



WOODLAND
TRUST

Broadoak Plantation, Clayton Wood & The Keep

Management Plan

2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Broadoak Plantation, Clayton Wood & The Keep
Location:	West Hill
Grid reference:	SY068929, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 192
Area:	3.03 hectares (7.49 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

The woods consist of 3 small blocks of recently established woodland on the southern side of West Hill near Ottery St Mary. The area is part of the East Devon pebble bed heaths and therefore the woodland is on nutrient poor acidic soils and the vegetation in the woodland reflects this. Broadoak is a naturally formed birch woodland with a mainly bracken understory which gives the wood an attractive 'heathy' feel. Clayton Wood and the Keep were planted in 1980 with a mix predominantly of ash, oak and wild cherry but with some limes included. Bracken and bramble also give these areas a 'heathy' feel. Many of the boundaries have mature oak, beech and birch trees on them which add significantly to the interest of the woods. As the site is surrounded by housing invasive plants can be a problem particularly cotoneaster. The site is generally flat and has circular paths around it, which while they can be wet at low points, are suitable for users of less mobility. Car parking is limited to finding space on public roads at either end of the wood.

2.2 Extended Description

Three contiguous blocks of recently established woodland in the village of West Hill, surrounded by large 'wooded' gardens. The woodland and surrounding area form part of the geographic landscape of the East Devon "Pebble Bed Heaths". This runs in a narrow band from the coast between Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton, north to the A30 just beyond West Hill and forms a high ridge overlooking the Otter Valley. The underlying geology gives rise to a characteristic landscape of "dry lowland heath" which is best represented on the site by the area known as Broadoak. This compartment is dominated by regenerating silver birch and occasional oak which has a sparse heathland ground flora dominated by bracken. Much of the landscape of the pebble bed heaths is designated reflecting its relative importance. The area around West Hill is not designated due to the changes of land ownership, management and the consequent loss of the characteristic semi-natural landscape. Retaining the vestiges of the native landscape within the woodland is particularly important.

Their village location makes the woods very accessible to the local population as a quiet and pleasant place to walk, although they are not large enough to attract visitors from further afield.

There is no effective vehicular access on the ground to The Keep or Broadoak Plantation, limiting management options, but there is management access to Clayton Wood off Sanctuary Lane.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The woods are situated in the village of West Hill near Ottery St Mary in East Devon, population approximately 2000. There are two open entrances off Higher Broad Oak Road into Clayton Wood and a pedestrian kissing gate off Lower Broad Oak Road into The Keep; the 3 woods are linked by a network of permissive paths. There is room to park a car on the verge near the entrance to The Keep on Lower Broadoak Road.

Nearest bus stop: West Hill is on the 4a and 4b bus routes from Exeter to Honiton the stop being on Bendarroch Road West Hill - approximately 1 mile along village roads, which although generally quiet are without pavements. For further information on transport see the Devon County Council website http://www.cartogold.co.uk/Devon_Transport/Devon.htm or contact the Transport Co-ordination Service by phone 01392 382800 or email devonbus@devon.gov.uk

3.2 Access / Walks

The paths are primarily flat, although there are some localised slopes, and although mainly with a free draining natural surface, dips can become muddy in wet conditions. Tree roots cross the path in places, and may cause a barrier for some users. The link between Clayton Wood & Broadoak Plantation is a permissive link and has a restricted width although wheel chairs can get through it.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term policy is to allow the woodland to develop naturally into the typical woodland types of the area, typified by NVC W16 (Oak) or W15 (Beech). This fits with the Trust's Corporate objective of 'Protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future'. No felling operations are proposed, the management approach will be to let natural processes determine the woodland structure and character. Non-native plants will be tolerated around the edges of the wood but will be removed from anywhere else. The mature boundary trees will only be managed as tree safety requires.

Public access will be maintained at a low key level appropriate to its use by local people. This fits with the Trust's Corporate objective of 'Inspiring everyone to enjoy and values 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 Informal Public Access

Description

The site is situated in the village of West Hill, and forms an important and well used local amenity. Broadoak and Clayton have circular paths, The Keep a linear path. Access to the Keep is from Lower Broadoak Road through a pedestrian gate. There is room for 1 car to pull off by the gate. There are 2 open access points to Clayton Wood from Higher Broadoak Road. Parking is on local roads. The 3 sections of woodland are all linked together, although the link between Broadoak and Clayton Wood is through a narrow, often damp, permissive path of about 5m in length.

Significance

Corporate objective to increase enjoyment of woodland.

The site provides the only free accessible woodlands to the West Hill community within walking distance.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

1. Access between Broadoak Plantation and Clayton Wood is across a narrow small triangle of land, not in Woodland Trust ownership, making disabled access more difficult around the site and management access for large machinery impossible to Clayton Wood and the Keep.
2. A number of the trees close to the paths have TPOs on them so managing tree safety can be more difficult and in the worst case could result in the closure of the link between Broadoak and Clayton Wood.

Factors Causing Change

The soils are generally free draining so fairly robust but changes in rainfall patterns could mean that some of the paths become more difficult during wet periods.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The provision of free accessible woodland to the public and in particular to provide the community of West Hill, with local woodland accessible on foot.

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

Woodlands to be accessible all year round to local users and the paths and entrances are welcoming.

- 1) Cut existing paths (ground vegetation and encroaching side branches) to a width of 3m once a year.
- 2) Maintain the access points to the appropriate level.
- 3) Annual tree safety checks of mature boundary trees in particular, with work as necessary

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Broadoak is essentially naturally regenerated secondary woodland, the main species being birch, and oak. The Keep and Clayton Wood were planted in 1980 the main species being oak, lime, birch and ash. There is a large amount of ash regeneration in Clayton Wood and some birch, holly and oak elsewhere. The ground flora is generally bracken and bramble, typical of this type of woodland on acidic soils. There are a number of large boundary trees, mainly oaks and beeches and the odd scots pine. Being surrounded by gardens there are some issues with cotoneaster and other garden escapes creeping into the edges of the wood.

Significance

(Corporate objective: Aim 2 - Protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future)
The woodland contributes to local priority habitats in Devon

Maintain and develop woodlands characteristic of the landscape of the East Devon Pebble Bed Heaths.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: 1) Although no large scale management is planned there is no vehicle of large scale machinery access into Broadoak or the Keep.

Factors Causing Change

Non-native plants and garden waste could have a detrimental effect on the edges of the site. Tree disease could significantly alter the structure of the wood (particularly ash die back) but this in turn could allow other tree species to develop. Squirrel damage could also affect regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Native broadleaved woodland of a diverse age structure mimicking woodland characteristic of the landscape will develop through a strategy of minimal management intervention and allowing natural process to dominate

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

That garden escapes such as cotoneaster, laurel and rhododendron do not ingress into the wood from the gardens. Plants shall be cut back, removed or treated if they are seen to be no longer simply overhanging the boundary.

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	1.00	other oak spp	1980	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
Clayton Wood. Woodland creation site planted in 1980 with oak, ash, birch and lime on former open land. Mature Oak and Scots Pine are present in the hedgerow boundaries.							
2a	1.82	Birch (downy/silver)	1967	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
Broadoak Plantation, situated on sandy, acidic sub-strata.. Predominantly semi-mature birch with a scattering of oak throughout, presumed to have naturally established on former heathland in the post war period. The ordnance survey map of 1891 indicates the presence of woodland. The ground flora is dominated by bracken and bramble, and the understorey limited. However, there are occasional younger rowan, beech, oak, holly and birch, and in canopy gaps. Mature conifer and broadleaf trees are present on boundary banks.							
3a	0.20	Ash	1980	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
The Keep. Mix of oak, ash, cherry & birch. Mostly naturally regenerated, although some enhancement planting has taken place							

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.