



Lewis Carroll Centenary Wood

Management Plan

2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Lewis Carroll Centenary Wood
Location:	nr Daresbury, Runcorn
Grid reference:	SJ592803, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 108
Area:	0.95 hectares (2.35 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Lewis Carroll Centenary Wood was created in 2000 as part of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' scheme to commemorate the Millennium. It is a very small woodland of mixed broadleaf species and includes a small pond/ wetland, some open ground and a stand of oaks planted to commemorate the centenary anniversary of the death of Lewis Carroll who lived nearby. It is situated in beautiful countryside close to the village of Dutton and just a few minutes drive from the M56 motorway.

2.2 Extended Description

Lewis Carroll Centenary Wood is a small young broadleaved woodland in the rolling North Cheshire countryside close to the villages of Daresbury and Dutton, just to the south of the M56 motorway. The surrounding landscape is predominantly grazing pasture with some arable fields and although it is in a rural setting it is only about 4 miles from Runcorn.

The site was planted in early 2000 to commemorate the centenary of the death of the Cheshire born author Lewis Carroll and as part of the Woodland Trusts Millennium project "Woods on Your Doorstep (WOYD). It was previously farmland and was purchased with the help and support of the local community, the Lewis Carroll Birthplace Trust, the Mersey Forest and the Millennium Commission. Donations also came from across the world via a web page developed in partnership between the Birthplace Trust and the Woodland Trust. Local people were involved in the design and subsequent planting of the new woodland.

It comprises two small blocks of new native woodland comprising a mix of English oak, ash, alder, silver birch, blackthorn, hawthorn, dog rose, and hazel. The wood was planted as two blocks of trees separated by a grass path ride which leads into a small glade which has a seat. A circular stand of six oaks were planted at the edge of the glade around a commemorative stone tablet as a Millennium Feature. There is a small pond by the eastern boundary.

The site has a very slight easterly gradient towards a stream that defines the north and eastern boundary. The western boundary comprises a new stock fence and the southern boundary alongside Higher Lane is a mixed thorn hedge.

There is informal public access to the wood with an access point from Higher Lane leading to the grass path ride through the trees to the meadow and wetland area. The site has low numbers of visitors.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Lewis Carroll Wood lies close to the village of Dutton in North Cheshire, approximately 2km south-east of junction 11 of the M56 motorway. It can be accessed by following the A533 from Runcorn/ Preston Brook towards Dutton. Take a left turn onto Higher Lane and follow this for approximately 3/4 mile until you reach the wood on the left side of the road.

Public access to the wood is via a kissing gate from the road.

Parking is available in a small layby located about 150 metres from the entrance along the road to the east.

For information on bus routes and location of bus stops visit the traveline website <http://www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm>

There are no public toilets in the vicinity, the closest available toilets would be at one of the pubs or restaurants located along the A49.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Lewis Carroll Wood is to create and maintain a high forest of mixed native broadleaves (predominantly oak/birch) as part of a mosaic of habitats including open space grassland, pond and hedgerows to as an amenity and conservation feature in the local landscape. It will contain a diverse mix of species and age classes with varied structure and natural regeneration to ensure the perpetuity of the woodland habitat.

The wood will be allowed to develop naturally as much as possible. Tree safety and public access will be the key drivers for management intervention which may create opportunities to encourage natural regeneration and to make the woodland more resilient to cope with future pressures from climate change, pests and tree diseases.

Public access will continue to be provided at its current level with an access point and signage by the road. The grass path ride and the glade will be maintained regularly to ensure the site is welcoming for visitors.

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

Lewis Carroll Wood provides the opportunity for the public to access woodland in the parish of Daresbury. There is only one access point into the wood from Higher Lane via a metal kissing gate and management access gate. There is a grass footpath that runs through the trees for approximately 60 metres and leads to an open ground meadow area with a bench and a memorial to Lewis Carroll comprising six oaks planted around a memorial stone on the ground. There is also a small pond located by the eastern boundary of the site, although in summer it can be hidden by vegetation. There is no car parking by the wood entrance, although there is a roadside layby about 150 metres further along the road to the east of the wood. The wood has very low numbers of visitors.

Significance

The wood is within the Mersey Community Forest which aims to increase public access to woodland in the area. It was planted as part of the Woodland Trusts Woods on Your Doorstep (WOYD) project and provides the opportunity for the public to access woodland and nature close to where they live. The local community and the Lewis Carroll Birthplace Trust initiated this woodland creation project as a commemorative wood for Lewis Carroll. It links in with other local features associated with the author including a memorial in the neighbouring field, and nearby birthplace at Daresbury.

Opportunities & Constraints

The very small size of the wood limits opportunities for increasing public access and community involvement.

Limited parking for the site and lack of visitor facilities nearby means that it is difficult to attract significant numbers of visitors.

The Trust will continue to encourage volunteers and local people to take an interest in the wood.

Factors Causing Change

None at present.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Trust will continue to maintain open public access at the current level so that visitors can continue to enjoy the woodland. The site will be made as safe as practicable for visitors through regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones, site hazards and access furniture. Any threats to the wood arising from public recreation or misuse will be monitored and appropriate measures taken if necessary.

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

During the plan period we aim to maintain the current level of public access to the site. To achieve this we will:

1. carry out annual maintenance of the entrance, signs, cutting back any vegetation encroaching on the footpath and removing any litter/ fly tipping as necessary.
2. undertake regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones (i.e. next to the road and footpath) and site hazards as per the Trust's safety inspection regime to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertaking any remedial safety work identified.
3. carry out monitoring at least once during the plan period to assess whether the current access provision is adequate for the level of public use, to identify if there are any people issues/ threats to the wood, and taking appropriate action to address them if necessary.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Lewis Carroll Wood is a young woodland planted in 2000 with a mix of native broadleaves, consisting of English oak, ash, alder, silver birch and woody shrubs: blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and dog rose covering 0.8 ha (85%) of the site. The remaining 0.15 ha (15%) was left as open ground forming a central ride and small meadow area. There is a small pond/ wetland scrape created in 2000 and a stream along the north eastern boundary. The southern and north eastern boundaries comprise mixed thorn hedge with the occasional mature and semi-mature oak, ash and willow.

Significance

Cheshire is one of the least wooded counties in England and has less than 5% woodland cover. Although this native woodland is small it provides a valuable landscape feature and as a wildlife habitat in the area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The variety of habitats on such as small site (i.e. woodland, open ground, ride edges, scrub and a pond) provides greater benefits for wildlife. The small size of the site is also a constraint to diversifying the habitat anymore than it already is. Opportunities to involve local people and volunteers in woodland management could help to develop a greater sense of ownership, community involvement and use of the site.

Factors Causing Change

The growth of trees overtime will lead to canopy closure which will affect opportunities for natural regeneration and ground flora growth. The open ground area would develop into scrub woodland over time if not managed leading to the loss of the meadow area. Ash dieback is likely to result in the loss of a substantial (25%) proportion of trees which will have a significant impact on the species mix in the wood, although it will also provide gaps in the canopy which will encourage natural regeneration of other species. Rabbits have caused damage (bark stripping) on some young trees, but this is not currently having a significant impact on tree growth and natural regen.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Lewis Carroll Wood will be managed as secondary woodland of mixed native broadleaves with a diverse structure (in terms of species composition, age/size classification), understorey, shrub layer and ground flora. Maintenance work will be undertaken to maintain an open, sunny path ride; to maintain a varied woodland edge habitat; to maintain the open ground meadow area; and the small pond will be maintained to retain areas of open water to enhance the biodiversity value of the site. Threats to the woodland including tree disease and pests will be monitored and managed if possible. The amount of dead wood will be allowed to increase over time and standing dead trees will be retained where it is safe to do so.

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

During this plan period we aim to carry out silvicultural management work to diversify the structure of the woodland and help to make it more robust and resilient for the future. To achieve this we will:

1. carry out thinning work in 2020/21 aiming to remove between 10-15% of trees across the site.
2. monitor the health of the woodland at least once during the plan period to identify any threats from tree disease, pests, non-native invasive species, human impacts, taking appropriate action where necessary.
3. cut the roadside hedge annually to maintain sight lines into the woodland from outside.

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	0.95	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest

Small roughly wedge shaped compartment that is mainly flat with a slight easterly gradient. The northern and eastern boundaries are defined by a stream with a hedge on the far side; the western boundary by a new stock fence abutting a pasture field; and the southern boundary abuts the grass verge of Higher Lane and is defined by a mixed thorn hedge with remnants of a Cheshire railing fence. Public and management access gates are located near the western end of the roadside boundary.

0.8 hectare of the compartment was planted in 2000 with a mix of native broadleaves and the remaining 0.15 ha was left as open ground including a grass path ride and glade. A new wetland scrape/ pond was created by the eastern boundary. The planting mix comprised English oak (35%), ash (25%), alder (20%), silver birch (10%) and the remaining 10% woody shrubs: blackthorn, hawthorn, dog rose, and hazel. The oak and ash are planted in groups of 25, the alder in groups of 20 and the birch in groups of 15. The shrubs were planted on the ride edges and internal woodland boundaries.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2016	1a	Coppice	0.25	8	2
2023	1a	Thin	0.95	11	10

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.