



# Cullion Community Woodland

## Management Plan

# 2018-2023

## 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 Informal Public Access	
5.2 New Native Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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>	Cullion Community Woodland
<b>Location:</b>	Gortin, Omagh
<b>Grid reference:</b>	H475819, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 13
<b>Area:</b>	1.32 hectares (3.26 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

A native tree trail snakes through Cullion Wood with specimens of at least one of each of the native trees in Ireland planted alongside the path down to the pond where orchids can be found. There are good views over the Tyrone countryside.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Cullion Wood is a woodland creation site adjacent to the Ulster History Park, 2 miles south of Gortin. Omagh District Council gifted the land in 2000 as one of the 50 Woods On Your Doorstep (WoyD) sites in Northern Ireland. The development and first 5 years maintenance of the 50 sites was 50% funded by the Millennium Commission, with additional sponsorship from NIE as part of its “More Power to Trees” scheme.

With the Ulster History Park to its east, agricultural fields, maintained primarily in grass, flank the remainder of the site. It slopes from the South down to Cappagh in the North. Following local consultation led by the Glens Community Group the whole site (1.31 ha) was planted by the community in 2001 with a mixture of native broadleaved trees. A mature species rich hedgerow runs through the site east to west and is rich in native bird species.

The area is within the Sperrins AONB and the Fermanagh and Omagh DC remit of delivering green space within the district. There is a strong community involvement in the management of the area and the Glens Development Group has created and maintains the site contract. There is a significant area of woodland in this locality. Trees in the Ulster History Park link this site to Gortin Glen Forest Park, a mainly coniferous woodland maintained by Forest Service.

As the lower end of the site, beside the burn, was constantly wet, the community chose to create a wildlife pond here. Common spotted orchids flourish throughout the lower reaches of the area.

Public access is provided to this WoyD site along a track from the Lisnaharney Road. From the site entrance a grass path snakes through the planted areas down to the pond. A wooden bridge and gate then leads to the edge of the Cappagh Burn.

Each WoyD site had a feature created to mark and celebrate the millennium. In Cullion Community Wood this is a native tree trail. Specimens of at least one of each of the native trees in Ireland are planted alongside the path. Each of these has a small nameplate beside it which notes the tree’s name in English, Irish and Latin, and each tree has also been assigned one of the local town land names.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Management and public access are provided to this WoyD site along a track from the Lisnaharney Road. This is a right of way over lands owned by Omagh District Council. Good views over the Tyrone countryside looking out over the Cappagh burn.

From the site entrance gate a hardcore path snakes through the planted areas down to the pond. A wooden bridge and gate then leads to the edge of the Cappagh Burn. The Glens Community Group installed a picnic area at the entrance and two seats.

### 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. It is unlikely that it will ever produce quality timber as it is small. This has initially been achieved with the planting of trees in clumps of approx 20. In the next few years it will require thinning and restructuring to improve stand stability as all the trees have been planted at one time. It is hoped that a woodland ground flora will encroach from the surrounding hedges. Given that the main purpose of the woodland is for public enjoyment, the canopy composition will be flexible in the future allowing native tree species best suited to the site to form the climax community, although hazel and ash for coppicing and use in the history park will be encouraged preferentially.

The access is to be retained from the gate way to the SW but not cut or intensively managed. The internal hardcore path should be left to grow over with grass. The hardcore substrate will continue to provide the necessary drainage for the paths. The path and bridge will be monitored annually and appropriate management undertaken if required. On-site information and access facilities will be provided dependent upon the levels of public use.

The fences will be repaired as required. The internal fence does not need repairs nor does the track which is not used by vehicles. The history park maintain the eastern fences. Where possible we will look for opportunities to expand the woodland and or link to adjacent woodland 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 Informal Public Access

#### Description

As part of the Woods On Your Doorstep project, Cullion Wood is a community wood providing informal public access. A management and pedestrian entrance is provided from Lisnaharney Road. A hardcore path zigzags from the entrance, down the slope, to the pond and river at the bottom of the hill. A boardwalk crosses between the 2 sides of the pond and a pedestrian gate allows access to the edge of the river. An information board informs visitors about the site.

#### Significance

The access facilities provide the opportunity to “increase people’s awareness and enjoyment of woodland”, one of the Woodland Trusts key objectives. 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 appropriate to the level of public use.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:  
Slope of site and drainage.

Opportunities:  
As opportunities develop, there may be the chance to expand this woodland onto adjacent agricultural land, either through purchase or working with the landowners. There is also an opportunity to pursue access from the Cullion Rd. Or linking access along an adjacent lane currently disused and overgrown.

#### Factors Causing Change

Visitor use of paths and facilities, increased rainfall, climate change.

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

To maintain informal public access to the site by providing facilities appropriate for the level of use. To continue to look for linkages to surrounding access where opportunities arise.

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

The hardcore paths should be left to grow over with grass. The hardcore substrate will continue to provide the necessary drainage for the paths while grass mowing will be preferable to the use of chemicals to define the paths and will look more natural. The option is to be retained for the local community group to mow the paths 3 times a year to maintain access - to be reviewed in future plans. Access features should be maintained appropriately dependent on the level of public use. The bridge over the pond should be inspected annually to insure its safety for use. Ideally this work will continue to be carried out by the local community who presently have the EMC contract for these works.

## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

1.31 hectares of new native woodland were planted in 2001 with 2,600 trees as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep community woodland creation project. Planted with a variety of native broadleaf trees in small copses dominated by Oak, hazel and ash on the upper slopes and alder, birch and willow along the wetter parts. A native mixed species hedgerow bisects the site and surrounds the site on the south and west side denoting the original field boundaries. A small pond was created to the bottom north end of the site which has since silted into a boggy wet rush habitat still suitable for frogs and newts.

### 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

Constraints:  
Funding

Opportunities:

The development of native secondary woodland.

The development of a valuable habitat for local biodiversity.

Development of a sustainable community woodland enterprise through the Glens development group

Const - funding

### Factors Causing Change

Natural succession and tree growth, rabbit damage, climate change, tree disease.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To encourage the development of a self-sustaining native woodland providing a valuable habitat for local wildlife. To look for opportunities where possible to increase woodland and link to surrounding habitat.

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

The need to thin and/or restructure the woodland to encourage age and structural diversity will be assessed and carried out as necessary to encourage self-sustaining native woodland. The pond is seasonal, and as such has a high value for biodiversity. It should be left to find its own successional climax, unless the local community are keen to maintain it as a pond.

---

## 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	1.00	Mixed native broadleaves	2001	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The whole site constitutes one compartment and consists of 2 small fields the first of moderate slope and northern aspect, leading into the second, flatter field which runs down to the stream. It totals 1.31 hectares in area. It is bounded to the south by a tree nursery owned by Omagh District Council who also owns the Ulster History Park to the east. They own and manage the fencing along these 2 boundaries. Improved grassland fields bound the site to the northwest and the north, separated by a small river - the Cappagh Burn, to the north. There is an mature hedge half way down the site.

Previously let out to grazing by Omagh District Council, it was planted by the Glens Development Group and other local people in 2001 with 60-80 stock of native species. A total of 2,600 trees were planted in pure groups of 25. On the lower slopes where the ground is wetter, alder, aspen, downy birch and willow were planted into mounds. Silver birch, ash and oaks were planted in the higher drier ground. The Group has mulched around these trees in preference to using pesticides. It was given a WGS New Planting Grant by Forest Service in 2001 that was reviewed in 2006. Spiral guards were used for protection against rabbits.

A grass path zigzags from the entrance, down the slope, to the pond and river at the bottom of the hill. A boardwalk crosses between the 2 sides of the pond. The millennium feature, a native tree trail is planted alongside the path.

## 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.