



# Tanner's Wood

## Management Plan 2014-2019

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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.

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## 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>	Tanner's Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Hanging Langford
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SU033372, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 184
<b>Area:</b>	0.96 hectares (2.37 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This wood consists of two small blocks of broadleaf woodland, straddling a public footpath which connects the villages of Steeple Langford and Hanging Langford.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Tanner's Wood is situated just south of the A36 half way between Warminster and Salisbury in the Wylve Valley. It is just within the northern boundary of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The wood consists of two small blocks of broadleaf woodland, straddling a public footpath which connects the villages of Steeple Langford and Hanging Langford. The wood is surrounded by open fields on all sides apart from the southern side of the eastern block of woodland, which borders the garden of an adjacent property.

Historically an ash - elm woodland with willow, alder and black poplar, the eastern block suffered from Dutch Elm disease and was largely replanted in 2004, principally with ash, hornbeam, field maple and alder. Tree species found onsite today include ash, alder, field maple and willow. Understorey is generally sparse but consists of hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle and hazel.

A very large specimen black poplar makes an attractive feature in the south eastern corner of the eastern section and forms one of the site's key features. Soils are shallow overlying chalky and gravely river alluvium. The river Wylve runs just to the north of the site and both sections of the wood are prone to flooding and are seasonally water-logged.

Being divided by a well used public footpath the woods are freely accessible to passing walkers and informal public access forms one of the site's Key Features. A short circular path winds its way through the eastern block, providing a pleasant stroll for many local people. Although the public are free to enter the smaller western block, difficult ground conditions and the denser understorey mean that access is more difficult and so there are no maintained pathways in this area. Management access is via the short track off Wylve Road in Hanging Langford.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Parking is available near the main road in Hanging Langford (approx 100m south of woodland). A well used concrete public footpath bisects the woodland connecting the villages of Hanging and Steeple Langford. Although the public are free to access the small western block, there is no easy access or path. The block of woodland to the east has well maintained public access and contains the large black poplar. The path within the woodland can be waterlogged for much of the year.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Located near to the villages of Hanging Langford and Steeple Langford, Tanners Wood will be managed as an important area of open access woodland where the public are welcome. The paths in the eastern section will be maintained in accordance with the level of use, thereby fulfilling one of the Trust's aims to inspire visitors to enjoy and value woods and trees. Public access into the western section of the site will not be actively encouraged, allowing this area to provide a less disturbed area for wildlife.

The long-term intention is for Tanners Wood is to maintain as a predominantly native, mixed broadleaved woodland, through limited intervention, with a healthy canopy of trees and an understorey of woodland shrubs with deadwood, open space, wetter areas and rough vegetation all providing favourable conditions for wildlife. This will help the Trust achieve its aim of protecting native woods and trees for the future.

The specimen black poplar should be retained for as long as possible, helping to achieve the Trust's aim of inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

## 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 Veteran Trees

#### Description

Very large, attractive black poplar situated in the southern corner of compartment 1 adjacent to the permissive path.

#### Significance

The native black poplar (*Populus nigra* var. *betufoia*) is a rare British tree.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Constraint: Tree safety issue as it continues to mature. Opportunity: Previous management plan actioned taking cuttings and growing on for planting out. Only two cuttings took successfully and these were planted out in 2014. Black poplars are difficult to cultivate via cuttings so these cuttings may fail. If future opportunity presents itself for taking larger/additional cuttings e.g. any tree safety works required on the veteran tree, then opportunity to take some more/larger cuttings can be undertaken, to try and successfully cultivate a few more to plant out within the Wood.

#### Factors Causing Change

Wind damage blowing tree over/fungal attack

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

To maintain it as a mature tree with a full crown for as long as possible with respect to public safety.

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

Healthy, mature veteran tree, retained as long as possible with respect to public safety.

Tree safety inspection every three years. Any necessary tree surgery or pollarding should be done in such a way as to preserve the character and appearance of the tree where possible with respect to public safety.

Monitor health of the two cuttings taken in 2012 which were planted out in 2014.



## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

A small wood easily accessible from the villages of Hanging Langford and Steeple Langford, bisected by the paved public footpath leading from the villages. Two access points into the eastern section off this path, with permissive paths within the eastern section allowing a circular walk. Public are also free to enter the smaller western block, but the difficult ground conditions and denser understorey in this area mean that access is more difficult and less inviting and so there are no maintained pathways in this area.

### Significance

This small woodland is well used by many locals, principally dog walkers and the accessibility and proximity to local people, along with the added interest of the veteran black poplar helps to achieve the aim of the Trust to inspire visitors to enjoy and value woods and trees.

### Opportunities & Constraints

### Factors Causing Change

Increase or decrease in use.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The eastern block of woodland will remain open to the public for quiet informal recreation predominantly by locals from the surrounding villages. It will be maintained in accordance with the level of use. Public access into the western section of the site will be permitted but not actively encouraged, allowing this area to provide a less disturbed area for wildlife

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

Maintain the wood so that it is safe and accessible for the public to use, by maintaining paths and entrance points once a year.

Tree safety survey and any necessary works carried out every three years.

Work Programme:

Cut paths annually and maintenance of access point.

Tree safety inspection every three years and action works as necessary

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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	0.55	Ash	1950	High forest			Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>This small attractive block to the eastern side of the footpath comprises ash, alder, field maple and willow with a scattering of aspen and cherry. Although many mature trees remain, large parts were replanted in 2004 following Dutch Elm disease. A single black poplar of substantial size and character is located in the southern corner, adding an interesting and attractive feature to this compartment. Understorey is sparse but consists of occasional hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle and hazel and some wild current in the north eastern corner. The hazel, some of which is very mature, is mainly concentrated in between the two entrances near the path. Ground conditions are generally very wet and the site is waterlogged for much of the year. Ground flora includes dog's mercury, Celendine, nettle, ferns and herb robert Private property adjoins the southern fringe with pasture surrounding the east and north boundaries. Two access points off the public footpath are joined by a short, meandering path through the wood.</p>							
2a	0.41	Ash	2004	High forest			Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Compartment 2 is markedly different to its eastern neighbour. Tree cover is more sparse than the section of the Wood to the east of the footpath. There are several windblown willow and ash, which create excellent deadwood wildlife habitats. The few mature trees are mainly ash, alder, poplar and willow. Understorey is composed of hawthorn, field maple, elder and many understorey trees/shrubs have hops growing up them. . Ground flora consists of celandine, iris and comfrey in wetter south western corner and nettle with occasional lords and ladies, dog's mercury and herb robert. A small number of oak and ash were planted in 0.6 m and 1.2 m tubes in 1997, many of which have failed. An open boundary leads into scrubby woodland to the north with pasture to the west and south. There is no obvious path around this very small piece of wet woodland.</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.