



Wedd's Copse & Tanglewood

Management Plan

2007-2012

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Wedd's Copse & Tanglewood
Location:	Tavistock
Grid reference:	SX483744, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 201
Area:	1.64 hectares (4.05 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Wedds Copse and Tangle wood lie on steep north-westerly facing slopes, overlooking the town of Tavistock. Featuring an old railway and two large quarries with woodland around their edges, the site is currently not open to the public.

2.2 Extended Description

Wedds Copse and Tangle wood lie fairly centrally in the town of Tavistock on steep north-westerly facing slopes. As such it overlooks the town centre, neighbours many private residences and forms a woodland backdrop and landscape feature for the town centre and developments on the opposite valley sides. Wedds Copse consists of a defunct railway cutting which has much naturally regenerated secondary woodland along its length while Tanglewood is primarily two large quarries with woodland around their edges and in a small tongue of land running north from them.

Tree species vary widely with Oak, Ash, Beech, Sycamore, Sweet and Horse Chestnut and Lime present. Almost all the high forest trees are mature often growing right up to the boundaries. The woods have a dense, but patchy undertorey scrub layer of predominantly elder and Holly with Hazel and clumps of Rhododendron in places. Ground flora, too, is patchy, but woodland species such as ransom and dogs mercury predominate where light levels are sufficient and large bryophyte populations thrive in shady wetter areas and on the exposed rock faces of the quarries and cuttings.

Access is very limited with a right of access to Tanglewood across a neighbouring private dwelling and to Wedds Copse behind the car park of a new large residential development. Given the poor access and the fact that the quarries, railway retaining walls, embankments and cuttings present considerable safety liabilities the site is not open to the public. However, some unauthorised access does occur and a weld mesh fence was erected to close off the quarry areas in 1999/2000 to reduce the risk of accidents happening.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To conserve the woodland as local woodland and woodland associated habitats and in doing so maintain the habitat's value given its urban location, by perpetuating the high forest through natural regeneration and natural processes. Continue to maintain the landscape values for the town. Due to its very poor access and the limited amount of work that can be undertaken in such a small and variable site the woodland will be managed with minimal intervention. Any work undertaken will, where possible, aim to favour native broadleaf species and will give full consideration to the landscape. No public access works will take place, but maintenance of the safety fence will be undertaken to maintain the safety of unauthorised visitors. As mature trees extend right up to boundaries of many private dwellings tree safety will be maintained and work undertaken 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 Local Woodland Habitat

Description

Both Wedds Copse and Tanglewood are predominantly stocked with mature trees and with patchy but dense shrub layers and natural regeneration and natural ground flora. This varied woodland structure, combined with the sides of the railway cuttings and quarry faces and the fact that public access is not authorised means that the site offers a varied and secluded mixture of habitats almost centrally in the town

Significance

Located as it is centrally in the town it offers a wildlife haven and prominent wooded backdrop and landscape to those living and working in Tavistock.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site's location centrally in the town, its very variable topography and its poor access are its greatest constraints especially in preventing work which may help the future regeneration of the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Increased severe weather patterns and maturity of boundary trees

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To conserve the local woodland and its associated habitats in this urban location. Allow natural regeneration to develop and regenerate the woodland naturally and create a varied age and size structure which will further enhance the conservation and local landscape value of the wood.

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

There will be no intervention in the plan period. The wood will be allowed to develop through natural processes forming gaps in the canopy and allowing the establishment of regeneration. The success of regeneration will be observed at the end of each plan period to determine whether there is a need for intervention. Safety fence around quarries will be maintained and the extent of knotweed will be monitored.

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	1.00	Mixed broadleaves	1920	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Local Woodland Habitat	
<p>Wedds Copse - A narrow strip of northfacing woodland growing along the defunct railway cutting through part of the town. Many of the trees are mature and extend right up to boundaries but with scrub, dense understory and patchy natural regeneration underneath. Often this growth is drawn up and collapses giving the wood a tangled appearance. Most of the tree growth is found on the higher side of the cutting with only a row of mature trees growing along the eastern boundary with the town's cemetery. There is a wide range of tree species including Sweet chestnut, Oak, Ash, Beech, Lime and Sycamore. Ground flora is patchy and varies from bare ground, bramble, laurel and rhododendron, holly, dogs mercury, ransom etc. The bare rock on the sides of the cuttings and edges of the railway bed are also ideal sites for the bryophyte populations, while young ash and sycamore regen is now densely colonising the bed itself. There is no public access to the site.</p>							
2a	0.70	Mixed broadleaves	1920	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Local Woodland Habitat	

Tanglewood - Adjoining the south east end of Wedds Copse, Tanglewood is largely comprised of two quarries that 'step' down from its higher eastern boundary to where it adjoins Wedds Copse. A narrow 'tongue' of woodland extends northwards from the quarries along Wedd's eastern boundary. Trees species are diverse with Ash, Oak, Sweet and Horse chestnut, Sycamore and Beech with a small area of Scots pine around the eastern boundary. Almost all the trees are mature and extend right up to boundaries. Understorey of elder and holly and some natural regeneration is patchy, but dense where present. Ground flora is mainly of dogs mercury and ransom with ferns etc in wetter areas and on quarry faces. Many of the trees are growing on the edges of or out of the faces of the quarries.

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.