



Pippacott Wood

Management Plan 2006-2011

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Pippacott Wood
Location:	Barnstaple
Grid reference:	SS532374, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 180
Area:	4.89 hectares (12.08 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Within Tarka Project area.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Situated to the west of Braunton in North Devon, this wood is a compact and steeply sloping wood dominated by an oak, ash, high forest canopy. The site also contains a small quarry and several species of bats are found here. It is on ground that overlooks village of Whitehall from which it is easily reached via a lane. A public footpath passes through the wood en-route for the neighbouring village but there are no circular routes in the wood

2.2 Extended Description

This woodland is situated to the west of Braunton in North Devon, just North of the River taw. Pippacott Wood is a compact and steeply sloping wood dominated by an oak, ash, high forest canopy with a narrow strip (0.5 hectare) of wet alder/willow woodland by the stream on the south east boundary. The high forest canopy is however broken by 0.7 hectare felling coupe at one end, which was felled prior to acquisition by the Woodland Trust. This has since been re-stocked with mainly oak and ash by the W.T.

The site also contains a small quarry with an adit which is used by several species of bat including Greater and Lesser Horseshoe's. The wood is on ground overlooking the rural village of Whitehall from which it is easily reached via a lane. A public footpath passes through the wood en-route for the neighbouring village but there are no circular routes in the wood. The woodland is surrounded by farmland on steep valley sides that flow into the Knowll Water which originates from the north of the property at Metcombe

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Access provision is very informal, limited to a public footpath, which leads uphill through the wood directly from the public highway. There is also a management track (dead end) that leads off the footpath into the centre of the wood.

Pippacott Wood is situated outside village of Whitehall on way to Beara. There is no parking by the wood. There is a pull in beside the entrance gate although this is not very wide. There are also no pavements along the road from Whitehall and there are no suitable parking places in the village of Whitehall.

The main internal path is steep up to the exit of the wood. It is wide although the surface has a number of lose stones but otherwise it is generally even. The second path is over grown and not used very often and after about halfway becomes unwalkable.

The gate at the bottom has a walk through; under a metre wide. The top entrance is a two step stile.

The nearest bus stop is at the garden centre at Ashford, over five kilometres away, on the main road towards Barnstable. There are also toilets and a café at the garden centre. The toilets are disabled accessible and do not require a RADAR key.

This information was correct on 19/06/2007. For up to date local travel information see the travel line website www.travelline.org.uk

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The further development of a mixed age, High Forest woodland with a variety of age classes including over mature trees is desirable. The area of planting will be left to grow on until 1st thinning age (2010) where removal of weaker stems should favour the native trees most suited to the site.

Where it is safe to mature trees will be left to grow into over maturity and die naturally. In the future (20/30 years) some trees along the path will require felling on grounds of public safety. When this occurs natural regeneration, supplemented by planting is the desired method of restocking.

Management of public access within the wood will continue in a low-key and informal way, focusing on the public right of way. As the canopy and understorey change structure with time, new opportunities for exploration will become possible. This will only be restricted in the northern end of the wood where disturbance close to the adit entrance would contravene the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Management obligations to maintain Tree Safety, the roadside boundary hedge and the public footpath will be met as required by law and Woodland Trust standards.

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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Lowland mixed broadleaf woodland dominated by Oak, containing a mixture of stand types and habitats including standing deadwood.

Significance

Although Pippacott Wood is small in area, the semi-natural ancient designation is not widespread in North Devon. An area of the wood contains an endangered species with own Species Action Plan. These two points complement the Trust's objectives of improving woodland biodiversity and protecting Ancient Woodland

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraint: The small parcels of harvestable timber on reasonably steep ground make the area non-economic to thin.

Opportunity: reasonable form of Oak may interest specialist buyer.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Further variation in stand structure leading to a progressing and phased replacement of growing trees. (1 major mature tree/ decade). Development of the scrub (north) and coppice (south) into a mature high forest canopy will balance new areas of temporary open ground for restocking created within 30 years (by 2032) by utilising gaps created by anticipated tree safety fellings along public right of way. (up to 0.5 ha)

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

The short term objective here is to ensure that the restock trees develop to W10 Characteristics. This will be achieved by removing tubes from the restock area in 2002 (onwards) to tidy coupe complete by winter 2007.

Thinning of restock trees in 2010, to include the coppicing of hazel along ride edges to create more open paths and variable habitat.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Opportunities for public access are limited to the public footpath that crosses the southern half of the site.

Significance

An attractive woodland complementing the Trust's objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland, principally important at a very local level.

Opportunities & Constraints

The steep ground, prolific understorey and small size of the wood limit opportunities for improving public access.

Factors Causing Change

Fly Tipping

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Continued low key informal access within the southern half of the site. As stand structure develops new opportunities for paths will be assessed.

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

The short term objective here is to ensure that access is maintained in accordance with site use and that the site is maintained in a safe manner for the public to use. This will be achieved by maintaining entrances, signs and paths - annually.

Trim road side hedge annually and clear litter.

Monitor tree safety zones A and B as required by WT standard and ensuring that the mine shaft adit is secure at all times

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	4.80	Oak (sessile)	1850	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Principally Oak/Ash high forest (P1890) with a section of restocking in the centre (P1993). Ground flora is varied with Bluebell and wood sorrel dominant ranging to more woody species such as bramble, raspberry and bracken in the restock area. To the north the canopy grades down in structure to a small area of young regenerating mixed scrub succeeding to woodland around an old quarry. Ground flora here is sparse under a dense canopy with the occasional fern and ruderal weed. The south eastern section comprises a narrow band of willow and alder carr over bramble and lies parallel to the stream. This area has a history of coppice management and was last cut in 1998.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2010	1a	Thin	0.70	0	0

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.