



Old Laund 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Old Laund Wood
Location:	Fence
Grid reference:	SD832372, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	3.74 hectares (9.24 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Acquired by the Woodland Trust, after a local fundraising campaign that had a lot of local support as part of the Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project. There are excellent views to the south towards Burnley with the Pennine moors beyond. The site is well served by footpaths and extremely well used, mainly by local people, throughout the year. There is an information board in the north-western corner.

2.2 Extended Description

Old Laund is in an area of countryside on the edge of the village of Fence, close also to Brierfield, which is between the densely urban and industrial areas of Burnley and Nelson. Much of the adjacent land use is rough pasture although two large ancient woodlands Ravens Clough Wood and Old Laund Clough lie a short distance to the east of the wood. Ancient Woodland concentrations are low across this part of East Lancashire. A network of Public Rights of Way criss cross the neighbouring land.

The wood is 3.74 hectares (9.24 acres) in size and consists of a rectangular field on a south facing slope. The land is boggy and poorly drained; a ditch runs along the sites southern boundary.

The land was purchased in 1997 by Woodland Trust, after a successful local fundraising campaign which was well supported by companies and local people. In December 1998 the site was planted with a mixture of native trees and shrubs (ash, oak, alder, downy birch, cherry, bird cherry and 10% mixed shrubs of blackthorn, goat willow, guelder rose & crack willow).

The boundary to the north is a concrete fence, with a field gate, squeeze stile, and a ladder stile over the fence rough midway along. The western and eastern boundaries are stock proof fences. The southern boundary is actually a dry stone wall to the south of a track, but the track has also been fenced off from the wood. Along this southern boundary there is a field gate and squeeze stile in the south-western corner, and another squeeze stile in the south-eastern corner. Management access to the site is very poor due to permanently wet ground conditions.

The wood was created as part of the Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' project, funded partly by the Millennium Commission to create 200 new woods throughout England & Wales to celebrate the millennium and provide new accessible woods for communities, with further funding from the Forestry Commission to aid the planting and maintenance. Little is known of the sites history prior to our acquisition other than it was used as a rough pasture field.

Old Laund has two key features Informal Public Access and Secondary Woodland.

The site can be accessed from many directions along public footpaths, which come from the north from the village of Fence through the Sports Club grounds, from the west from the Forest Inn on Cuckstool Lane the B6248, or from the southeast across adjacent fields. On site the public footpaths run along the western and southern boundaries, as well as criss-crossing in the middle. In addition, a permissive path runs along the northern and eastern boundaries, the whole site is well covered in paths. Despite the wet ground conditions, the site is extremely well used, mainly by local people, throughout the year.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The site is most easily found from the Forest Inn which is just south of Fence village on the B6248 Cuckstool Lane towards Brierfield. The wood has four pedestrian access points. Two of the access points are located on the sites northern boundary and border Pendle Sports club recreation ground. The pedestrian access point in the south west corner of the site is located from the Forest Inn public house cars park and the sites south easterly access point borders farmland. All of the pedestrian access points are squeeze gaps. The paths are not surfaced and consist of natural grass; they can get muddy and slippery when wet.

Limited parking is available at the Forest Inn car park; however please check with the landlord before you leave your car.

Nearest public toilet: Located at Brierfield Town Hall on Colne Road which is approximately 2 miles from the wood. Toilets are suitable for disabled users with a RADAR key and are open from 8am-6pm Monday-Friday. Information provided by Pendle Borough Council www.pendle.gov.uk.

Nearest bus stop: Located at Wheatley Lane road, which is approximately 1 mile away from the wood. Wheatley Lane road is a suburban road with a pavement (although NB Cuckstool Lane does not have a pavement). Information from Traveline website.

Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Old Laund is that it will be a semi natural woodland managed as high forest with a diverse species and age composition. Active thinning work will take place over the next Management Plan Period (2018-2022) to help ensure a diverse mix and age range of tree species.

Public access will be maintained at its current level with 4 entrances and approximately 1,340m of maintained paths.

Statutory obligations will continue to be met with regard to managing tree safety and 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 Secondary Woodland

Description

Prior to planting the area was a fairly typical wet, poorly drained pasture field, dominated by *Juncus* sp. and common grasses. In December 1998 it was planted with 6,450 trees of native provenance, consisting of a mix of 50% ash, 15% alder, 10% downy birch, 15% English oak and 10% mixed shrubs of goat willow, bird cherry, blackthorn, guelder rose and crack willow. Trees were 30-40cm bare rooted stock of British (and where possible local) provenance, planted at 2,250 per hectare, at 2.1m spacing, protected with 60cm Tubex sleeves or 60cm Acorn shrub shelters.

Significance

This is a small native broadleaved wood in an area dominated by agricultural pasture land and very little woodland, and hence it will diversify and improve the habitat in the local area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site was a wet, acidic field, relatively small in size and not connected to other woodland which must limit its conservation value. There may be opportunities to extend the woodland further.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Mature, stable broadleaved high forest, with a continuous canopy and diverse age and species range and succession by natural regeneration. As trees gradually reach senescence or are removed for tree safety purposes the gaps left in the canopy will be colonised by natural regeneration of oak, ash, birch etc.

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

Active thinning work will be undertaken in 2019 to ensure a diverse mix of trees in terms of both species and age.

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out in the final year of the current plan period. This will make recommendations as to the management of the site, key elements of which are likely to include the effects of ash disease, the development of natural regeneration and any future thinning requirements.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The site can be accessed from many directions along public footpaths, which come from the north from the village of Fence through the Sports Club grounds, from the west from the Forest Inn on Cuckstool Lane the B6248, or from the southeast across adjacent fields. The distances to the site from the nearest roads via either the Sports Club entrance or the Forest Inn route are both about 150m. On site the public footpaths run along the western and southern boundaries, as well as criss-crossing in the middle. In addition, a permissive path runs along the northern and eastern boundaries, thus the whole site is well covered in paths. In the centre of the site is a seat. Despite the wet ground conditions, the site is extremely well used mainly by local people throughout the year.

Significance

Old Laund Wood is very close to the village of Fence, close to the forest Inn (a popular country pub), and within walking distance of the densely urban area of Brierfield. It is within a larger area with many good footpath links that provide free informal public access for the local community. People pass through the wood on long walks, but the seat on site, the views and the circular routes also attract visitors for a short walk.

Opportunities & Constraints

The path network is already extensive and well-connected to the nearby village of Fence and the surrounding countryside. However, the land is very wet, and it may be necessary and desirable to upgrade the existing paths to allow for easier access in wet conditions.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access will be maintained at its current high level with 4 entrances and approximately 1,340m of maintained paths. Consultation and involvement of local people will continue to be important.

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

Paths continue to be cut as necessary (3 times per year in 2018) to maintain easy public access. Other facilities such as welcome signs at entrances (4 in 2018) and the seat will be maintained at least once annually. The four public entrances are also due to be upgraded in 2018 as part of the Welcoming Sites Project.

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	3.74	Ash	1998	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Area of Landscape Value
<p>3.74 hectares (9.24 acres) planted with a mixture of native broadleaves (ash, oak, alder, downy birch, cherry, bird cherry and 10% mixed shrubs of blackthorn, goat willow, guelder rose & crack willow) in 1998 on former agricultural land located in the village of Fence close to Burnley in East Lancashire. Immediately to the north is Pendle Forest Sports club and to the south, west & east the land is pasture fields.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Thin	4.00	20	80

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.