



Longstone Wood

Management Plan 2009-2014

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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: | Longstone Wood |
| Location: | Lamerton |
| Grid reference: | SX467752, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 201 |
| Area: | 0.95 hectares (2.35 acres) |
| Designations: | |

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Longstone wood is an oval woodland clump standing on a hill top to the north of Tavistock. The wood is surrounded by agricultural grassland mostly grazed by cattle and sheep.

2.2 Extended Description

Longstone wood is an oval woodland clump standing prominently on a hill top to the north of Tavistock. It once formed a dense dome of trees visible for many miles around. During the gales of January/February 1990 approximately half of the trees blew over, leaving the woodland with a very patchy appearance and its original 'dome' shape only visible from one side. The seed from the mature to over mature Beech outer edge trees and ash central clump and the increased light levels able to reach the woodland floor following the wind damage has allowed some natural regeneration to develop.

It was also under planted with beech in 1979 and restocked in 91 after the storms. Much of the '79 planting has reached thicket stage and will help to recreate the woodland for the future though squirrel damage during the early to mid 90's has affected many. Resulting growth of brambles has temporarily reduced the growth of new regeneration but this bramble will become suppressed as a canopy forms and more beech should grow over the next few years. The wood is surrounded by agricultural grassland mostly grazed by cattle and sheep. The dry stone wall and fencing atop it prevent stock intruding into the wood.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

There is no public access in the wood. Access to the wood is poor as it is necessary to cross two fields, following a prescribed route around the boundaries.

In terms of management access there is a management gate through the dry stone boundary walls into the wood. The internal access track is only a few metres long, but as the ground is fairly level access for machinery is possible for the level of anticipated work

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The woodland will be reestablished as high forest landscape feature dominated by Beech but with a more diverse structure than previously the case. Under low intensity management the existing natural regeneration and under planting will be allowed to develop and the remaining mature trees will be retained for as long as possible to maintain the wood's presence in the landscape. If required, safety works on those trees close to the boundary and the occasional felling of single selected trees will open up the remaining canopy sufficiently to allow the above successions to continue throughout the rest of the wood unaffected by the gale damage. Despite its lack of public access, its prominent position in the landscape will ensure it helps promote the importance of woodlands to the public.

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 Landscape Value

Description

The woodland, planted by the Duke of Bedford, forms a prominent hilltop woodland. Mature beech surrounded a central block of Ash, but the gales of 1990 blew down approx half of the trees there. This has changed the visual affect of the wood from a dense hilltop dome to a spracely canopied copse and the increased exposure through lack of mutual shelter has started die back and scenescence earlier than would be expected..

Significance

The woodland is an old landscape feature planting remaining from the start of the century. Located on a hilltop it is visible from a long distance from all angles and merits retention on this basis.

Opportunities & Constraints

Difficulty in reestablishing young trees due to isolated location and exposure and the onset of scenescence may prevent regeneration of the woodland while still maintaining its current visual effects in the landscape

Factors Causing Change

Squirrel Damage, Wind Damage

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the woodland as a landscape feature of predominantly broadleaved trees with a diverse age and size structure to prevent similar wind damgge ruining its effect in the future.

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

Monitoring levels of squirrel damage and instigating pest control measures if the level of damage is threatening the regeneration of the woodland in the long term.
Levels of natural regeneration to be fair (presence of some seedlings/saplings growing vigorously in canopy gaps)

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 | 1.00 | Beech | 1991 | High forest | No/poor vehicular access to the site | Landscape Value | |

A small oval hilltop wood with beech around the outside edge and ash centrally. Being so exposed, standing on thin soils and predominantly mature to over mature, the wood was very badly affected by the gales of 1990 almost half the trees were blown over leaving a very sparse canopy. This has created the opportunity for some existing natural regeneration to develop and grow towards thicket stage. The wood was also underplanted with beech in '79 and restocked in 91 after the storms. Much of this was unfortunately badly damaged by squirrels in the early to mid 90's. The increased light has also resulted in a major increase in bramble growth and younger regeneration has suffered from this. Ground cover varies from dense bramble to bare ground as would be expected under beech.

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.