

Hagg 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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2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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5. Work Programme

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Hagg Wood

Location:	Ighthenhill, Burnley Grid reference: SD817346 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 103
Area:	5.52 hectares (13.64 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Biological Heritage Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Hagg Wood is in a rural area, but only a short distance from the densely populated towns of Burnley and Padiham and linked to these by a single lane. The wood is not connected to any other woodland, and is surrounded by semi-improved grassland, grazed mainly by sheep, on all sides except for the short stretch of boundary where it meets the River Calder at the bottom of the valley. The surrounding landscape is generally open grassland, with hills and open moorland further north.

Much of the woodland is flat but it does slope down fairly steeply from south to north along the north western boundary where it abuts the River Calder. The soil type locally is slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soil.

The wood is composed mainly of native broadleaved trees. The large central part of the wood which was clear felled in the 1960's has since naturally regenerated predominantly with birch, with oak, rowan, holly and sycamore. Around this central block is a fringe of older mature broadleaves, composed mainly of beech, oak, sycamore, but also with wet flushes of alder and scrub willows, and open bracken dominated glade. The final area of the wood is almost a separate piece on the far eastern end, which is a wet bank sloping increasingly steeply down to the River Calder. This land is wet, being eroded from the base by the river, and consequently it frequently subsides and slumps. Most of the mature trees were clear felled for safety reasons in 1989, and then replanted with mixed native broadleaves the same year. The plants in the wood are species common to wood or woodland edges, but very varied. Some indicate ancient woodland such as bluebell, wood anemone, honeysuckle, enchanter's nightshade, and there are also meadowsweet, giant horsetail, cuckoo pint and various ferns. Ancient semi natural woodland is a key feature of the site.

The wood was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1987 from the estate of neighbouring Hollins farm. Funding for the acquisition was given in the form of grant aid from Countryside Commission, Burnley Borough Council, Borough of Pendle, and the Council for the Protection of Rural England. The wood was part of a farm, and the central area had been clear felled in the 1960's. At acquisition there was no official public access, it was not securely fenced and was undergrazed by sheep. On acquisition the whole site was fenced, and a double fence put in to define the new public and management access from Ightenhill Park Lane.

There is good public access to the eastern end of the wood from Ightenhill Park Lane and it is possible to complete a circular walk around the wood. The permissive path at the western end of the woodland has been permanently closed due to a landslip so the path network unfortunately no longer links into the wider landscape. Limited parking is available in the lane. The wood is well walked by local people throughout the year, and very popular. Informal public access is a key feature of the wood.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Hagg Wood will be allowed to grow and develop naturally, as a refuge for wildlife. The wood will be managed as high forest of mixed broadleaves, including non-native trees common to the local area. It will be managed predominantly as a landscape and conservation feature, through minimal intervention. Gaps will be created in the canopy due to trees naturally reaching senescence and tree safety operations.

Public access should be maintained at its current level. There is one access points with Woodland Trust welcome signs, approximately 1,000m of paths which form a circular route and 2 footbridges.

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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
Hagg Wood is very varied, according to slope and drainage, with several wet flushes and of course the large unstable bank on the north west boundary. The dominant species, of birch, oak, alder and ash, with rowan, hazel, holly, hawthorn and various willows all appear native and regeneration. The ground flora is varied but not extensive, probably mainly due to the acidic soils, but it possibly also suffered in the various periods of sheep grazing and the clear fell. It appears to indicate native woodland, and hence the wood is listed as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. The presence of sycamore is not unusual, as it is the most common tree in Lancashire, and thrives in the harsh conditions on the edge of the Pennines.
Significance
The wood is unusual for the area, being a relatively large wood on a mainly flat site. The total cover of woodland in Lancashire is only 3.7% and ancient woods over 2ha in size account for only 0.9% of land area. This wood, of 5.88ha is very significant with a good flora and fauna. The wood was covered by a Tree Preservation Order in 1955, and notified as a Biological Heritage Site in the 1990's and hence is extremely important locally.
Opportunities & Constraints
Access to and within the site is not good, partly because the access track is narrow, and also because the ground is frequently wet, and also steep and unstable in places. The wood is also isolated from other woodland. Both of these could be improved by acquiring additional land.
Factors Causing Change
Frequent windblow
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To develop the wood as predominately native high forest, with a mixed range of ages and species. The fringes of the wood contain the oldest trees and most diverse and least disturbed or accessible habitat. It is anticipated that as trees gradually senesce or are removed for safety reasons natural regeneration will fill the gaps. Hence the wood will require little active management, beyond ensuring that regeneration is sufficient. Throughout the wood, older trees of any species will be retained as long as safety allows.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Undertake tree safety inspections as part of the site risk assessment regime for public safety in high risk zones (i.e. by buildings, footpaths and roads) and carry out any remedial work identified.
Carry out a Woodland Condition Assessment towards the end of the current plan period to assess the health and

resilience of the woodland including the mix of species and natural regeneration, to monitor threats from tree disease, pests, non-native invasive species and to take appropriate action where necessary..

4.2 F2 Informal Public Access

Description

The main entrance to the wood is from the bottom of Ightenhill Park Lane, through a kissing gate and along the narrow track into the wood. From there it is possible to take a circular walk around the main part. There is also a small permissive path entering the wood from the western boundary, coming from Gawthorpe Hall (National Trust) and over private farmland along the riverside, however this section of path had to be closed in 2009 due to subsidence caused by the River Calder and it is unlikely to be re-opened. All paths are permissive, and very well used mainly by local people. Access is limited to the relatively flat and safe ground avoiding steep and unstable slopes. It is also well known and used by young people who unofficially camp, light fires (which have damaged some trees) and have drinking sessions in the wood particularly at evenings and weekends, despite many attempts to stop them.

Significance

Although access to the countryside is good in the local area, there are relatively few accessible woods. This is partly because of a lack of woodland cover generally (3.7% of land area in Lancashire) but also because many of these woods are 'clough' woods on the steep sides of river and stream valleys. Additionally the woodland provides informal recreational activities for large numbers of people living in nearby urban areas such as Padiham and Burnley.

Opportunities & Constraints

Access to the wood is now limited to just 1 point as the entrance on the western boundary leading up from Gawthorpe Hall had to be closed in 2009 due to a major landslip making the path potentially unsafe. This entrance and section of path are not likely to be re-opened.

Factors Causing Change

Camping, fires, litter & closure of permissive path at western end of site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood has at least 1 easily accessible entrance points, and at least 1,000m of path accessible all year round to a wide range of users to enjoy the wood. Vandalism, litter, fires and associated cutting of trees is stopped or at least kept at levels that will not cause the wood to deteriorate or be off-putting to visitors.

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

Maintain 1 pedestrian entrance and 1000 metres of Permissive Path 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.

The closed off section of the permissive path continues to be used so permanent closure signs will be checked annually.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2021	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,	October
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2022	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,	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	5.88	Birch (downy/silver)	1850	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	County Wildlife Site (includes SINC, SINC etc), Green Belt, Other, Tree Preservation Order

5.88ha (14.5acres) of ancient semi natural woodland composed mainly of native broadleaved trees located in rural east Lancashire not far from the town of Padiham. The central portion of the woodland has regenerated after a clear fell in the 1960's with predominantly birch, this central block is fringed by older trees mainly beech, oak and sycamore. The wood which slopes steeply down a north facing incline borders rural pasture to the south, west, and east whilst much of its northern border abuts either pasture or the River Calder. The woodland has a permissive path running through it which is well used by local people.

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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