



Devioc 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Devioc Wood
Location:	Dowderry, Looe
Grid reference:	SX315543, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 201
Area:	1.39 hectares (3.43 acres)
Designations:	Special Landscape Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Devioc Wood has three glades and viewpoints linked by a network of paths. A small shelter offers stunning views out to sea while sheltering or taking a rest. Access into the wood is via two gates off Devioc Hill

2.2 Extended Description

Deviock Wood is a small 'Woods on your Doorstep' site holding a prominent site overlooking the village of Donderry near Looe in South East Cornwall. Running approx North/South along a coastal valley ridge but with a moderate westerly slope down to properties on Trereive Road it offers superb views of the village, its 'square', the foreshore and of the coast and sea from Rame Head, off Plymouth to the east and, in clear conditions, as far as the Lizard Headland to the west. The soil is of a clay loam type over Lower Devonian geology. It has sufficient amounts of shellat to allow it to drain fairly freely and the slope of the site improves this further although the ground surface and especially paths can become quite wet and sticky in wet weather. The wood is planted with a native tree mix to replicate an Upland Oak/Coastal Oak Woodland and considering the conditions relating to its exposed coastal location is establishing very well. Once old agricultural land that had been relatively unmanaged for 15-20 years it was densely colonised with gorse and thorn scrub. Most of this was cleared to facilitate planting but a dense narrow strip was retained around the edges to bolster boundaries and offer some protection to planted trees. A small clump of Monterey pine (not native but historically planted in clumps in prominent places throughout the county) has been planted in the northern end of the wood. Public access into the wood is via two gates off Deviock Hill the one closest to the village being a small hunter's gate that remains unlocked. Deviock Hill is steep and narrow and access along it can be difficult if traffic is present. Within the wood three glades and viewpoints are linked by a network of pedestrian paths. A single management track links the two roadside gates by taking advantage of flatter ground along the inside of the eastern boundary hedge. The Millennium Feature is an open fronted timber shelter, designed and built by a local resident, which offers visitors stunning views out to sea or the chance to look down into the village while sheltering or taking a rest.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Devioc Wood is a small woodland located on the headland overlooking the coastal village of Donderry in SE Cornwall. The town of Looe lies 3 miles west along the coast but approximately 5 miles by road. From the village centre and carpark follow the steep and narrow Devioc Hill for approximately .75 miles to the main entrance gate on the left. It is a small wood planted in 2000 as a community wood. The track from the main entrance management and pedestrian gates to the other management gate further along the lane is grassy and naturally surfaced, but fairly level. From here a network of narrower paths extend down and across the slope of the wood which makes most of them steep and uneven however the views and the viewpoint can be accessed without venturing over much steep ground. A second management gate at the northern end of the wood provides limited access from that direction.

While there is parking space for a single car in the entrance of the wood this can cause obstructions to traffic and WT staff and so parking there is discouraged. There is no other parking closer than the public car park in Donderry.

Public transport services run to Donderry and stop at Broad's Yard which is also the car park in the centre of the village. The route to the wood is therefore up Devioc Hill as before. The wood lies close to but does not have direct links with the coastal footpath, however, a permissive path across adjacent land forms a circular detour from the coast path around the village and offers a link to the wood as it passes its northern boundary

There is a public convenience in Donderry and another at nearby Seaton Beach however at the time of writing the details regarding opening times and facilities are unknown.

Information for toilet facilities found at www.cornwall.gov.uk on their A-Z search under public conveniences and via the National Disabled Access Register at www.directenquiries.com. Public transport information obtained from www.travelinesw.com.uk or via 0870 608 2 608.

3.2 Access / Walks

From the village centre and carpark follow the steep and narrow Devioc Hill for approximately .75 miles to the main entrance gate on the left. It is a small wood planted in 2000 as a community wood. The track from the main entrance management and pedestrian gates to the other management gate further along the lane is grassy and naturally surfaced, but fairly level. From here a network of narrower paths extend down and across the slope of the wood which makes most of them steep and uneven however the views and the viewpoint can be accessed without venturing over much steep ground. A second management gate at the northern end of the wood provides limited access from that direction.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Deviock Wood will be managed to create a mixed broadleaf woodland of predominantly native species with a varied age and size structure and with associated open grassland, and shrub areas. Given its coastal location and exposure to high and salt laden winds it is likely to develop stunted upland/Coastal oak woodland with a high element of minor trees and shrubs. It will have a tight windswept canopy structure that will offer shelter valuable for conservation and will have retained views for amenity. This new native woodland will be managed with low intervention with the main emphasis being placed on the informal recreational values by mowing of paths and glades and maintaining access annually and ensuring the planted trees establish through the developing shrub layers. In this way it will fulfil the Trust's outcomes of creating new woodlands and places rich in trees and inspiring everyone to enjoy and value trees and woodlands.

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.

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	1.35	Mixed native broadleaves	1999	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site		Special Landscape Area

A small woodland planted in 1999 with native species, but with sycamore coming in from adjacent seed trees, and a clump of Monterey pine planted to replicate historical hill top clumps and to resist exposure in the highest exposed area. Planted into an old field running roughly North/South with a moderate slope to the west the original ground flora was of course grassland with densely encroached thorn and gorse scrub. This was mainly removed to allow planting, but with 3m retentions around N, W & S sides to bolster boundary hedges etc. Soils tend to drain fairly well, but can become sticky when wet. Management access is through two management gates in north and south end of eastern boundary front the adjacent Devioc Hill. There is a hunter's gate alongside the southern gate and another through the southern boundary hedge although access across the adjacent land to get to this is sometimes disputed by the owner so use of this gate is not widely promoted. Between the two management gates on the inside of the roadside hedge there is a narrow stretch of level ground and this has been developed as the management access track.

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.