WOODLAND TRUST

Trevellas Woods

Management Plan 2017-2022

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Trevellas Woods
Location:	Trevellas, nr St. Agnes
Grid reference:	SW741521, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 204
Area:	0.24 hectares (0.59 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Trevellas Woods consist of Wilks and Shute Woods, which lie on the edges of the village of Trevellas. Due to their small size there are no paths or maintained access, but they are open to the public. Both sites provide valuable shelter and nesting sites for wildlife.

2.2 Extended Description

Trevellas Wood, a management unit covering Shute and Wilks woods, is located in the village of Trevellas, near St Agnes on the north coast of West Cornwall. It stands in an exposed and sparsely wooded part of the county and close to the St Agnes section of the Cornwall AONB. Both Shute and Wilks woods were originally grassland and were planted after acquisition in 1976 and 1986 respectively with mixed broadleaf species. These were predominantly Oak, Ash, Alder and Willow with, unusually for Woodland Trust woodland creation sites, elements of Sycamore which were planted to help other species establishment in the exposed location.

Shute wood had some maturing, but stunted Oak, Elm, Sycamore, Scots Pine and Ash trees on its southern boundary hedge and, although many of the elm were felled for safety reasons after succumbing to Dutch elm disease, some of trees remain. Wilks wood had thorn topped hedges, which have encroached densely into the site. Having reached pole stage the trees have formed a dense canopy and cast heavy shade onto the woodland floor. Combined with heavy and often wet soils which have been disturbed in the past both sites have a generally poor ground flora with clumps of nettle and bramble predominating and clusters of ferns elsewhere.

While both sites are open to the public they have no internal paths, only minimal entry facilities. Access to Wilks wood is direct from the road, across the wide grass verge and over a stile erected in the boundary fence for management access. Shute wood can be accessed from the green lane along its southern boundary and through a small gap in the boundary hedge. Parking in the village is, however, very difficult and therefore the woods are effectively not available for public access.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

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3.2 Access / Walks

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4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Trevellas Woods will form part of a collection of small islands of mixed broadleaf woodland habitat in a sparsely wooded part of Cornwall and together comprise the Trust's 'wild spaces'. As such they will help to fulfil the Trusts objectives of creating new native woodland, enhancing woodland biodiversity and enhancing the public's appreciation of woodland.

They will be managed towards a broadleaf highforest under a continuous cover type system but leaving nature to take its course. Minimal intervention will only be undertaken when necessary to manage safety, control invasive weeds, to meet legal obligations or to maintain habitat health.

The arisings from felled trees or tree safety works will be left on site to create deadwood habitat. The small size of both woods will generally prevent the creation of standing deadwood.

The woods will remain publicly accessible but due to their incapacity to provide public access, no access management work will be undertaken.

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

Description
Significance
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

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	0.20	Ash	1976	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Services & wayleaves		
Shute wood is a small, predominantly sycamore, ash and oak broadleaf woodland. It was planted in 1976 although hedgerow trees of ash, Scots pine and sycamore were present prior to this. Regular exposure to salt winds and gales off the sea means all the trees are stunted or wind pruned to some degree (6-8m). Despite this tree condition is, however, quite good and their stunted form is in some ways advantageous given the wood's small size and close proximity to the road and houses. Unusually for WT planting schemes a double row of sycamores was planted inside the roadside boundary to provide shelter. The land is lower than the road and on heavy soils and with it being in a relatively high rainfall area the ground is generally wet throughout the year. Ground flora is patchy - either sparse or with dense flushes of nettles and brambles although the latter are now becoming suppressed by the canopy shade. A concrete and red brick built shed stands centrally in the wood. this remains in sound condition and following occasional use by youths and tramps it has been boarded up and has a safety fence around it to restrict access. A septic tank soak away and a well are also present in the wood however the exact location of the latter is not known.							
2a	0.10	Ash	1986	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc		
Wilks wood was acquired in 1986. Again originally grassland it was subsequently planted with predominantly Ash, willow, alder and sycamore to create a small copse. It is bounded to the northwest and south by thorn topped hedges which have encroached into the site to form dense clumps. Its eastern boundary is formed by a stock fence separating it from the adjacent wide roadside verge. The soil is heavy, but being above road level it is less prone to water runoff and is therefore drier. Now that the trees are established and some 4-5m high they are exposed to the effects of the salt winds and gales from the sea and some wind pruning/stunting is becoming apparent. This should not be a problem given the close proximity of the road. The original grassland species ground flora, has been suppressed by the low canopy of the trees and dense thorn clumps and is generally sparse other than where clumps of nettle and bramble have survived.							

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.