



Seaview Wood

Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Seaview Wood
Location:	Seacourt, Larne
Grid reference:	D404043, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 9
Area:	1.46 hectares (3.61 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Seaview Wood, named by local children, has panoramic views over the Irish Sea and the coast, with a telescope beside the entrance to take full advantage! There are signs by the main entrance on Britannia Crescent and a path loops through the wood.

2.2 Extended Description

The NIHE gifted this 1.4ha site in 2000 as a Woods on your Doorstep site for Larne. It consisted of two large grass fields at the top of cliffs above the Glenarm Road coastal route from Larne town to Ballygalley village. It lies on the seaward edge of the Seacourt housing estate in north Larne and adjoins the grassland left over from the housing demolition of Channel View in 2002. There are panoramic views over the Irish Sea to Scotland & the coast from North Down to North Antrim. Seacourt Community Council recently installed a telescope beside the entrance to the wood, which enhances these spectacular views.

Seaview Wood was named by the children of the Seacourt estate in early 2000 when they first planted the wood with flowers on the banks and trees on the flatter areas. The Trust have since planted most of the area of up to 1.2ha with trees, a mix of broadleaf and native pines and left the 0.2 ha bank for flora and good views.

Signage consisting of a ladder board and an information board, is located off Britannia Crescent and defines the main entrance into the wood. A seat has been installed between the two entrances offering good views over Larne Lough. Free public access is provided across the whole site at all times.

There is no official Woodland Trust car park here but cars can park off Britannia Crescent.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The public have open access to the site although there are no formal rights of way, but a 150m permissive path loops through the wood. An information board at the top leads into the wood and a seat with a view of the Irish Sea is in the top part.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To establish the site to become a self-sustaining high forest with native species on most of the site and to maintain the access to it through the Seacourt estate. Where opportunities arise through woodland creation and or partnerships we will seek where possible to connect this woodland with other adjacent habitats for a more resilient future landscape.

An open area will be retained to allow visitors good views over Larne Lough.

It is unlikely to produce quality timber as it is a small exposed site that is prone to levels of vandalism and anti social behavior. There will be no requirement to thin or restructure this wood as there are a wide variety of native trees planted and this will form a variance in the canopy structure and should promote self-thinning. The density should be great enough to deter the public choosing additional routes through it and also to encourage strong stand stability through adequate root plate development.

Public access will remain over the whole site and levels of community involvement and public use will determine the provision of facilities and future work plans. The 150m of gravel paths will be allowed to grass over and will be regularly mown until the tree canopy closes, then the need for path cutting will be reviewed.

The bank at the main entrance was scraped in 2005 and allowed to grass over, the Seacourt Community Council have arranged for volunteers to maintain this bank.

It may also be an option to give the community ownership of the site once the trees have fully established.

Public safety will be assessed annually over the whole site.

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

As part of the Woods on Your Doorstep project, Seaview Wood is a community woodland. Free public access is provided across the site at all times. The access is via the Seacourt housing estate, north of Larne and the old Glenarm road. At the far end of the estate on the loop of Britannia Crescent there is a bay over looking the sea. At this parking spot the path leads down into the site. Two entrances take the visitor into the site. At the main entrance an information board and a ladder board are located. Both entrances lead the visitor to the seats and viewing areas that will be retained as open space.

Significance

The access facilities provide the opportunity to "increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland", one of the Woodland Trust's key objectives. Locals from the housing estate use this site and the kids the area for informal play.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

There was a problem with fly-tipping on the site, but this has greatly reduced due to community interest and ownership of the wood.

Opportunities:

There may be opportunities to create access links to the existing housing and the community centre. Opening up visual lines of sight from one path to the next, increasing the sense of safety within the woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Fly Tipping, Tree canopies

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To retain the path access but not to mow it when it has been established as the desire route by regular public usage and tree canopies close in. To continue to look for opportunities with the local community association.

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

To maintain the 150m path to the seat and open area, this will be done by regularly cutting. We wish to keep the site looking tidy and welcoming. This would be an ideal site to hand over to the community and we want to make it as attractive as possible.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

1.2 hectares of the site has been planted with just over 1300 trees. A mix of broadleaf and native Scots pine. 0.2 ha will be retained as open space to allow visitors a view of Larne Lough.

Significance

The aim of the Woods on your Doorstep project was to create a community woodland. This is important as the area is impoverished with regard to woodland. By creating and encouraging new woodland the site will go some way to provide a link to other small existing patches of coastal woodland within this area. The establishment also fulfills one of the Woodland Trust's key aims "increase new native woodland". In addition it will add variety of habitats to the site and greatly improve its biodiversity value.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Vandalism has been a problem along with anti-social behaviour at this site.

Opportunities:

An opportunity exists to encourage greater community involvement in the site with the help of Seacourt Community Council. This will hopefully lead to a greater sense of ownership by local residents and consequently less vandalism leading to a higher establishment rate.

Factors Causing Change

Vandalism

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish a secondary woodland managed as high forest. Canopy composition will consist of broadleaf species and native pines. Where possible look for potential planting areas and linking this habitat with other existing coastal woodland and open habitat within the area.

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

Establishment of the planted area was of prime importance and this has now been achieved. The next stage will be to ensure canopy closure and look for any further potential for structural and species diversity.

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	1.45	Birch (downy/silver)	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
<p>Gifted to the Woodland Trust by the Housing Executive in 2000, this 1.36ha site consisted of two grass fields that were planted with native trees. It was created as one of the Woods on your Doorstep sites. It has wide views over the Irish Sea to North Down & the Antrim coastal route. The substrate is good mineral soil overlying basalt. Drainage is good with damper areas at the base of the slope. 20% of the area was retained as open space.</p>							

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.