



# Prescott Pinetum

## Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	Prescott Pinetum
<b>Location:</b>	Uplyme
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SY315936, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 193
<b>Area:</b>	2.78 hectares (6.87 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Prescott Pinetum, (also known as either Uplyme or Woodhouse Pinetum), sits on a north-east facing slope, and is visible from the village of Uplyme, the B3165 (Lyme Road) and the nearby houses. Surrounding land use is predominantly grass pasture or private gardens. There is a linkage of broadleaved woodland from the Pinetum to the north. The wood is at the eastern end of the East Devon AONB, this is characterised by coastal plateaux intersected by steep wooded scarp slopes. It is within the Blackdown Hills National Character Area NCA 147.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Prescott Pinetum, (also known as either Uplyme or Woodhouse Pinetum), sits on a north-east facing slope, and is visible from the village of Uplyme, the B3165 (Lyme Road) and the nearby houses. Surrounding land use is predominantly grass pasture or private gardens. There is a linkage of broadleaved woodland from the Pinetum to the north. The wood is at the eastern end of the East Devon AONB, this is characterised by coastal plateaux intersected by steep wooded scarp slopes. It is within the Blackdown Hills National Character Area NCA 147.

Despite its name the majority of the wood is mature oak and beech woodland, with the original Pinetum restricted to the lower slopes in the south east quarter of the wood. The Pinetum features well grown specimen conifers at wide spacing, the majority of the mature trees are dated to the 1840s-1860s when they were planted by the then owner of Woodhouse; the majority of the species originate from the Americas. Some of the original trees are now being lost, with a significant proportion blowing over in the storms of 1987 & 1990. When measured in November 2006 the Prince Albert's Yew (*Saxegothaea conspicua*) was a champion tree; many others such as the coastal redwoods and giant sequoias are notable for their size and health.

The understory in the eastern half of the wood was dominated by *Rhododendron* and most of the *Rhododendron ponticum* has been cleared. The majority of those that remain include unusual species that have not been fully identified. Elsewhere, the understory is sparse under the beech trees but has a fine display of bluebells in the spring, where gaps have developed through windblow, bracken and bramble dominate.

The wood in its current form is thought to have been established after 1839, when the tithe maps show the area as coppice, with some arable and orchard areas. The land was part of the original Woodhouse estate. The Prescott family initially rented the estate before buying it in the early twentieth century adding new specimen trees and replacing some which died; it was passed to the Woodland Trust in 1977. The remains of a small brick building are located within the middle of the wood, thought to be an old gardeners hut.

Despite the lack of parking and relative isolation, the wood is well used by locals as it links to a number of public rights of way nearby, including the East Devon Way.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

From the south, there is a simple gap leading off from the lane, up a short slope where there is a linear, single person width, un-surfaced path through the wood. This path can get muddy and slippery in wet weather. The path is sloping with varying degrees of steepness, and has a flight of steps towards the northern end. At the northern entrance there is a squeeze gap to join a public footpath.

There is no parking at the wood. Those driving could park in the nearby village of Uplyme. From there visitors can walk down the road towards the Talbot Arms, turn right onto Gore Lane, then take the next right into Venlake. When the road divides bear right into Woodhouse Lane, this is a steep hill. Immediately after the private drive into 'Woodhouse' there is a small lane on the right known as Woodhouse Fields (no signage). Just a few metres along the lane is the entrance to the wood. All of the roads mentioned are narrow lanes with no pavements. Total distance from parking is approximately 1km by road.

Nearest bus stop: various stops along Uplyme Road including outside the Talbot Arms.  
[Information from Traveledorset <https://mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/TravelDorset/bus/map>

Nearest train station: Axminster - linking bus service between Axminster and Uplyme.

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The aim is to inspire people to enjoy and value woods and trees. This will be done by maintaining public access through the wood allowing people to experience the specimen trees. The trees will be showcased by keeping the undergrowth low to increase visibility; this will mean controlling the spread of *Rhododendron ponticum*, cherry laurel and hydrangea whilst protecting the specimen rhododendrons. New replacement specimens will be added to the pinetum to ensure its continuing interest for the future.

Another of the Woodland Trust's aim is to protect native trees and wildlife for the future. This will be done by allowing the rest of the woodland to develop naturally, intervening only for public safety and to control the spread of invasive non-native species. It is intended that this will lead to a woodland rich in plants such as bluebell growing under veteran native trees. This will contrast against the majestic specimen conifers to create memorable, inspiring woodland for people to enjoy.



## 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

Prescott Pinetum is located within 2 miles of Lyme Regis and is accessible by the narrow country lanes. Car parking is currently very limited and is really only in a 'pull-in' on the road side approximately 60m further west along the road. The main entrance to the wood is on Woodhouse Lane (also public bridleway Uplyme no.55). There is a second entrance at the top of the wood which is on public bridleway Uplyme no. 54. This bridleway returns downhill to the pull-in on the road so creates a circular route. The East Devon Way runs along the road below the wood.

Both entrances into the wood are currently through squeeze gaps. The paths through the wood are steep in places and can be muddy. Steps have been installed on some of the steeper sections. A circular route leads off the main path to the east around the original pinetum.

There is currently no interpretation on site other than entrance signs.

#### Significance

The Pinetum has a role to play in explaining the history of plant collecting and pinetums in Britain.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity: To provide interpretation to explain the site's role in plant collecting and pinetums in Britain.

If car parking can be improved the Pinetum could be promoted as a low-key visitor site, linking in with other local attractions around Lyme Regis and the East Devon Way long distance footpath.

Constraints: A lack of parking and the steepness of most of the paths will deter some users.

#### Factors Causing Change

Erosion of steps and paths.

Subsidence also linked to natural decay and windblow of trees potentially inhibiting access.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Pinetum will be made as accessible as possible accounting for the restrictions of the site's natural topography. Paths and footpath furniture will be maintained in a suitable condition for its use. Interpretation will explain the history of the site, and highlight key information on various pinetum species.

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

A continuation of improvements to the access and interpretation will be made by:

1. Maintaining existing footpaths and footpath furniture.
2. Installing interpretation to explain the history of the site and of the specimen trees with small individual identification boards associated with key trees.
3. Carry out a feasibility study to ascertain whether creating a parking bay at the entrance to the site is possible. This would require planning permission.

## 5.2 Arboretum

### Description

The original pinetum is 0.46 Ha and contains a range of South American evergreen species some of which are now very large. Species planted include Giant sequoias *Sequoiadendron giganteum*; Coastal Redwoods *Sequoia sempervirens*; Monkey puzzle *Araucaria araucana* and a 'Champion' Prince Albert's Yew *Saxegothaea conspicua*, along with other species including cedars and firs. Some of the specimens should be considered as 'significant' given they are representative of early introductions of the species into the UK. There are also a number of rhododendrons which are not *rhododendron ponticum*; these are not thought to be invasive. The majority of the woodland outside the Pinetum is secondary, the southern half dominated by large beech trees, with stunning bluebells in the spring, the remainder a mixture of oak, sycamore and sweet chestnut. There is a large active badger sett within the beech woodland.

A number of the Pinetum specimens have been lost to natural mortality and windblow over the years along with other beech and sweet chestnut trees. This has created a large reservoir of dead wood habitat. Much of this northern area was previously dominated by *rhododendron ponticum*, now removed. The recovering ground vegetation is now mainly coarse bracken and bramble, particularly where windblow has caused the canopy to open up.

### Significance

The specimen conifers form an important part of the history of the site and add to people's enjoyment of the wood.

Veteran exotic trees can be valuable for their biodiversity.

The trees are registered with the Tree Register of the British Isles as notable specimens, and may well be some of the earliest specimens introduced to the country from the Veitch nursery, which would make them important culturally.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunity:

To retain existing specimen trees & shrubs until their natural death to showcase and use them to educate and inspire the public.

To continue the tradition by planting new specimen trees & shrubs in gaps in the canopy expanding the pinetum

Remove invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* to better display exotic trees and other non-invasive plants.

#### Constraints:

The site is very steep in places with large houses and gardens at the bottom of the slope. Given the height and size some of the specimens can grow, when considering future safety issues limits the areas new specimens can be planted

Difficulty associated with obtaining some tree species

### Factors Causing Change

Natural decline of specimen trees causing the loss of the history and interest in the site.  
Damage from adverse weather particularly windblow.  
Deer browsing could affect newly planted specimen trees as well as natural regeneration of broadleaves and squirrel damage could also affect broadleaf regeneration.

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The exotic specimen trees will be retained for as long as it is safe to do so. A new generation of arboretum trees will be established where appropriate gaps exist to the south and west of the site increasing the area of the arboretum to include the majority of the site. These may be new species to the arboretum but will follow the design themes already in existence.  
The rhododendron specimens will also be retained (where not invasive) as they are also a part of the history of plant collecting and the pinetum itself.

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

Maintain specimen trees and the character of the arboretum over the plan period by:  
1. Plant up to 10 specimen species within the range of species already on site. The majority of which will be outside the original pinetum area and on the upper side of the main path. There is currently space for up to 20 new trees without clearing large parts of the native woodland. 2. Rhododendron ponticum and hydrangeas will be controlled through cutting and stump treatment so that they do not out compete other native or priority species.

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## 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	2.43	Oak (pedunculate)	1840	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Oak and beech dominate the canopy, with some Scot's pine and larch on the western boundary. The canopy is even aged, with generally well grown widely spaced trees believed to have been established in the 1840s-1860s. There are some gaps in the canopy, caused by wind damage in the 1987 and 1990 storms, and on-going failures among the mature trees. This offers opportunities for increasing structural diversity to develop. Much deadwood is present as a result which is good potential habitat.</p> <p>In the north east quarter the understorey is dense, and dominated by holly and rhododendron. Elsewhere the understorey is sparse, with scattered rhododendron regeneration, laurel and holly. The ground flora is mainly fern with bracken and bramble in open areas. There is little natural regeneration which may be due to either the shade or the allelopathic nature of the rhododendron.</p> <p>The remains of a small stone building can be found by the path in the centre of the wood. The brickwork is about 1.5m high by 3m long. This is thought to be the remains of a woodsman/gardener's cottage built in the early twentieth century.</p>							
2a	0.32	Mixed conifers	1840	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

This area is the true Pinetum, featuring predominantly mixed conifers. The trees are thought to have been established between 1840 and 1860s. The trees of particular note are a Wellingtonia, Grand fir, Noble Fir, Blue Atlas Cedar, Japanese Red Cedar, Prince Albert's Yew and Coast Redwood.

Many of the conifers that remain are now magnificent specimen trees, including one UK champion. The wide spacing allows the trees to develop their full potential.

The understorey is dominated by rhododendron. There are some gaps in the canopy where individual trees have failed, but where rhododendron does not dominate there is bracken and bramble. In the past regeneration of ash has produced trees which are now crowding some of the specimens. There is a small area of Himalayan balsam at the northern end of the compartment, and in the neighbour's garden. In the south of the compartment, hydrangea dominates and is spreading.

Further detail on the trees, their location and measurements can be found within a report carried out in 2008, and a survey by the Tree Register of the British Isles in 2006.

## 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.