metal mesh/palisade fence to ensure joyriders cannot enter into the council owned land lying west of the woodland. With the removal of the joyriders entrance, path upgrades have been carried out. The council have been keen to develop the neighbouring land as an open space area. This could link in extremely well with the existing woodland to encourage visitors to the site for recreational purposes.

Factors Causing Change

Council developments
anti-social behaviour

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 where it can be used all year round and maintaining the provision of site information.

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

The access will be kept clear at 2m x 2m and the remaining gates will be repaired if the council fencing is a success.

5.2 Feature Trees

Description

This site was a landscaped parkland until 1996 as part of a commercial nursery and as such it contains many mature non native trees like the many conifers and Locust Tree (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L.) as well as shrubs like bamboo and hybrid maples. These trees form most of the canopy and shrub layers.

Significance

It is part of the history of Newry to have this mature mixed wood on top of the hill that looks over the city. It is so close to the centre and it can be seen from all over the Newry Basin, it forms a landmark in peoples minds. Thus we can conserve this land mark and accept that it is an exotic mixed wood with some native trees and a good native floral content below them (eg bluebells). Daisyhill fulfills the key aim of the Woods on Your Doorstep project in creating community woodland and as such is very important.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity is to preserve a piece of history in the tree nursery parkland and to extend the native trees around it when the laurels are removed. A constraint is the invasive species like laurel, giant hogweed and knotweed. The aim would be to retain the mixed wood whilst removing the invasive alien species.

Factors Causing Change

Natural Succession To...non native species
 mushroom collectors
 invasive plant species

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To restructure and retain the historic mixed species of the site by allowing the non native trees to grow without hindrance from invasive species or by any policy of removal. Where possible look for options for new planting to encourage native species and linking to new areas in the surrounding landscape.

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

The invasives species will be removed gradually and invasive shrubs will be cleared around the mature trees by spraying and cutting. In removing the invasives species annually then the natural regeneration of natives/non natives should occur, the main regeneration will be Ash and Sycamore, therefore the sycamore regeneration will need controlling to less than 5% new seedlings.

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	3.60	Mixed broadleaves	1930	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Feature Trees, Informal Public Access	

A mature mixed woodland on Daisyhill near to Newry City which was a plant/tree nursery from 1886 -1996. The very mixed nature of the existing exotic and introduced plants illustrates its origins. A few native broadleaves of oak and ash exist in the lower wood whilst exotics are present in the upper parts along with bamboo, laurels and other shrubs. Elevation is between 30-50m with a SW aspect.

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.