



# Dorothy's Wood

## Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](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.

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## 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.

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## 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>	Dorothy's Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Kilcorig
<b>Grid reference:</b>	J214669, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 20
<b>Area:</b>	0.83 hectares (2.05 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	No designations for this site, Woods on your Doorstep

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Dorothy's Wood was planted in 2001 with oak and other species by local residents. A bench in the middle of the wood is an excellent spot to enjoy the wildlife. The site can be wet under foot, so proper footwear is recommended!

## 2.2 Extended Description

This 2 acre rectangular site is at the bottom of a moderately sloping field. It is in a rural location with a scattering of residential and farm properties within easy walking distance. The area is an undulating grazed landscape with fields separated by mature hedges.

Dorothy's Wood is bounded to the west by a short stretch of gappy mature hedge, the occasional maturing tree and post and rail fencing, adjacent to a minor road. To the north it is bounded by a grazed field; and to the south and east by a stream with a maturing woody edge along it. The wood links with the "wildlife corridor" along the wooded stream edge and links the planting into the wider local landscape.

Dorothy's Wood is one of 51 Woods on your Doorstep (WOYD) sites in Northern Ireland and was planted in 2001 by local residents and a contractor. The development and first 5 years maintenance of the WOYD sites were 50% funded by the Millennium Commission.

The site is wet with *Juncus* (rushes) growing throughout the majority of the planted area, though the northern edge is slightly higher and therefore drier. It is here the oak planting was concentrated. Other species planted were aspen, alder, silver birch, cherry, rowan and crab apple.

Public access is possible via a gate from Kilcorrig Road. However, due to the wet nature of the site, combined with the lack of local parking (limited roadside parking available), access is fairly limited except to those who live close to the site. This is particularly the case during the wetter months of the year when access to the site is limited to those wearing suitable footwear. However, during the drier times, the public can enjoy the wildlife of the site, benefiting from a bench in the middle of the wood.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

There is public access point into the site, off the adjacent minor road, via a kissing gate. The site has no current opportunity to link into walking routes in the wider landscape. Though wet under foot for much of the year, the wildlife can be enjoyed in the drier months, especially from the bench located within the site which can be reached via the regularly strimmed path.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Trust's corporate objective of increasing new native woodland has been achieved by the planting of Dorothy's Wood. It will be sustained by the ongoing management of the site as a native broadleaved woodland. 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.

The Trust's objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland will be achieved by maintaining the path and entrance for public access and by using the site to educate the public about the wider work of the Trust.

In the long term, whilst maintaining the site for public access, we will establish 0.81 hectares of self-sustaining high forest of mixed deciduous woodland with alder carr in the wetter areas. It is not envisaged that thinning will be needed as the prescription of trees allows the wood to self thin, however this will be monitored.

## 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

0.81Ha of new native woodland was planted in early 2001, with a flax pond being subsequently re-excavated within the body of the site. The trees were planted at 2.1m spacing. The pond has since silted up and will be left to its own devices but will continue to provide habitat in the form of a bog pond.

#### Significance

The aim of the Woods On Your Doorstep project was to create community woodland. This also fulfils one of the Woodland Trust's key aims to "increase new native woodland". In addition, woodland creation will add a variety of habitats to the site and improve its biodiversity value.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The development of native secondary woodland with wet areas will result in the development of a valuable habitat for local biodiversity, especially as it links into the wider landscape via the wooded stream edge.

#### Factors Causing Change

Natural succession and tree growth, water on site and agricultural run-off.

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

To encourage the development of a self-sustaining native woodland with public access and a good habitat for local biodiversity.

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

Establishment of the planted areas is of primary importance. We aim to encourage the establishment of new woodland to achieve sustainable high forest that is ultimately likely to be alder carr and oak. The tree canopy is now closing and a young woodland is emerging. It may be necessary in the future to thin and restructure to encourage stand stability, but this is highly unlikely as the variety of trees planted should encourage self thinning. Look for any further potential for structural and species diversity.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Dorothy's Wood has full public access. There is one entrance to the site, which kissing gate from the road. A grass path has been created through the newly planted trees which is a small loop at the end of a single path. This path allows access to about half of the site, leading to a bench. There is an information board beside the entrance.

### Significance

The access facility provides the opportunity to “increase people’s awareness and enjoyment of woodland”, one of the Woodland Trusts key objectives. The area provides visitors with an experience of native woodland. Also, as this was created as a Woods On Your Doorstep site, it will be important to retain informal public access facilities within the site including paths, seats and signage. It provides an opportunity for local people to come and enjoy the local wildlife, particularly that element associated with the stream and wet ground.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The wetness of the site limits the type and extent of access available along with the length of time through the year when access is possible to all but the more determined. However the wet areas and the presence of the stream attract local wildlife for visitors to enjoy. Opportunity to improve the access next to the road to facilitate a little more access into the site, as well as extending the path into the upper section of the woodland.

### Factors Causing Change

Water holding capacity of the ground

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To enable informal public access throughout the site by maintaining the access point and paths as necessary. This access is generally only available to the majority in drier conditions due to the wet nature of the land.

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

Regular cutting and maintenance of all paths should maintain public access until the trees close canopy over the paths in the next couple of years (year 15 or so). After this the requirement for path maintenance should be reviewed, as public use of the paths should keep them open. A visitor monitor counter will be installed to assess the use of the site over a period of 6 months to a year along with opportunities for community management and further engagement through the local residents. Access features should be maintained to a high standard. Signs should be replaced as necessary and all access maintenance be assessed annually.

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## 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	0.81	Birch (downy/silver)	2001	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Woods on your Doorstep

This 2 acre rectangular site is at the bottom of a moderately sloping field. It is planted at 2.1m spacing with Pedunculate Oak, Aspen, Alder, Silver Birch, Rowan, Bird Cherry, Crab Apple and Dog Rose.

## 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.