



Cranagh 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Cranagh Wood
Location:	Armagh
Grid reference:	H867445, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 19
Area:	2.66 hectares (6.57 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Coose Trannack is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It lies just off the main Armagh to Monaghan Road, and was planted with native broadleaf trees to provide a valuable area for both people and wildlife.

2.2 Extended Description

The land at Armagh was purchased as one of the Woodland Trust's "Woods on your Doorstep" from Paul and Ursula Jordan in 1999. Covering 2.61 hectares the site lies just off the main Armagh to Monaghan Road. It was planted using broadleaf species to provide a valuable area for public recreation and local wildlife. The development and first five years maintenance of the site was 50% funded by the Millennium Commission. An initial Forest Service grant had been applied for but was subsequently rejected due to a high level of vandalism making it almost impossible to maintain the recommended stocking rate.

The site is located close to a number of housing developments both Housing Executive and private. In fact Mr Jordan, donated one hundred memberships to each of the hundred new developments adjacent to the site.

An electricity wayleave dissects the site running south west to north east. A mature hedge lies underneath the powerline and no planting has taken place 8 metres either side of it.

The site is a flat area consisting formerly of grassland. The drainage is good and the substrate is brown earth. The site had over 5,500 trees planted on it, predominately oak and ash.

Free public access is provided across the whole site at all times. One metal kissing gate and management gate are located in the northern boundary. A 650m mown path was regularly cut but this was upgraded to a hardcore path in 2008 with the aid of Breathing Places money secured by a local group. The aim is to try and get more members of the public, in particular from the local area to walk the wood and take on some ownership. The gravel paths will be allowed to grass over and will be maintained as mown paths.

There is no official Woodland Trust car park here but cars can park beside the entrance, at the end of the Tullymore Downs cul-de-sac.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The public have informal access to the site already via a metal kissing gate on the northern boundary.

The main access will be via the Tullymore Downs estate.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In the long term, whilst maintaining the site for public access, it would be intended to encourage the site to become a self-sustaining high forest of mixed deciduous woodland. This will be achieved through initially, the establishment of the trees.

It is unlikely that the woodland will ever produce quality timber as it is a small site and prone to high levels of vandalism. Therefore it is unlikely that thinning or restructuring will be needed, however this will be reviewed in the years 2015-2020.

The hedge dividing the 2 planted fields should be left to mature and regenerate naturally.

Public access will remain over the whole site and levels of public useage and anti-social behaviour will determine the level of facilities and future work plans. Once the canopy closes in and around year 2020 it should not be necessary to cut the paths. Public safety will be assessed regularly and tree inspection to mature trees carried out. No trees qualify for inspection in the short term.

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, Cranagh is a community woodland. Free public access is provided across the site at all times. One metal kissing gate and a metal management gate are located on the northern boundary. A gravel path allows visitors to access the whole of the wood.

Significance

The access facilities provide the opportunity to "increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland", one of the Woodland Trust's key objectives. It provides an important resource for the neighbouring residents and it will be important to retain this informal public access for future years.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Vandalism and anti-social behaviour have precluded any additional interpretive materials or entrance features.

Opportunities:

The new paths will encourage more people to use the woodland hopefully discouraging anti-social behaviour.

Factors Causing Change

Canopy closure, Levels of vandalism, Levels of use

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain informal public access through the site by providing facilities appropriate for the level of use. This will include the maintenance of the path to an acceptable standard and maintaining the provision of on-site information.

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

Regular maintenance of the wood, including path cutting, litter lifting and boundary inspections. Litter tends to be a problem.

Path cutting will be reviewed in 2020-2025 when the canopy of the trees closes, there may be no more need for cutting.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

All of this 2.65 hectare site was planted with broadleaf species. A total of 5,500 trees were planted in 2000. Oak and ash were the predominant species with 1,600 of each being planted. Also included in the mix were chestnut, cherry, crab apple, rowan and hazel. They were all planted in pure groups of 25 to 50 dappled throughout the area. There was no planting within 8 metres either side of the powerline which intersects the site in half.

The site was restocked in 2005, this was due to the original trees being destroyed by intense vandalism and presence of motorbikes.

Significance

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

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Vandalism. Many of the trees had been vandalised when they were initially planted. Ranging from 10% to 80 % destroyed in places. Vandalism has now been greatly reduced and the site restocked. There is also an electricity wayleave that dissects the site and hence precludes additional planting 8m either side of it.

Opportunities:

There is an opportunity to manage Cranagh Wood as a broadleaved woodland for people to enjoy and to create a significant area of broadleaved woodland in the area.

Factors Causing Change

Vandalism

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish a mixed broadleaf woodland managed as high forest. Canopy composition will be of mixed deciduous species.

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

Establishment of the planted area is of prime importance. The trees are starting to become well established. There has been no weeding around the trees, to try and make them more inconspicuous, but this does not appear to have been detrimental to their development. The area, is fully stocked, the initial WGS has been received and the wood is on track to receiving the second installment.

There should be no need to thin and/or restructure the woodland, as the woodland will never be used for timber production. Therefore the trees will self thin, the dead trees will be left in situ, this will help to improve the biodiversity of the woodland. Thinning will be reviewed in 2020.

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	1.80	Hazel	2001	High forest		Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

Cranagh Wood is situated within Armagh City boundaries and is located just off the main Monaghan Road. The site comprises of 2 small fields along the top of a hill, separated by a gappy hedge. An electricity wayleave runs along the line of the hedge running SW to NE through the site. The site is fairly flat throughout with good soil. The planted site is bordered by housing development on all sides. A total of 5,500 trees were planted in 2000 in this 2.65 ha site. The site was restocked in 2005 with 4000 trees predominantly oak and ash. Also included in the mix were chestnut, cherry, crab apple, rowan and hazel. The trees were all planted in pure groups of 25 to 50 dappled throughout the area. There was no planting within 8 metres either side of the powerline. The area suffered from vandalism in the form of youths on motorbikes, which was the main reason for restocking. Since restocking there has been very little vandalism, however there would still be quite high levels of anti-social behaviour. The Woodland Grant Scheme was approved in 2005.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	2.65	0	0

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.