



COED CADW  
WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Haroldswood

## Management Plan 2017-2022

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

## 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>	Haroldswood
<b>Location:</b>	Worthenbury, nr Wrexham
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SJ420462, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 117
<b>Area:</b>	0.61 hectares (1.51 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Great Landscape Value

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This grassy wood, a few kilometres south east of Wrexham, incorporates recently planted broadleaf trees and shrubs near a housing area in the village of Worthenbury. There are footpaths, a bench and an information board.

### 2.2 Extended Description

Haroldswood is a small flat site, formerly pasture, located on the northern edge of the village of Worthenbury. It was named by the donor of the land and was designed and planted with native broadleaves trees and shrubs with the help of the local community in 2000 as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep Scheme. These trees have now grown up into a closed canopy woodland, with areas of selective coppicing.

To the south of the site is housing, while improved pasture adjoins the remainder of the site. A permissive footpath runs through the site and joins with a public footpath outside the northern boundary. A small gravelled area has been created in the centre of the wood, with a commemorative bench. A public information board is also present at the northern entrance. Management access is directly off the public highway.

Key features of the site are the creation of new native woodland and informal public access.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Haroldswood is situated on the edge of Worthenbury. Whilst there is a public access ( kissing gate) directly from the B5069 which runs through the village, there is no parking at this point and the road to it from the centre of the village ihas many bends and no pavements.

The site is best accessed via a stiled entrance to the north of the site. Parking is available at roadside close to the village hall on Church Lane. Opposite the church is a public footpath which passes through agricultural land and runs alongside the boundary to Haroldswood. There are two stiles present along this route and the distance from the church to the site is approximately 200 metres.

The site is flat and the linear footpath through thie woodland is mown grass.

Public transport: there are no bus stops within 3km of the site.

Nearest public toilets: there are no public toilets within 10km of the site. The nearest facilities being in Wrexham town centre.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Haroldswood will be managed to encourage the development of native woodland of open character maintaining the diversity of planted species and with associated shrub and field layers. Woodland edge habitat where trees/shrubs will be necessarily height restricted because of the electricity power lines will further enhance the biodiversity of the site.

The central and northern areas will continue to be left to develop into mature woodland. Dumping of garden rubbish will be discouraged as can result in the introduction of non-native species to colonise the site to the detriment of less aggressive native flora.

The enjoyment of the woodland will be continued to be encouraged by maintaining paths and other features associated with public access.

## 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

Mixture of native broadleaves planted in November 2000 to create new native woodland on former pastureland. Establishment has been effective and the trees are maturing rapidly to a closed canopy by 2017.

#### Significance

The site will in time develop into structurally diverse native woodland, which will provide a valuable biodiverse habitat within the local context of improved grassland.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to create structurally diverse woodland through maintenance of grassland belt behind housing in such a way that scrub is allowed to develop at the woodland edge. Although the planting was designed in such a way that only shrubs were planted directly beneath the power line on either side of the path some adjacent trees are now within the hazard zone and will need to be reduced in height.

#### Factors Causing Change

Tipping of garden rubbish

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

The site develops into mature native woodland of open character maintaining diversity of species with associated shrub and field layers. Woodland edge habitat, coppiced trees/shrubs and retained grassland, necessarily maintained beneath and adjacent to the overhead power lines will provide diversity of habitat. Invasive garden species absent. Noxious weeds not seeding into adjacent farmland.

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

Coppice or crown-reduce trees and shrubs beneath power lines will continue to be carried out by Scottish power.  
Continue with periodic mowing of the grass along the southern boundary and coppice shrubs here on rotation to allow the gradual development of a woodland edge habitat.



## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Public access exists in the form of a permissive path which links a public footpath outside the northern boundary which itself provides off-road access directly to the site from the village, with an entrance directly off a public highway. An information board is situated at the northern entrance. A commemorative bench is situated within a glade off the main path.

### Significance

This fulfils one of the Trust's corporate objectives and provides the local community with space for quiet informal recreation.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Dumping of garden rubbish by some neighbours has been a problem in the past.

### Factors Causing Change

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The footpath and other features associated with public access (commemorative bench) will be maintained.

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

Regular cutting of paths to ensure accessible all year round. Commemorative seat to be maintained in good condition.

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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	0.70	Hazel	2000	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Great Landscape Value
<p>Former pasture planted with a mixture of native broadleaves in November 2000. The central and northern edge of the site has been planted with Oak, Ash, Rowan, Wild cherry, Field maple and Silver birch together with native shrubs, Goat willow, Hazel, Elder, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. By 2017, this has grown up into a closed canopy woodland. The eastern, western and southern boundaries have been planted with native shrubs only and the southern boundary has been coppiced form 2015. Ground flora currently consists mainly of grasses, along with Nettle, Cow parsley, Thistle and Dandelion. The site is bounded on three sides by hedgerows.</p>							

## 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.