



COED CADW  
WOODLAND  
TRUST

# St Martin's Wood

## Management Plan 2014-2019

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
-------------	-----------------

Introduction

Plan review and updating

Woodland Management Approach

Summary

1.0 Site details

2.0 Site description

2.1 Summary Description

2.2 Extended Description

3.0 Public access information

3.1 Getting there

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 Long term policy

5.0 Key Features

5.1 New Native Woodland

5.2 Informal Public Access

6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Glossary

## MAPS

Access

Conservation Features

Management

## 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	St Martin's Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Laugharne
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SN304115, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 159
<b>Area:</b>	6.71 hectares (16.58 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It lies just outside Laugharne (Talacharn) on a sloping site above the Afon Taf estuary. Higher parts of the wood offer spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Situated on the northern edge of the popular coastal town of Laugharne, St Martins Wood is an attractive new native woodland. The trees were planted in March 2000 by local residents under the Woodland Trust's Woods On Your Doorstep scheme. Despite initial setbacks as a result of wind exposure, most of the trees have survived and appear to be growing reasonably well, if more slowly and less straight than on more sheltered sites.

Several mature hedges divide the site and these contain a diverse ground flora including species such as lords and ladies and harts tongue fern. As the woodland develops into mature native broadleaved woodland, these species should migrate into the resulting cool, shaded woodland conditions that result.

Public access, along with new native woodland, constitute the key features of the site and a network of permissive footpaths and bridleways serve it. Some are a little steep, however, and may not be suitable for the less able walker. The steepness of the site does have some benefits though, as the visitor is rewarded with splendid views of the surrounding area from the higher north-eastern end.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

#### General Location

St Martin's Wood is right on the edge of the village of Laugharne which is reached by taking the A4066 from St Clears, west of Carmarthen. There is a reasonable network of public footpaths in the local area but very few bridleways or open access land. The wood is reached from the village either through the churchyard of St Martin's Church or along the narrow steep cobbled lane that runs alongside the church.

#### General overview of paths and entrances.

There are gates or squeeze gaps at all entrances and there are bridle gates at two of them. There are several footpaths around the site and a single looped permissive bridlepath. At the top eastern corner of the site the path joins a public footpath in a sunken lane. The site is steep and the paths are grass which is cut in summer but may be muddy in winter.

#### Public transport

The bus stop is approximately 500m away opposite Brown's Hotel. There are almost hourly buses to St Clears, Carmarthen and Pendine and 3 buses on Sundays. For details call 01267 231817 during office hours or see [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk). (Information gathered by personal visit February 2007)

#### Parking

There is a car park in the village by the river, or on street parking is possible in winter. Parking is possible in the church car park with permission.

#### Public toilets

Adjacent to the castle there are public toilets including a disabled access toilet that requires a RADAR key.

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The site will develop into a mature native broadleaved woodland, which will then become self sustaining through natural regeneration. The ground flora will change as shade increases under the growing trees with grasses gradually giving way to woodland flora such as ferns, brambles and other shade tolerant plants. Woodland wild flowers will slowly spread through the woodland from the hedges. External hedges will be maintained and periodically re-laid but internal hedges will grow out into trees, retaining them as visible old field boundaries but not keeping them laid or cut annually.

All permissive paths, bridleways and access points will be maintained in good condition and ride edges will be managed to develop rough grassland. The viewpoints from the top of the site will be kept open by periodic tree felling as necessary. Other open areas will be gradually colonised by scrub providing woodland edge habitat.



## 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 New Native Woodland

#### Description

The site was planted with native broadleaved trees in March 2000, incorporating a public planting event, under the Woodland Trust's Woods On Your Doorstep scheme. The most common species are birch, oak, rowan and elder, with lesser quantities of alder buckthorn, holly and willow. The trees have been planted at close spacing within the planting blocks, with the spacing gradually increasing towards the edges to give a "feathered" effect. Unfortunately, some of the trees were subsequently bent over by high winds and some have now been stumped back. The woodland as a whole appears to be developing adequately, with high rates of tree survival although relatively slow growth rates of some species.

#### Significance

The creation of new native woodland is a key Woodland Trust objective and also contributes to Section 10.15 of Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The development of the trees is partially constrained by the high saline winds associated with the site.

#### Factors Causing Change

Growth of newly planted trees, frequent Wind Damage, chalara.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will gradually develop into a mature native broadleaved woodland, with closed canopy and associated ground flora, which will hopefully have migrated into the plantations from the existing hedges. The woodland edge trees planted at wider spacings develop fuller canopies and provide shelter for the site, allowing natural regeneration to establish and a rich ground flora to develop in the gaps between their canopies.

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

No tree work is needed in this plan period as long as the trees remain healthy. The hedge along the bottom of the site will be maintained by laying and annual cutting. The internal hedges will be allowed to grow out into trees.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Public access exists throughout the site in the form of a network of permissive footpaths and bridleways. The main public entrance to the site is situated opposite Longlane House. The site may also be accessed via two other entrances for horses from the same road and also from a sunken lane at the far eastern end. The site is fairly steep, sloping upwards to the northeast, and an excellent view may be gained from the area of open ground at the northeastern end.

### Significance

The site was planted by the residents of Laugharne and is used by the local population, both walkers and horse riders, being situated on the edge of the town.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Equestrian access was prohibited in 2014 due to several cases of misuse, leading to damage to the bridleway and footpath network. Misuse continues to be an issue, and as a result the permissive bridleway is closed during the winter months.

### Factors Causing Change

As internal hedges grow out they may encroach on paths.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain free and unobstructed access to all parts of the wood for visitors in the future by maintaining entrances in a safe and usable condition and by keeping all permissive rides and other open areas free of obstruction.

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

All entrances to the wood, will be inspected at least once a year to ensure they are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition for public use. The network of permissive routes will be kept open by annual mowing.

---

## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
------	--------------	-------------	--------

## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	6.80	Mixed broadleaves	2000	Wood establishment	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

The whole site is one compartment. It is a moderately sloping, southwest facing compartment of broadleaves, planted in March 2000 under the Woodland Trust's Woods On Your Doorstep scheme. Mature sessile oak and ash are also present in the well-developed hedgerows that divide the site. Ground flora is currently heavily dominated by grasses, due to the previous use of the site as pasture, with lesser celandine, dock, primrose, wall pennywort, lords and ladies, enchanter's nightshade, wood violet, bramble, dandelion, nettle, ivy, bracken, cleavers, ground sorrel and harts tongue fern also present, although many of these species are confined to the vicinity of the hedges. Several permissive footpaths run through the site and a permissive bridleway follows the perimeter. Patches of open ground may also be found at the northeastern and southwestern ends of the site.

## 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.