



# Nut Wood

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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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>	Nut Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Delamont Country Park, Killyleagh
<b>Grid reference:</b>	J512507, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 16
<b>Area:</b>	3.60 hectares (8.90 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Woods on your Doorstep

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Nut Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. It was planted with native broadleaf trees and Corsican pine, and features an open area with seating and a living willow sculpture.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Nut Wood is a long narrow woodland creation site positioned on the northern edge of Delamont Country Park in the countryside between Killyleagh and Downpatrick in Northern Ireland. The original Nut Wood in Delamont Country Park bounds it to the south, a caravan site and farmland to the north, and Strangford Lough to the east. Down District Council gifted the 3.6 hectares of land in 2000 as one of the 51 Woods On Your Doorstep (WoyD) sites in Northern Ireland. The development and first 5 years maintenance of the 51 sites was 50% funded by the Millennium Commission.

Once part of Delamont Demesne, the site had been grazed by sheep in the recent past. The adjacent Nut Wood is thought to have been planted by Colonel Gordon in the 1800s. Following consultation with the Head Ranger in Delamont Country Park, the 3.24 ha site was planted in the year 2000. It is planted with a mixture of native broadleaved trees dominated by oak, with a willow/alder/birch mixture in the wetter areas. These wetter areas are associated with adjacent remains of flax ponds. Corsican Pine has also been planted to complement those that form the heronry within the park.

Public access is integral to this WoyD site. Down District Council maintain a hardcore path through the site and The Woodland Trust maintains a grass path through the developing woodland.

Each WoyD site had a feature created to mark and celebrate the millennium. In Nut Wood this is an open area close to the edge of Strangford Lough with seating and a living willow sculpture in the centre. This sculpture is shaped as a hazel leaf and was created by Elaine Burke from Welig Crafts. Visitors can walk in and around the willow hut and can weave in any protruding branches of the growing willow.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Public access exists throughout Delamont Country Park. The main car park provides ample car parking and is the start of a series of waymarked routes around the park maintained by the country park. There is a gravel surfaced country park path running through the centre of the site and the park will continue to maintain this path. A series of grass paths have been created through the newly planted trees. These are to be maintained regularly through grass cutting, until the trees close canopy and the compartment fences are taken down. An information board and entrance signs will continue to inform new visitors about the wood and its history, these will also be maintained regularly.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In the long term, this wood will become part of the already existing mosaic of habitats found within Delamont Country Park. Extending and buffering some of the long established woodland and veteran trees already existing on the site. The woodland is now established with a good species mix present and the canopy now closed in many of the planted areas on site. To assess the site in terms of the need for a first thin to retain a healthy, diverse and resilient woodland structure. As secondary woodland the site would be best managed under one management plan for the whole park.

The area in compartment 2b between the willow leaf sculpture and Strangford Lough is to be coppiced to retain the view over Strangford Lough. The rangers in the country park will carry out this task when it is required.

The open area in Compartment 2b will be reviewed following a consultation with the group responsible for the willow sculpture and the head ranger. Seats should be maintained here in some form. The willow feature will need woven/coppiced annually (during its dormant season) to retain it in the shape of a hazel leaf with an entrance for the public to walk into it.

Delamont Country Park will continue to maintain the hardcore path through the centre of the site. A future maintenance regime will be agreed with the Country Parks Head Ranger now some of the areas have started to close canopy. Access features will be maintained to a high standard. An information board and entrance signs will continue to inform new visitors about the wood and its history.

## 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

Public access exists throughout Delamont Country Park. The main car park provides ample car parking and is the start of a series of waymarked routes around the park maintained by the country park. There is a surfaced country park path running through the centre of the site and the park will continue to maintain this path. These paths allow access for pedestrians, single buggies and wheelchair users. A series of grass paths have been created through the newly planted trees. These are to be reviewed with the head ranger. There are 3 seats provided through the site. An information board and entrance signs will continue to inform new visitors about the wood and its history. A living willow structure is situated in the open area in compartment 2b. This is shaped as a hazel leaf and visitors can walk into the centre of the living leaf hut.

#### Significance

The access facilities provide the opportunity to “increase people’s awareness and enjoyment of woodland”, one of the Woodland Trust’s key objectives. The area provides visitors with an experience of 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.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

##### Opportunities:

The site provides an opportunity for many people to enjoy native broadleaf woodland. As part of Delamont Country Park, this wood provides the Woodland Trust with an opportunity to advertise its remit to visitors to the park through the information provided on signs on the site.

##### Constraints:

Funding to continue to improve pathways.

#### Factors Causing Change

Climate, visitor use of path, access by local landowners to paths, lack of community involvement

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

To continue to work with Delamont Country Park and provide advice on the best management solution for the woodland and the park as a whole.

To inform the public about the work of the Woodland Trust, during their visit to the site, through the display of signage on site.

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

Reduce cutting of all grass paths and remove all internal fences following review with the parks head ranger. A small area within compartment 2b, around the millennium feature and seats, will be mown with the path cutting regime, to maintain it as open. Access features should be maintained to a high standard. Signs should be replaced where necessary. The living willow leaf sculpture should be maintained (woven and trimmed) as necessary each winter to maintain the structure and public access into it following a meeting with the site volunteers.

The planting , between the willow sculpture and Strangford Lough to be coppiced in the autumn/winter 2016 furthering consultation with the head ranger (approx 0.4 Ha).

## 5.2 New Native Woodland

### Description

A total of 3.2 hectares of new woodland which were planted in 2000. While the majority of the species are native, a small proportion of horse chestnut were planted as feature trees and Corsican pine to mirror other woodland within the park - the heronry in the park consists of Corsican Pine. The majority of the woodland has now started to or completely closed canopy, with flocks of long tailed tits and visiting jays from the adjacent long established woodland as well as speckled wood and green veined white butterflies along the path rides and marginal plants.

### 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, buffer and extend the existing long established woodland and improve its biodiversity value.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunities:

The development of native secondary woodland.

The development of a valuable habitat for local biodiversity.

The extension of the existing woodlands with the park to create a larger woodland mosaic.

#### Constraints:

Funding

### Factors Causing Change

Climate, tree disease, volunteer and community involvement, tree growth, salt and wind blow from strangford lough.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To encourage the development of a self-sustaining resilient native woodland with public access and a good habitat for local biodiversity and continue to work with Delamont Country Park to provide advice on the best management solution for the woodland in the context of the park as a whole.

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

To assess the future management of the site following a review with the head ranger of the park. To look at options for widening rides through the wood, a first thin and restructure of the wood. This will encourage stand stability, sustainability, natural regeneration and a better structure to encourage a variety of native wildlife and better able to cope with prevailing environmental factors such as climate change and pests and diseases.

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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	0.90	Birch (downy/silver)	2001	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Woods on your Doorstep
<p>Compartment closest to the main car park leading from the Long Walk trail. It lies between Delamont plantation and the caravan site. It is flat at the top, then sloping downwards towards compartment 2a. The grass path through the compartment has been designed to retain the view over Strangford Lough. Prior to planting the compartment was improved grassland, grazed by sheep. It was planted in 2000 with native species. It was given a Forest Service WGS New planting grant in 2001. The Community Woodland Supplement was also granted to complement the WGS. The compartment is fully stocked and the final 30% WGS was paid in 2006.</p>							
2a	1.50	Oak (sessile)	2001	High forest		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Woods on your Doorstep
<p>Compartment between compartments 1A and 2B. The area slopes gently down from west to east. A small stream bounds its south easterly edge with farmland to the north and Delamont Plantation, the existing Nut Wood and an old flax pond to the south. The hardcore path running through the centre of the site is maintained by Delamont Country Park.</p> <p>Prior to planting the compartment was improved grassland, grazed by sheep. It was planted in 2000 with native species. It was given a Forest Service WGS New planting grant in 2001. The Community Woodland Supplement was also granted to complement the WGS. The compartment is fully stocked.</p>							
2b	0.40	Alder species	2001	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Woods on your Doorstep
<p>Compartment between compartment 2A and Strangford Lough. The area slopes gently down from north to south with wet areas adjacent to an old flax pond. Farmland and a stream bound it to its easterly edge, Strangford Lough to the South and the existing Nut Wood and additional new planting to the west.</p> <p>Prior to planting the compartment was improved grassland, grazed by sheep. It was planted in 2000 with native species. It was given a Forest Service WGS New planting grant in 2001. The Community Woodland Supplement was also granted to complement the WGS. The compartment is fully stocked and the final WGS payment was received in 2006.</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.