



How Tun Woods

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	How Tun Woods
Location:	Barrow in Furness
Grid reference:	SD201716, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 96
Area:	6.29 hectares (15.54 acres)
Designations:	No designations for this site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A lovely little urban wood, planted by local people to mark the millennium. This site has fine views over the sea to the Isle of Man, Scotland, Morecambe Bay and the Lake District. There is a pleasant circular walk of 800m, mostly surfaced which provides a choice of routes for visitors to explore, and benches to rest on whilst admiring the views whilst the seagulls call overhead.

2.2 Extended Description

How Tun Woods was donated to the Trust by Barrow Borough Council and is located in the parish of Hawcoat, Barrow in Furness. It is bordered by Hawcoat Quarry to the west, school fields to the south and residential areas to the north and east. How Tun Woods (6.3 hectares) forms part of the Woodland Trust's "Woods on Your Doorstep" project (a project to create 200 new woods in England and Wales to celebrate the Millennium) which was supported by The Millennium Commission, the Forestry Commission, the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust and local people. The name How Tun was chosen by local people and is a name referenced on old maps for the area and mentioned as 'Hietun' in the Domesday Book with reference to Hawcoat being a site of an ancient settlement.

How Tun Woods is on a flat, exposed site with views out to the Isle of Man, Scotland, Morecambe Bay and the Lake District; with the prevailing wind coming in from the Irish Sea. Remnants of agricultural hedgerows divide up the site providing shelter and are invaluable habitats and conservation features, adding to the overall biodiversity of the wood. The wood was planted in 1999 with selected species suited to the soils and tolerant of exposure and sea winds; including oak, ash, birch, rowan, alder, holly, hazel, hawthorn and guelder rose. Ash dieback becoming obvious 2018, high concentrations of ash (up to 80%) in some areas. The woody shrub species are concentrated on the boundaries. To the west of the site is an area of open ground, where good views can be sought and the Millennium Feature, a circular stone dais, is situated. This area of open ground is an added landscape feature and generates alternative habitat for fauna and flora.

The woodland is an amenity area primarily for the residents of Barrow in Furness, particularly residents of the Hawcoat area. The car park is approached from Cliffe Lane. There are also a number of entrances off Cliffe Lane & Muddy Lane to the east and the land to the south and west. Links can be made to the permissive footpaths through the quarry. The woodland is flat, very accessible and well-used by local people.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

How Tun Woods is in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. From the A590 heading west turn left at the roundabout following signs for Furness Abbey and Furness General Hospital. At the next roundabout go straight on and take the first right Dalton Lane past the hospital. At the T-junction go straight across and take the first left onto Cliffe Lane. The wood and car park is at the end of the row of houses on the right.

Ten official entrance points provide access to the wood. A car park for eight to ten cars is situated at the north eastern corner, just off Cliffe Lane. Pedestrian access is available from three points to the west of the woodland from a footpath skirting the quarry brow, several informal accesses from the open ground to the south, and at 2 points from Muddy Lane (a public right of way) which runs just outside the eastern boundary. The woodland offers a pleasant circular walk on approximately 800m of permissive footpath, including one surfaced route that goes from the car park to the western end of the site and then heads south east to join with Cliffe Lane. There are excellent views off the coast to the Isle of Man, north to Scotland, the Lake District fells and south towards Morecambe Bay. The links to public footpaths offer opportunities for walking to be extended beyond the woodland west to the quarries.

For visitors wishing to use public transport to get to the wood there are several bus and rail services to Barrow listed on the Barrow Borough Council website under 'travelling to Barrow'. For up-to-date coach travel please contact National Express on 08705 80 80 80 or visit www.nationalexpress.com Alternatively visit National Traveline web site <http://www.traveline.org.uk/>.

By rail The Furness line, north from Lancashire or south from Carlisle is a scenic coastal journey which calls at Barrow (and Dalton, Roose and Askam - dependent on timetable). There are also direct services from Manchester Airport to Barrow. For more details use the National Rail journey planner at www.nationalrail.co.uk

There are a number of public conveniences locally, these are situated at:

Fell Street, Barrow-in-Furness D B;

The Forum & Barrow Tourist Information Centre, William Street, Barrow-in-Furness ;

The Pavillion, Barrow Park, Abbey Road D.

(Key: D = Toilets suitable for Disabled users, with Radar Key Access; B = Toilets with Baby Changing Facilities.)

The nearest is thought to be at The Pavillion on Abbey Road.

For local and up-to-date information on Barrow visit www.barrowbc.gov.uk or call Barrow Tourist Information Centre on 01229 876505.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Trust aims to manage the woodland to ensure successful establishment of the trees and shrubs and with time create predominantly native high forest woodland, continuity of tree cover and trees of various ages. The Trust also aims to increase the biodiversity of the woodland through managing areas of open ground, retention of older boundary trees and hedgerows, and through creation and retention of deadwood. In the long term this will be done largely by allowing natural processes to develop to achieve succession in the wood, intervening to manage access and tree health and safety. A level of intervention at canopy closure is desirable to retain the healthiest and most stable trees, break up the age class structure and stimulate ground vegetation.

The Trust will maintain the high level informal access to the woodland with the provision of entrances, welcome signs, information boards, permissive routes and the Millennium Feature, to ensure that local users and visitors can enjoy the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation. Public information and promotion of the woodland both nationally through the Trusts publications and directory's and locally will be enhanced where possible and posters will be used to inform and involve visitors to the woodland.

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 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

How Tun Woods, planted by the Woodland Trust in December 1999, is situated on the urban fringe of Barrow in Furness on the former Hawcoat Youth Fields. The site is relatively flat sloping gently westward towards the brow of a disused quarry and the coast, where there are expansive views out to sea and to Scotland. This 6.3 hectare woodland has been planted to create a mixed broadleaved native woodland of sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), birch (*Betula pendula*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Remnant hedgerows and open grassland areas are additional conservation features that provide alternate habitats for fauna and flora.

Significance

Until recent times woodland in Cumbria has been on the decline, this is particularly true of native woodlands. National and Regional forestry policy are geared towards new native planting. The planting at How Tun Woods contributes toward part of the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan, which aims to enhance the overall wildlife resource in towns and cities. As well as the Cumbria Woodland Vision and the West Cumbria Woodland Strategy to create woodlands in towns and enhance the landscape. The woodland increases the range of biodiversity within the area and assists in extending the wooded habitat around Barrow. In future years the woodland will be an important landscape feature in a rather sparsely wooded area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The new woodland is very even-aged and it will take time to develop a diverse age structure and composition which in the short term will limit the variety of habitats for flora and fauna as well as the visual appearance of the woodland. Now the woodland is established (17 years) there is an opportunity to selectively thin to break up the structure and increase the light to the woodland floor and undertake some planting of woodland flora species. The mature trees and hedgerows have been retained as a valuable habitat niche and source of colonising flora and fauna for the young woodland. The existing mature trees that are scattered through the hedgerows are potential old growth and deadwood habitats if retained in the long term. There have been clear gains in creating this wood and reducing the fertility and intensity of land use of the whole site. The potential diversity of How Tun Woods is constrained by size and the surrounding predominantly urban environment, however the woodland combines with the adjacent wooded quarry to the west to provide a larger area for wildlife habitats.

Factors Causing Change

During the tree establishment phase some trees were damaged or removed where regular users created informal paths through the wood. These path routes have now been incorporated into the woodland management and the number of trees affected was minor. All ash showing signs of ash dieback 2018, which first appeared 2017. In addition several silver birch have died off between the age of 10-15years.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create and promote the development of mixed broadleaved native woodland to maturity and perpetuation of the woodland thereafter, promoting the ecology of the woodland for all species. To secure habitat diversification through creation of a mixed native woodland ecosystem including; selective thinning/coppicing to promote a variety of age class of tree species, predominantly natural development of woodland shrub and herb layer, maintenance of deadwood habitats (where safe to do so) and retention of mature trees.

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

Undertake selective thinning to promote tree growth and prevent slower growing species from being over-topped. Coppice 4 a 0.2ha coupes in two phases along the eastern boundary and ride side. Monitor trees for pest and disease. Inspect boundaries once during the plan period and repair as necessary. Monitor vandalism to trees and take action as appropriate to ensure successful establishment. Monitor for dumping of garden waste bringing invasive, non-native species e.g. Japanese knotweed, particularly along Muddy Lane hedgerow and the car park.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The main public entrance to the wood is direct from Cliffe Lane, where there is a car park for eight to ten cars. Pedestrian access is available from a total of ten formal entrances with welcome signs. The design and planting of How Tun Woods involved the local community at all stages and from all the calls and letters received 'How Tun Woods' was the unanimously favourite name for the site. Whilst long distance visitor numbers are not high the wood is very well used by local people and as a short cut through to nearby schools. The woodland offers a pleasant circular walk on approximately 900m of permissive footpath with excellent views off the coast to the Isle of Man, north to Scotland, the Lake District and south towards Morecambe Bay. The links to other footpaths offer opportunities for walking to be extended beyond the woodland. Other features include the Millennium Feature viewing dias, information boards and welcome signs.

Significance

The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan incorporates the action for landowners to give the public the opportunity to experience and appreciate wildlife. How Tun Woods provides informal recreation opportunities for local people and visitors to the surrounding countryside; this is one of the Woodland Trusts key outcomes. It is an important local resource for the residents of Hawcoat and the wider community of Barrow in Furness providing the opportunity for recreation one of the aims of the West Cumbria Woodland Strategy.

Opportunities & Constraints

Whilst the woodland is not particularly large it incorporates some 900m of permissive path resulting in a pleasant walk with good views. By incorporating the footpaths just off the site and the network of minor roads this walk can be extensively increased and a circular loop can be walked taking in the local Council landscape development and amenity area to the west. There is an opportunity to inform the public of the Trusts objectives, the role of woodlands in the environment and management practices pertaining to the woodland through leaflets and consultation. 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. Existing mature trees require regular monitoring to ensure they do not pose a threat to the safety of visitors. Dog fouling along footpaths can be a problem and is a nuisance. Occasionally garden waste is tipped along the eastern hedgerow which is unsightly has introduced invasive non-native species. Cars have occasionally been left in the car park unattended for a considerable time and also dumped causing a nuisance and restricting access to visitors.

Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping of garden waste and cars left dumped in the car park. Loss of views from Cliffe Lane. Vandalism to features/structures - minor.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Trust will maintain informal access to the woodland through the provision of paths and entrances with welcome signs, information boards and the Millennium feature seating. The main entrance gate, car park and fencing will be maintained and improved where necessary to ensure that local users and visitors can enjoy the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation. Public information and promotion of the woodland both nationally through the Trusts publications and directory's and locally will be enhanced 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 900m of permissive footpaths and open spaces through mowing and strimming of vegetation annually. Maintain annually and repair ten access points with welcome signs, the information board, entrance and car park facilities and the Millennium Feature (local sandstone dias) as required. Litter pick site regularly and remove material as necessary. Undertake safety inspections at defined intervals to ensure safety of visitors. Cut hedgerow along the east of the woodland annually to keep access along Muddy Lane clear. Fill in the pot-holes in the car park once during this plan period. Continue to work with the local community in a campaign to try and combat the problem of dog fouling on footpaths.

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	6.30	Mixed native broadleaves	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	No designations for this site

How Tun Woods was planted by the Woodland Trust in December 1999 and is situated on the urban fringe of Barrow in Furness on the former Hawcoat Youth Fields. The site is managed as one compartment and is bordered by Hawcoat Quarry on the western boundary, Council fields to the south and residential areas on the north and eastern sides of the wood. The wood is relatively flat sloping gently westward towards the coast and quarry brow, where the views are outstanding. The sandstone Millennium Feature, a circular stone dias, is situated at this viewpoint near the boundary. A scattering of mature trees exists along the boundaries and includes ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Remnant hedgerows from the previous field boundaries are present through the site and contain a variety of shrub species including hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The hedgerow to Cliffe Lane and Muddy Lane along the eastern boundary is annually cut to maintain access to the footpaths and manage the height of the hedge opposite the houses. A small area of Japanese knotweed is present in the car park hedgerow (approx 1mx1m) located where garden tipping occurred. This has been treated and is much less vigorous.

Of the 6.3 hectare wood 4.8 hectares (75%) was planted with native trees to create a native woodland consisting of sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), birch (*Betula pendula*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Trees species are in groups and were planted in response to soil type, location within the site and internal landscaping (stocking density 2250/ha). All trees were individually protected from rabbits with tubes and shelters which have now been removed. The trees are now mostly at canopy closure at approximately 8m top height. There is an area to the east of the site in the middle section that is being monitored for ash dieback and several silver birch that have also died.

1.5 hectares of open ground has been incorporated into the design allowing views of the coast and mountains to be kept and landscaping near adjacent to properties. The wood has over 800m of footpaths, the main path leading westwards towards the Millennium Feature down to the brow of the quarry and towards the coast. Ten official entrance points provide access to the wood. The main public entrance to the wood is direct from Cliffe Lane, where there is a car park for eight to ten cars. Pedestrian access is available from three points to the west of the woodland from a footpath skirting the quarry brow, several informal accesses from the open ground to the south, and at 2 points from Muddy Lane (a public right of way) which runs just outside the eastern boundary. The woodland offers a pleasant circular walk on permissive footpaths, including one surfaced route that goes from the car park to the western end of the site and then heads south east to join with Cliffe Lane. There are excellent views off the coast to the Isle of Man, north to Scotland, the Lake District fells and south towards Morecambe Bay. The links to public footpaths offer opportunities for walking to be extended beyond the woodland.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Coppice	0.40	50	20
2019	1a	Thin	4.00	8	30
2021	1a	Coppice	0.40	50	20

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.