

Tilden Wood

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



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

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Tilden Wood

Location:	Headcorn	Grid reference:	TQ839460	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	188
Area:	0.57 hectares (1.41 acres)							
External Designations:	N/A							
Internal Designations:	N/A							

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Tilden Wood was planted with a mixture of native broadleaved trees by members of the Atwater family and friends in November 1985 in a field next to Tilden Road, located 1 ¼ miles (2km) north of Headcorn. The woodland was donated to the Woodland Trust in May 1988 by Mrs Atwater in memory of her late husband Allan.

The woodland is situated on Wealden Clay south of the Greensand ridge and is easily accessible along Tilden Road from Headcorn the nearest town.

The site is flat and is isolated from other woodlands and sits within a farmed landscape beside some cottages and an old oast house of Peckham Farm.

There is a short circular permissive path around the wood. Visitor access is via a squeeze gap entrance on the eastern boundary off Tilden Road. A ditch and hedge forms the boundary with Tilden Road.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Over the next 50 years, Tilden Wood will be allowed to grow and develop naturally, as a refuge for wildlife. This will be achieved with minimum management intervention, allowing deadwood to accumulate, trees allowed to grow old and natural regeneration and young trees allowed to develop where gaps occur in the canopy due to losses.

In 50 years' time ash, which is currently the dominant canopy species, will likely be largely absent due to the impact of ash dieback. Some ash will have died and collapsed without intervention, although most will have been removed for safety reasons given proximity to public areas and boundaries. Due to this threat, tree safety felling during the plan period 2025-2035 will be required.

Low key public access will continue to be provided at a level appropriate for this small quiet woodland.

Statutory obligations will continue to be met with respect to managing tree safety along the boundary with the public highways. Tree safety along private boundaries with neighbouring properties will also be carried out as and when is necessary.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 Secondary Woodland

Description
<p>Tilden Wood, planted in 1985, consists of 0.57ha of mixed broadleaved species at the following proportions: Oak (30%), ash (30%) , alder (5%) , cherry (10%), field maple (5%), lime (10%) and birch (10%).</p> <p>Ash still forms a significant part of the canopy, but there have been targeted fells to remove declining ash due to ash dieback. Within the spaces created there is a developing component of natural regeneration, especially by young ash, sycamore and cherry. Otherwise, internal open space is minimal, as the single circular path is narrow and somewhat shaded.</p> <p>There is a limited but interesting variety of ground flora, as to be expected for a relatively recent secondary woodland such as bluebell and red campion which are the main species of note.</p>
Significance
<p>Tilden Wood is one of the very few areas of woodland set within the flat farmed landscape which surrounds it. There are occasional mature hedgerows nearby, but Tilden Wood provides a significant wooded habitat in the local area, with associated significance for wildlife, landscape value and amenity.</p> <p>The landscape value offered by this wood will increase as the trees within it reach maturity.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunity: To manage Tilden Wood positively and create a small high forest woodland, dominated by oak and cherry, which will add to the attraction and amenity of this area and provide habitat for wildlife in this predominantly agricultural landscape.</p> <p>Constraints: The small size of this wood limits it's potential. Possible damage that grey squirrels can inflict to broadleaved trees and potential deer browsing to natural regeneration in open spaces..</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>Squirrel damage. Ash dieback. Deer browsing.</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>Over the next 50 years, this secondary woodland will grow and develop naturally, as a refuge for wildlife. This will be achieved with minimal management intervention, allowing deadwood to accumulate, trees allowed to grow old and</p>

natural regeneration and young trees allowed to develop where gaps occur in the canopy due to losses.

In 50 years' time ash, which is currently the dominant canopy species, will likely be largely absent due to the impact of ash dieback. Some ash will have died and collapsed without intervention, although most will have been removed for safety reasons given proximity to public areas and boundaries.

Public access will be maintained via an entrance point from Tilden Road, with a circular path providing the opportunity to walk through the wood.

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

The short term objective is to allow the woodland to mature, encouraging natural regeneration in developing open spaces and contributing to a more interesting and varied woodland structure. Public access will be maintained on the existing path, with regular monitoring of tree health to ensure access is safe and adjacent properties are free of tree hazards.

This will be achieved by:

- An annual mow of the circular access path and trim of the entrance.
- Annual tree safety survey, to include the internal access path, residential boundaries and roadside.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	October
2027	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	July
2027	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	October
2028	WC - Fencing	Works associated with fencing to protect planting areas	August
2028	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	October
2029	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	October

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.4	Ash	1985	High forest		
<p>Mixed broadleaves planted in November 1985 by members of the Atwater family and friends. Species planted were pedunculate oak (30%), ash (30%), common alder (5%), wild cherry (10%), field maple (5%), small leaved lime (10%) and silver birch (10%). Approximately 5 wild service trees were also planted.</p> <p>Since planting Tilden Wood has had 2 light thinnings in 1999 and 2017 to reduce ash to allow other long term species to survive. With the onset of ash dieback, felling of dying and dangerous ash started in November 2019 and continued as required through the previous plan period. Most ash are now showing signs of infection, although decline is variable with some trees holding on.</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:

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

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Tilden Wood Management Plan Map

