

Greendale Wood

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, 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. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our 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 natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities 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 encourage our woods to be used for 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. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Greendale Wood

Location:	Grindleton Grid reference: SD756455 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	7.21 hectares (17.82 acres)
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Area
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Greendale Wood is located on the western edge of the village of Grindleton in the Ribble Valley. The woodland sits in a quiet valley within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and it is also within a Conservation Area. The busy town of Clitheroe is located a few miles away to the south.

The young woodland is 7.15 ha in size and was planted on 3 former pasture fields that slope south east and south west on either side of a small valley, with the Grindleton Brook flowing southwards through the middle. There are pasture fields immediately to the west and part of both the northern and southern boundaries. A road, houses and gardens are adjacent to the remaining north, south and the entire eastern boundary. The wood almost entirely surrounds the old Greendale Mill, which now has limited use, and is virtually in the centre of the site. The woodland was planted on slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soil.

This establishing woodland is 7.15 hectares in size (16 acres) and was planted with mixed native broadleaves including ash, oak, birch, willow, hazel, hawthorn, damson & blackthorn in two phases (first area in 2000 & second area 2009) on pasture fields that slope south east and south west on either side of a small valley, with the Grindleton Brook flowing southwards through the middle. The site was purchased in two stages. The first section was acquired by the Woodland Trust in May 2000. This occurred after a successful fundraising campaign, which was well supported and funded by local organisations and people, particularly the Lancashire Environmental Fund and Castle Cement. The wood was created as part of the Trust's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' project, funded partly by the Millennium Commission to create 200 new woods throughout England & Wales to celebrate the millennium and provide new accessible woods for communities, with further funding from the Forestry Commission to aid the planting and maintenance. The second section was gifted to the Woodland Trust in April 2006. This extension is a total of 1.82 hectares and was formerly pasture land. In March 2009 the extension was planted. Woodland Creation is one of the sites Key Features.

Local people have been very involved with the acquisition, design, creation and naming of the wood. Greendale is a local name, with the mill in the middle being Greendale Mill. Damson trees, grown from suckers and cuttings of local trees, (for which the area is well-known) were planted alongside the path leading from Buck Street by the Duke of York Hotel as a Millennium feature. Detailed history of the site is not known, but a map of 1848 shows the layout of the fields and public access land.

The wood can be accessed from several points. The easiest entrances to find are 2 informal access points from Buck Street to the south, which is a small road leading off the main road (Grindleton Brow and Sawley Road) through Grindleton, to the side of the Duke of York Hotel. Other well-used access points also lead from the village with two public footpaths leading from Main Street into the wood. On site there are the public footpaths and a network of permissive paths, which create several circular routes. These paths lead across to access points in the southern corner, and continue over adjacent fields. Management access is from 2 points on Buck Street. At the highest point on site there are good views southwards towards Pendle Hill. A couple of seats provide resting points, one near the village, one at the high point. Parking is available on nearby local roads but may be limited. The wood is used mainly by local people who arrive on foot, for quiet informal recreation. Informal Public Access is one of the sites Key Features.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The Woodland Trusts long-term intention is to create and maintain a mixed aged broadleaved woodland interspersed with areas of transitional and permanent open ground providing a mosaic of habitats and environments that will be a benefit to native flora and fauna.

The development of native secondary woodland will be promoted through the encouragement of any further areas of natural regeneration on areas not designated as long-term open spaces. Thinning work will also occur across the site to help diversify the age/species structure of the site and to promote stand stability.

Transitional zones between the naturally establishing secondary woodland and open spaces will be maintained through a programme of annual cutting of ride/wood edge vegetation.

Public access will be maintained at its current level with 7 entrance points, approximately 900 metres of maintained paths and 2 bridges.

Statutory obligations will continue to be met with respect to managing tree safety and ensuring public access via the permissive path.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 New Native Woodland

Description
The young woodland is 7.15 hectares in size and was planted in two phases. The initial planting was carried out from December 2000 to January 2001 with a mix of 7,660 native trees and shrubs. Areas of open grassland have been left to form the paths and glades, and an open area also left on the steepest part of the bank, which held the greatest variety of wild flowers. The trust were gifted a parcel of land adjacent to the original site in 2006 which was then planted in 2009 with a further 2200 native trees and shrubs. 450 trees were restocked in 2014(in the 2009 planting area) due to ash dieback, these trees have been maintained with spot spray of glyphosate to stop them being outcompeted by coarse vegetation.
Significance
This is a small native broadleaved wood in an area with little woodland at all and certainly very little native woodland, the surrounding land use is dominated by farmland used for stock grazing hence it will improve the habitat in the local area.
Opportunities & Constraints
Initial tree growth has been rapid and the basic structure of the woodland will develop quite quickly. Although the fields had been almost entirely improved, small areas on the steep banks, hedgerows and gullies had not, and contained plants likely to thrive and spread into the young woodland. Grindleton Brook runs through the middle, and appears to be a good freshwater habitat. The site has a variety of land forms, aspects and variations in drainage. A considerable length of the boundaries abut further pasture fields. All of these factors will help to develop the conservation interest of the wood. However, the site is not connected to other woodland or other semi-natural habitats which will bring restrictions.
Factors Causing Change
Growth of young trees, tree diseases especially ash dieback.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The aim is to create a high forest of mixed predominantly native broadleaves (at least 85% native). The wood will be managed predominantly as a recreational and landscape feature. This will involve maintaining the diverse mix of species, regeneration of both natives and non-native species will be accepted.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Active thinning work will be undertaken in 2021 to ensure a diverse mix of trees in terms of both species and age structure of the woodland.

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out in the final year of the current plan period. This will make recommendations as to the management of the site, key elements of which are likely to include the effects of ash disease, the development of natural regeneration and any future thinning requirements.

4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

Description
Informal public access consists of a 900 metres of circular grass paths mostly within the woodland and seven entrance points. The woodland also contains 2 pedestrian wooden footbridges and 2 separate flights of steps. Parking is available on nearby local roads but may be limited. The wood is well used mainly by local people who arrive on foot, for quiet informal recreation.
Significance
Greendale Wood is adjacent to the village of Grindleton, and within easy walking distance. It is a pleasant, attractive and peaceful area for local people to visit.
Opportunities & Constraints
The wood is well known in the village, visible, and access is good with many entrances, paths and good views. The path network connects with the surrounding countryside. The main constraint will be the fact that much of the site is sloping and many entrances have step-over or ladder stiles.
Factors Causing Change
Changes in level of use.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Public access will be maintained at its current level with 6 entrance points and approximately 900m of maintained paths. Consultation and involvement of local people will continue to be important.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Maintain 7 pedestrian entrances and 900 metres of Permissive Path and Public Right of Way by cutting back encroaching vegetation and trees; inspect signs, gates and fences; remove accumulations of litter & fly tipping as necessary - to be done via the Estates Maintenance Contract 3 visits per calendar year. Carry out regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones (i.e. next to buildings, roads and footpaths) and site hazards as per the Trust's safety inspection regime to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertaking any remedial safety work identified. Monitor public use of the site before the end of the current plan period to review the standard of access, identify any work required and assess if there are any issues/ threats to the wood from public usage, taking appropriate action to address them if necessary.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2021	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	June
2021	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	June
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	7.15	Ash	2000	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Area
<p>This establishing woodland is 7.15 hectares in size (16 acres) and was planted with mixed native broadleaves including ash, oak, birch, willow, hazel, hawthorn, damson & blackthorn in two phases (first area in 2000 & second area 2009) on pasture fields that slope south east and south west on either side of a small valley, with the Grindleton Brook flowing southwards through the middle. It is on the western edge of the village of Grindleton which is in a rural part of the Ribble Valley, although close to the busy town of Clitheroe.</p>						

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.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

Registered Office:

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