

# Trafalgar Wood

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



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](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.

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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Trafalgar Wood

Location:	Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan Grid reference: SS816775 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 170
Area:	0.42 hectares (1.04 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Trafalgar Wood extends to 0.4 Ha and was originally planted to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar. It was gifted to the Trust in 1987. It is one of few woodlands in Porthcawl town. On three sides is housing and on the fourth side is Porthcawl Rugby Football Club. As a result of its location it is intensively used by the public, in particular dog-walkers and children. As a consequence there is a high density of informal and ever-changing footpaths. The wood is dominated by sycamore and ash with some wych elm. The under storey consists mainly of regenerating sycamore, hawthorn and hazel. The ground flora consists of lesser celandines and bluebells. Bramble is dominant in the glades. Listed as Restored Ancient woodland on the 2011 Ancient Woodland Inventory. The key features are ancient semi- natural woodland and informal public access.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

The woodland will be managed to provide a safe local woodland amenity. Quiet informal recreation will be encouraged through the provision of footpaths and low-key signage.

Silvicultural management will be limited to that required on the grounds of public safety.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

<b>Description</b>
This is one of few woods within the boundaries of Porthcawl town. The surrounding land use is housing, communal gardens and a rugby club. A circular path, with a network of other desire lines, gives access to all parts of this small wood. It is regularly used for dog walking, as a thoroughfare and as a play area for children.
<b>Significance</b>
Trafalgar wood was planted to mark the battle of Trafalgar. It is one of few woods within the boundary of Porthcawl town. The value of the site for public access is heightened by its proximity to residential areas and the local Primary School. The visitor numbers are very high to the site although they have never been formally counted but is demonstrated by the high "wear" of the footpaths and woodland floor. The wood provides a natural area within the Urban context, and is therefore important to the local residents and children of the local school to study wildlife.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
General misuse and vandalism will act as a constraint to management options. Links with local schools and community groups will be encouraged where possible.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
Litter and dumping of hazardous waste (e.g. glass and syringes from drug abuse). This is an ongoing and considerable threat to the intrinsic appeal of the site, Inappropriate activities including camp building, fires and vandalism to trees.  Ash Dieback is noted and observed on site and will change canopy composition in some places and will likely be replaced by sycamore.
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
The wood will be enjoyed, by local residents, through quiet recreation and, through increased awareness. The site will be kept in as near litter free state as possible. Signs of vandalism will be rectified/removed. Maintenance will ensure that boundaries are distinct, and regular tree inspections and remedial works ensure that users are safe. The footpath network will be distinct and desire lines will be discouraged where possible, with distinct footpaths being maintained/created through regular site maintenance..
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
The site will be kept in as near litter free state as possible. Signs of vandalism will be rectified/removed. Maintenance will ensure that boundaries are distinct and regular tree inspections and remedial works ensure that users are safe. Maintenance to footpath network will continue keeping formal paths open and free from obstruction.

## 4.2 f2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

<b>Description</b>
<p>Trafalgar wood was planted to mark the battle of Trafalgar in 1905 and comprises of high canopy of predominantly Sycamore, Ash and Elm, although it does feature on the Ancient Woodland Inventory maps.</p> <p>The site is one of few woods within the boundary of Porthcawl town and has good displays of ancient woodland ground flora in spring months.</p>
<b>Significance</b>
<p>The site is listed as a Restored Ancient Woodland (RAW) under the 2011 Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) and is the remnant of larger woodlands which have been lost through housing developments in the town.</p>
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>Due to being within the curtilage of the urban area of Porthcawl, the site is cut off from other ancient woodlands and has very limited connectivity with other woodland habitats. Constraints also are due to location of nearby houses with regular interventions for tree safety being an issue resulting in regular dramatic change to what is a very small woodland.</p>
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
<p>Tree safety works changing canopy composition regularly along with onset of Ash dieback observed within canopy and likely to be replaced by Sycamore.</p> <p>Other factors causing change include trampling of ground flora by visitors and mis-use of site creating anti social behaviour issues impacting upon trees and the woodland (litter and fly tipping)</p>
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
<p>Manage and sustain high canopy where possible and appropriate to maintain woodland 'condition' by maintaining health of standing trees though arboricultural interventions where necessary.</p>
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
<p>Manage and sustain high canopy where possible and appropriate to maintain woodland 'condition' by maintaining health of standing trees though arboricultural interventions where necessary. Remove litter build up from site and try to control and influence mis-use of site by working with neighbours and communities as well as define a footpath in part of the site to alleviate trampling of groundflora issues.</p>

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	August
2023	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	January
2022	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2023	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2024	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
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.4	Sycamore	1900	Min-intervention	Diseases, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order

Trafalgar Wood is on level ground in the centre of Porthcawl surrounded by housing on three sides and a rugby pitch on the fourth. A circular path, with a network of other desire lines, gives access to all parts of this small wood. It is regularly used for dog walking, as a thoroughfare and as a play area for children. Listed as Restored Ancient woodland on the 2011 Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), it was planted to mark the battle of Trafalgar consisting of predominantly mature sycamore and ash with wych elm. Where the canopy has been opened up, the shrub layer is dense with regenerating sycamore, hawthorn and vigorous bramble growth. The ground flora is sparse in the majority of the wood, but lesser celandine and bluebell feature in the spring where ground trampling doesn't occur.

### **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:**

**The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.**

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