



Clough Copse

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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: | Clough Copse |
| Location: | Preston |
| Grid reference: | SD552330, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 102 |
| Area: | 1.60 hectares (3.95 acres) |
| Designations: | |

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A popular wood with local dog-walkers and joggers, Clough Copse consists of a wide variety of tree life including oak, ash, sycamore, cherry, beech, elder, hazel and holly. Bluebells, dog's mercury and red campion can be spotted as well.

2.2 Extended Description

Clough Copse is situated in the town of Fulwood which in turn forms the Northern section of the City of Preston in Lancashire. The land use around the site is intensely urban and it is surrounded by 41 houses built between 1990-2000. Clough Copse is part of a cluster of Woodland Trust properties in this area and other sites such as Asda Wood, Fernyhalgh & Midgery Wood are close by.

It occupies three deeply incised steep valleys, the steep nature of the terrain and clay soils means that the site has been of little use for agriculture or development, and this is the reason the wood has survived undisturbed for some time. A very small stream flows from north to south through the three valley floors towards the larger Savick Brook.

The structure is typical of grazed woodland which has been brought into management within the last 20 years, with even aged mature trees mainly beech, ash, sycamore, horse chestnut, cherry, oak and alder. Under storey species include hawthorn, elder, hazel and holly. There is regeneration of trees and shrubs underneath open canopy. The ground flora includes bramble, bluebell, dog's mercury and red campion. Secondary woodland is one of the sites key features.

Clough Copse is one of a number of woods in the East Preston area, which were transferred from the Commission for New Towns to Woodland Trust in 1996. Little is know about its management prior to been in the ownership of the Trust, although the word Clough is Northern English dialect for steep valley or ravine. Its name therefore suggests its likely to have been undisturbed by agriculture or development and could well be a small remnant of ancient woodland.

Clough Copse directly abuts open space in the management of Preston Borough Council. It also helps to form a larger green matrix with land in the ownership of Woodland Trust and acts as a vital part of the green lung within the city of Preston for both people and wildlife. The site is well used by local people such as dog walkers, joggers and pedestrians. Informal Public Access is also a key feature at this site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Clough Copse is located in the suburb of Fulwood which is around six miles from Preston city centre. The site has three pedestrian access points, one is located on the northern boundary of the site just off Williams Lane, one is located on the sites western boundary just off Ladywell Drive and the final one is located on the sites southern boundary and borders parkland owned by the local authority. A surfaced track runs in a north-south direction for approximately 200 metres. Much of the rest of the site is steep and inaccessible.

Parking is available on nearby local roads such as Williams Lane but may be limited.

Nearest public toilet: Is located at Asda Superstore, Eastway, Fulwood which is around half a mile away from the wood.

Nearest bus stop: Is located on Williams Lane, which is only around 50 metres from the wood. William's Lane is a suburban road with a pavement. Information from the traveline website. Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Clough Copse will be managed as a mixed broadleaved, predominantly native high forest. Both native and non native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. Gaps created by trees gradually reaching senescence, or by trees been felled for safety reasons will be filled by natural regeneration. The woodland will require little active management other than ensuring that natural regeneration levels remain adequate. We will retain older trees of any species across the whole site as long as safety allows.

Access will be maintained at its present level (three access points and approximately 200m of surfaced paths) to ensure that the woodland continues to provide quiet informal recreational opportunities for local people.

Local people should be informed of and involved with the site management where appropriate, especially to help understand the management needs of the wood, and the negative effect of some activities such as dumping garden rubbish, which have had a major impact in certain 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 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Valley woodland, mixed broadleaved species such as oak, ash, sycamore, alder & cherry. Its thought the site was grazed prior to approximately 1980, structurally varied with open and recently planted mixed broadleaved areas on upper fringes.

Significance

Broadleaved woodland cover is very low nationally, regionally and locally. Around 7% of land use in Britain is taken up by broadleaved woodland, regionally and locally the figure is around 3%. Therefore Clough Copse provides an important habitat for local flora and fauna in a very urban landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size of this site, and the fact that it is surrounded by housing limits its value as a wildlife habitat. Unfortunately the woodland does not link with any other habitats, and there is no opportunity to extend it. However it is a mature and stable woodland which provides a refuge for urban wildlife.

Factors Causing Change

Neighbours periodically dump garden waste into the woodland which could have a negative effect on woodland flora and regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Mature, stable broadleaved high forest, with a continuous canopy composed of a mixture of broadleaved species, with diverse age range and succession by natural regeneration. As trees gradually reach senescence or are removed for tree safety purposes the gaps left in the canopy will be colonised by natural regeneration of oak, ash, birch etc.

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

Tree safety inspections will be undertaken on a regular basis and work carried out if necessary for public safety. The site will be checked once during this plan period to assess whether there is sufficient regeneration to ensure the long term future of the canopy. Garden tipping will also be assessed once during this plan period to ensure its not posing a threat to woodland flora or regeneration.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

A surfaced path runs north-south through the wood for approximately 200 metres and is well used by local people.

Significance

Clough Copse is situated in a very urban environment, it provides much needed green space and informal recreation opportunities to local people and also links into a wider network of open spaces managed by Preston City Council.

Opportunities & Constraints

The path is the only readily accessible area in the wood as other areas are either wet or steep. However walkers and runners are appreciative of the provision of good facilities and this helps bolster the reputation of the Woodland Trust. As the path is part of a network incorporating other trust properties there is an opportunity to increase goodwill by promoting those routes.

Factors Causing Change

The site suffers from occasional vandalism and litter.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Clough Copse becomes an integral part of an evolving network of open spaces providing informal recreational opportunities in the East Preston area for local people.

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

The main entrance signs have been replaced as part of the Welcoming Sites Project (WSP). The signs, entrances, and paths will be checked at least annually and litter will be cleared at least annually as part of the Estates Maintenance Contract.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

| Year | Type of Work | Description | Due By |
|------|--------------|-------------|--------|
|------|--------------|-------------|--------|

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No. | Area (ha) | Main Species | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints | Key Features Present | Designations |
|--|-----------|--------------|------|-------------------|---|--|--------------|
| 1a | 1.60 | Sycamore | 1940 | Min-intervention | Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve) | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | |
| <p>1.6 hectares (3.9 acres) of well established broadleaved secondary woodland situated in three converging steep sided valleys. A narrow stretch of open ground separates the western part of the site from the east. The woodland is located in an urban area of Fulwood, near Preston and much of the woodland is surrounded by housing. A surfaced track leads from the northern extremity of the site to the southern extremity. Access is concentrated along this track.</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.