



Paddock Wood

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Paddock Wood
Location:	Longhirst
Grid reference:	NZ221892, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 81
Area:	5.73 hectares (14.16 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Although only planted in 1998 as a community based Millennium project, this wood is maturing well and will increasingly provide an important landscape feature that complements the surrounding area. There is an excellent area for picnics in the middle of the wood and it sits on a network for footpaths for extended walks.

2.2 Extended Description

Paddock Wood was planted by the Woodland Trust in December 1998, with funding from the Millennium Commission, The Gregg's Trust and the local community. It is located just north and on the edge of Longhirst village, just off the B1337 Morpeth Road, Northumberland. The woodland is triangular in shape with access tracks along two sides.

Paddock Wood is largely flat with a back drop of mature woodland to the south, an open gently rolling aspect to the north, west and partly to the east with some housing to the east as well. Paddock Wood is within an area of past coal mining activity (last worked in 1941) but no mine entries lay on or within 20m of the wood. The wood is growing to form an important landscape feature cloaking the village when entering from the north. Generally the surrounding area is sparsely wooded with most tree cover being in the form of hedgerow trees.

Prior to planting the area was grassland with hedges making up all of the boundaries. The hedge along the north west boundary was planted in approximately 1997 whilst the other hedges are mature and well established. The 5.69 hectares of new planting was designed to enhance the immediate landscape and provide an area for recreation for the local community and visitors. The dominant native tree species planted are ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and oak (*Quercus robur*) with hazel (*Corylus avellana*), cherry (*Prunus avium*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). The shrubs planted include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*). Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*) provide variety to the mix. In the wetter ground, to the east, goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) have been planted.

The woodland includes a group of feature trees, a millennium tribute planted by local people. The species planted are copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica* var. *purpurea*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Western balsam poplar (*Populus trichocarpa*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*). The feature trees dominate the north west boundary of the grassy glade in the middle of the wood. This central area has been left open for amenity and provides a place to pause and picnic, with a wooden bench on the edge.

There are three public entrances to the wood, two at either end of the bridleway running along the southern boundary, and one in the north east corner from the bridleway running along the northern boundary. Although roadside parking is restricted, the woodland offers a pleasant circular walk on approximately 650m of permissive footpaths and connects to external public footpaths to form extended walks. The local community are involved with the wood and helped to plant the trees. The community choose the name Paddock Wood as for some time horses were kept on the land.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Paddock Wood is in the village of Longhirst approximately 2 miles north east of Morpeth in the county of Northumberland. By car from Morpeth follow the A197 towards Pegswood and then the first exit from the mini roundabout on to the B1337. Go straight through Longhirst and Paddock Wood is on the left hand side at the end of the village. Roadside parking on the B1337 Morpeth Road is restricted and must be undertaken with care and due regard for villagers.

There are three public entrances to the wood, two squeeze stiles from the bridleway running along the southern boundary and one kissing gate from the bridleway to the north east corner. Both bridleways can be accessed from the main road through the village. The woodland offers a pleasant level walk on approximately 650m of permissive footpath and connects to external public footpaths to form extended walks.

For visitors travelling by public transport the Arriva X18 bus runs from Morpeth bus station to Alnwick at regular intervals and stops at Longhirst post office in the village just south of the wood. There is a hotel and golf club within the village. Journeys can be planned with Traveline North East & Cumbria on 0871 200 2233, or for more local information contact Morpeth Tourist Information Office on Tel: 01670 535200 or the web site morpethnet.ndo.co.uk.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Trust aims to establish and manage the woodland to create predominantly native broadleaved high forest woodland in perpetuity, with a natural structure and evolving through natural processes. This is likely to be a lowland mixed broadleaved woodland (NVC W8/W10) of predominantly oak and ash with other native species including woody shrubs. The amenity planting of non-native trees make up approximately 2% of the species mix. These will be retained as specimen trees with a landscape and cultural value, although monitored and regeneration controlled if spreading and considered to be changing the nature of the woodland adversely or threatening the loss of native species. The wood will be managed to create an increasingly uneven age structure, retain a diverse species mix, increase the amount of deadwood and also retain and develop associated habitats such as the glade. The process is helped by retention of the older field side trees and mature hedgerows. The aim is to create a range of natural habitats and increase the biodiversity of the woodland. Ongoing review and monitoring of work will be essential to ensure this is successful.

The Trust will maintain the free, informal open access to the woodland with permissive paths and the provision of three entrances; in line with a high level of use. Public access will be encouraged with paths, stiles and gates maintained and improved where necessary to ensure that local users and visitors can enjoy the freedom of the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation as well as gain a better understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment. Public information and promotion of the woodland both nationally through the Trust's web based information and locally will be undertaken to inform and involve visitors to the woodland about management of the wood and increase awareness of other woodland issues.

It is anticipated that this approach will ensure creation and perpetuation of the woodland and maintain the current level of public access.

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 planning and planting of Paddock Wood involved the local community at all stages and visitor numbers have increased as the wood develops with most being local people who use the wood frequently. Three points of access are available, two direct from the bridleway along the southern boundary and one from the bridleway at the northeast corner. Both bridleways meet the B1337 Morpeth Road to the east of the wood. Roadside parking is restricted. The woodland offers a pleasant walk on approximately 650m of permissive footpath with longer walks available on connecting public rights of way. The central paths within the woodland are wide and inviting and incorporate an open area in the middle where there is a wooden seat. There is also a narrow perimeter path enabling a circular walk to be completed. Other features include the Millennium feature trees, the viewpoint in the northern boundary, the information board at the southeast entrance and welcome signs. The Millennium feature tree species planted are copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica* var. *purpurea*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Western balsam poplar (*Populus trichocarpa*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*). The feature trees dominate the area from the middle of the wood to the north west boundary. The local community use the wood extensively, and it is very popular and well cared for.

Significance

The Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan promotes the action by landowners to give the public the opportunity to experience and appreciate wildlife. Paddock Wood provides informal recreation opportunities for local people and visitors to the surrounding countryside; this is one of the Trusts key outcomes. It is an important local resource for the nearby village of Longhirst.

Opportunities & Constraints

Whilst the woodland is not particularly large it incorporates some 650m of permissive path and a narrower perimeter path resulting in a reasonable walk in a lovely, developing young woodland. By incorporating the external public right of way this walk can be extensively increased. Although parking is limited, access from the road along the bridleway to the north of the wood is reasonably manageable for all users and the wood itself is flat. There is an opportunity to inform the public of the Trusts objectives, the role of woodlands in the environment and management practices relevant to the woodland through information posters. The woodland has potential as a practical educational resource to highlight and view the changing habitats, flora and fauna associated with the growth of new woodland. There is the opportunity to involve local schools with the wood through Nature Detectives.

Factors Causing Change

None identified.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Trust will maintain informal access to the woodland through the provision of paths and entrances in line with a high level of use to ensure that local users and visitors can enjoy the freedom of the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation as well as gain a better understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment. Public information and promotion of the woodland both nationally through the Trust's web based information and locally will be undertaken where possible and posters will be used to inform and involve visitors to the woodland. The Trust will continue to work with the local community where possible on projects involving the woodland.

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

Maintain the 650m of permissive footpath and open space by mowing and strimming of vegetation at least annually, with the glade cut at the end of summer. Maintain and repair three access points (2 squeeze stiles and 1 kissing gate) with welcome signs and wooden bench as required. Litter pick the site and remove material as necessary. Undertake regular inspection of mature trees at defined intervals to ensure safety of visitors. The non-native trees adjacent to the glade will be managed to ensure full establishment as Millennium feature trees by halo thinning to allow them space to thrive. All works to be carried out to standard Woodland Trust specifications.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Paddock Wood was planted in December 1998 to create a new native lowland mixed broadleaved woodland (NVC W8/W10) of predominantly oak and ash with other native species including woody shrubs. The wood is now growing to form an important landscape feature cloaking the village when entering from the north. Generally the surrounding area is sparsely wooded with most tree cover being in the form of hedgerow trees. Prior to planting the area was grassland with hedges making up all of the boundaries; the hedge along the northwest boundary was planted in 1997 with the other hedges being mature and well established. The 5.73 hectares of new planting has been designed to create a diverse wildlife habitat, enhance the immediate landscape and provide an area for recreation for the local community & visitors. The dominant native tree species planted are ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and oak (*Quercus robur*) with hazel (*Corylus avellana*), cherry (*Prunus avium*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). The shrubs planted include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*). Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*) provide variety to the mix. In the wetter ground to the east, goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and guelder rose have been planted.

Significance

Until recent times native woodland area in Northumberland has been on the decline and new planting is a focus of National and Regional forestry policy. The planting at Paddock Wood contributes toward part of the Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan. The woodland increases the biodiversity of the area and extends the wooded habitat to the south as well as contributing to the area of newly planted woodlands in this old coal mining area. The woodland is developing to become an important landscape feature.

Opportunities & Constraints

Paddock Wood has been planted with native species to create locally native woodland. It is important to the establishment of the young trees and the continued regeneration of the well-developed woodland that the boundaries are maintained in a stock proof condition. As the area changes from a grassland habitat to a woodland habitat it is likely that some of the non-native feature trees will regenerate into the woodland. Species will only be controlled if considered to be causing change or threatening loss of species. An opportunity exists to retain and expand the semi-mature hedgerow trees as a valuable habitat niche and source of colonising flora and fauna for the young woodland. Species diversity is already developing with a significant area of broad-leaved helleborine plants (an orchid) under the young canopy, as well as regeneration occurring on the woodland margins.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive species, Deer Damage, ash disease

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Trust aims to establish and manage the woodland to create predominantly native broadleaved high forest woodland in perpetuity, with a natural structure and evolving through natural processes. The wood will be managed to create an increasingly uneven age structure, retain a diverse species mix, increase the amount of deadwood and also retain and develop associated habitats such as the glade. The process is helped by retention of the older field side trees and mature hedgerows. The aim is to create a range of natural habitats and increase the biodiversity of the woodland.

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

The trees themselves are established and require little active management, although it may be desirable to consider thinning or coppicing adjacent to entrances and paths to improve amenity and access. Inspect and repair Woodland Trust boundaries to prevent access by domestic livestock. Monitor for the introduction or spread of invasive species and take appropriate action to control these if considered to be causing habitat change or loss of species. In the current plan period no harvesting work (apart from the non-native trees adjacent to the glade will be managed to ensure full establishment as Millennium feature trees by halo thinning) All works to be carried out to standard Woodland Trust specifications.is planned until the outcome of ash dieback is visible. Deer impacts will be monitored over the current plan period as the woodland continues to establish.

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	5.75	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

Paddock Wood is all one compartment, planted by the Woodland Trust in December 1998, with funding from the Millennium Commission, The Greggs Trust and the local community, is located just north of Longhirst village, on the B1337 Morpeth Road in the County of Northumberland. The woodland is triangular in shape with bridleways on access tracks running just outside the wood running along the southern and northern boundaries leading to the B1337 which passes through the village. Paddock Wood is largely flat with a back drop of mature woodland to the south, an open gently rolling aspect to the north, west and partly to the east with some housing to the east as well. Paddock Wood is within an area of past coal mining activity (last worked in 1941) but no mine entries lie on or within 20m of the wood. The wood is growing to form an important landscape feature cloaking the village when entering from the north. Generally the surrounding area is sparsely wooded with most tree cover being in the form of hedgerow trees. Prior to planting the area was grassland with hedges making up all of the boundaries. The hedge along the north west boundary was planted in 1997 whilst the other hedges are mature and well established. This 5.75 hectare site includes 4.55 hectares of planting with native trees to create a native woodland of local provenance trees consisting of 51% pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), 10% ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), 10% field maple (*Acer campestre*), 7% hazel (*Corylus avellana*), 2% rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), 3% wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), 2% goat willow (*Salix caprea*), 4% guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), 3% hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), 3% blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), 2% holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and 1% crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*). Trees were grouped and planted in response to soil type, location within the site and internal landscaping (stocking density 2250/ha). The main groups consist of oak, ash, field maple and hazel. Woody shrubs of hawthorn, blackthorn and guelder rose were planted to the shadier south of the site. Rowan and cherry were planted along the exposed northern edge, goat willow and ash to the wetter area to the east and crab apple at the entrances. All trees were individually protected from rabbits with 1.2m tree tubes and shelters; which have now virtually all been removed. The design incorporates wide footpaths and a block of feature trees chosen by local people as the Millennium Feature. The species planted are copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica* var. *Purpurea*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Western balsam poplar (*Populus trichocarpa*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*) making-up 2% of the overall species mix. The feature trees dominate the area from the middle of the wood to the north west boundary. There are three public entrances to the wood; two squeeze stiles along the southern boundary and one kissing gate at the north east corner. There are Woodland Trust welcome signs at all entrances and an information board at the south east entrance. The woodland has approximately 650m of permissive footpaths that connect to external public footpaths and bridleways.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2021	1a	Thin	5.00	10	50
2029	1a	Thin	5.00	10	50

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.