



Killaloo Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
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Introduction

Plan review and updating

Woodland Management Approach

Summary

1.0 Site details

2.0 Site description

2.1 Summary Description

2.2 Extended Description

3.0 Public access information

3.1 Getting there

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 Long term policy

5.0 Key Features

5.1 Informal Public Access

5.2 New Native Woodland

5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Glossary

MAPS

Access

Conservation Features

Management

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) 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.

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

Site name:	Killaloo Wood
Location:	Killaloo
Grid reference:	C511094, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 7
Area:	6.71 hectares (16.58 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This enchanting oak wood nestling in the beautiful Faughan Valley contains fragments of ancient woodland as well as newer planting. It has a splendid bluebell display in spring, and is home to some wonderful wildlife, including red squirrel, otter and a growing number of bird species.

2.2 Extended Description

Killaloo Wood is the site of small fragments of semi-natural ancient woodland, buffered by new planting and fields that have been left to regenerate naturally. It is situated at Killallo, a hamlet 5 miles south west of Derry City on the main A6 Derry City to Dungiven/Belfast Road. The site was purchased with part-funding from DOE Environment & Heritage Service in 2001 as the last of 50 Woods On Your Doorstep (WoyD) sites in Northern Ireland. The development and first 5 years maintenance of the 50 sites was 50% funded by the Millennium Commission.

The name Derry is derived from the Celtic Dair - an oak, or Doire - an oak grove/oak wood. In the 6th Century Derry was an island in Lough Foyle on which oak characterised the landscape. Derry has retained the symbolism of the native oak through the centuries. It is therefore fitting that this is one of 5 Woods On Your Doorstep sites which the Woodland Trust created as millennium woodlands at the turn of the 21st century in the Derry area.

Killaloo Wood lies in the Faughan River valley which contains significant remnants of semi-natural ancient woodland, with a large fragment in Bonds Glen. The valley links with the Burntollet river one mile downstream on which Ness, Ervey and Tamnmore woods have been designated as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs). The Woodland Trust also purchased one of these linking fragments at Oaks Wood as part of the WoyD project.

Each WoyD site has a feature created to mark and celebrate the millennium. In Killaloo Wood this follows the image of the oak woodland in the area with a galvanised steel seat shaped as an oak leaf situated within compartment 1a.

The site is comprised of 2 separate pieces of land that are separated by a block of 5 fields. The site slopes from the A6 down to the Faughan River. Following consultation with the local community and Homebase employees, 4.4 ha of the 7.53 ha site was planted by contractors and the local community in 2001. It is planted with a mixture of native broad-leaved trees dominated by oak. The new planting was given a Forest Service WGS New Planting Grant in 2002 and again in 2007 while works required within the existing woodland were given the Woodland Improvement Grant. Compartment 3a will become stocked through natural regeneration

An informal path network has been established through the areas of new planting, natural regeneration and the woodland. A fisherman's footpath runs along the edge of the Faughan river, both up and down stream from the site. Several log seats provide resting areas.

Killaloo Wood is bordered to the NE by the A6, on the other side of which is improved grassland farmland. The River Faughan runs along the western boundary, with more improved grassland farmland on the other side, interspersed with fragments of Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and secondary broadleaved woodland, as on the southern boundary which leads towards Bonds Glen. To the north lie fragments of ASNW running northwards towards Oaks Wood and Ness Ervey Country Park.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By bus: There is a regular bus service from Derry/Londonderry to Dungiven travelling along the A6.

By train: The closest train station is in Derry/Londonderry.

For up to date information about public transport, visit translink.co.uk (028 9066 6630).

By car:

From Derry/Londonderry, head south along the A6 for about 9.6km (six miles). From the Belfast direction, pass through Dungiven on the A6 and continue for about 19km (12 miles). Killaloo Wood is next to the layby opposite Brackfield Bawn. There is also a car park close to the Woodland Trust's Burntollet Wood - follow the signs for 'Ervey Wood car park'.

(February 2017)

3.2 Access / Walks

Pedestrian access is through a series of kissing gates from the track opposite Brackfield Bawn, from the old Glenshane Road and from the river's edge. There is an information board at the main entrance. A path takes you through the smaller section of wood, across the fields that separate the two sections, and alongside the river. Look out for the galvanised steel seat shaped like an oak leaf, installed to mark the millennium.

Much of the site is steeply sloping so may be challenging for less able visitors.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In the long term, it would be intended to extend and buffer the existing semi-natural ancient wood and to allow a self-sustaining upland oak (a priority BAP habitat) wood to recover and expand with a well developed woodland understory. This will require the exclusion of livestock to allow natural regeneration within the existing woodland and in field 3a, and to allow the woodland ground flora to recover and extend into the newly planted areas. To prevent the rapid colonisation of non native invasive species within the ASNW, the small areas of snowberry will be removed in the short term, and future control should not be required.

Trees of local provenance have been planted in compartments 1a and 4a. In the short term they may require thinning and restructuring to improve stand stability and favour oak, as all the trees have been planted at one time. Field 3a, below the ASNW, has been left to allow trees to regenerate naturally. This should not require thinning.

Ideally, this woodland should form part of a network of native woodland along the Burntollet and Faughan valleys to Bonds Glen. The Woodland Trust should continue to liase with Derry City council, the local community and NIEA to link and buffer the existing remnants of upland oak ASNW in the area to create a more sustainable woodland ecosystem in the landscape.

Informal public access features will be maintained if they are used, to include paths and seats.

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

As part of the Woods On Your Doorstep project, Killaloo Wood is a community wood providing informal public access. Pedestrian access is available through a series of kissing gates from the track opposite Brackfield Bawn, the fisherman's path along the river, and from the old Glenshane Road.

Grass paths weave through the newly planted fields 1a and 4a, and through compartment 3a. An informal woodland path through the woodland supplements this. 2 culverts were installed over drains along the riverside path in compartment 2a.

A series of wooden seats are provided and an information board at the main entrance informs visitors about the site.

Significance

The access facilities provide the opportunity to "increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland", one of the Woodland Trusts key objectives. The area provides a woodland experience both for local people and as a stop-off point for those travelling along the main A6 road, or visiting Brackfield Bawn. 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

Constraints: Much of the site is steeply sloping and so does not lend itself well to access for the less-able.

Opportunities: Opportunities may exist in the future to acquire additional land to extend the public access and create longer walks.

Opportunities: There is an opportunity to form a partnership with Derry City Council, local people and EHS to create a long distance walking route from Ness Wood Country Park, through Oaks Wood and up the Faughan River to Killaloo Wood.

Factors Causing Change

Visitor use of path, Weather, Natural succession to woodland, Tree canopy closure.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain informal public access to the site by maintaining the paths, seats and open areas. To inform visitors about woodland and the work of the Woodland Trust.

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

The grass paths are to be mowed as necessary to maintain access - 3 times/year to be reviewed in future plans. The woodland paths should be maintained at least 1 metre wide and kept clear of fallen branches. The culverts should be inspected annually to insure their safety for use. Tree canopy closure, in the new planting compartments, in and around year 2015 should ensure no further grass mowing needs to be undertaken.

Access features should be maintained to a high standard. Signs should be replaced as necessary and graffiti removed.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

4.35 ha of new native woodland were planted in compartments 1a and 4a in 2001 as part of the Woods on your Doorstep community woodland creation project. It is hoped that native woodland will regenerate naturally in compartment 3a.

Significance

The aim of the Woods On Your Doorstep project was to create community woodland. The potential here is also to link and buffer the existing ASNW, to expand and improve the existing habitats in the area and improve their biodiversity value.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Invasive snowberry.

Opportunities:

Linking and buffering the existing ASNW.

The development of native secondary woodland with the potential spread of SNAW plants and animals from the adjacent SNAW.

The development of a valuable habitat for local biodiversity.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To encourage the development of a self-sustaining woodland with public access and a good habitat for local biodiversity. In the long term, it would be intended to encourage the site to become a self-sustaining high forest of mixed deciduous woodland and to allow the spread of native flora and fauna of ASNW from the adjacent wood.

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

Monitor the damage by goats and deer to consider preventative action if necessary.

Monitor natural regeneration within compartment 3a.

5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Compartments 2a and 5a are semi-natural ancient woodland. This of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Upland Oakwood type with oak, hazel and holly as the predominant species and an understory of woodrush, bluebells and moss. While much of the mature oak was removed from the wood during plantation times, over time oak would be expected to become the dominant canopy tree once again. When the Woodland Trust took over the management of the site in 2001 it had been overgrazed, but the ground flora is beginning to recover now that grazing has been excluded, and natural regeneration is successful.

Significance

Upland Oakwood is a Priority Habitat within the NI Biodiversity Strategy.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: None

Opportunities:

There is additional agricultural land surrounding these compartments where more buffering and linking of SNAW fragments could be encouraged through work with other landowners or WT purchase.

Factors Causing Change

Snowberry, Natural succession and tree growth, Damage by Goats and Deer

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain and improve the woodland structure and ground flora through the exclusion of stock.

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

Remove snowberry growing within the woodland.

Monitor the woodland for damage by goats/deer

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2019	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	27/11/19
2020	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	WSP - entrance improvements	22/03/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	1st of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	26/06/20
2020	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Control of knotweed and snowberry	30/06/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	2nd of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	31/07/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	3rd of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	28/08/20
2020	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	4th of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	27/11/20
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	1st of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	26/06/21
2021	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Control of knotweed and snowberry	30/06/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	2nd of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	31/07/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	3rd of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	28/08/21
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	4th of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	27/11/21
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	1st of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	26/06/22
2022	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Control of knotweed and snowberry	30/06/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	2nd of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	31/07/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	3rd of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	28/08/22
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	4th of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	27/11/22
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	1st of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	26/06/23
2023	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Control of knotweed and snowberry	30/06/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	2nd of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	31/07/23
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	3rd of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	28/08/23

2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	4th of 4 x visits per year - paths, litter, signage and entrances, seats	27/11/23
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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	2.07	Hazel	2001	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value
<p>This area is comprised of 2 fields sloping from the A6 on the NE to a band of semi-natural ancient woodland. Prior to purchase by the Woodland Trust the fields were grazed improved grassland fields. These fields were planted in 2001 with 60-80 stock of native species.</p> <p>A grass path network runs through the planting. Access is gained from the main track, or through either of 2 gates from the A6. The millennium feature (a galvanised steel seat shaped as an oak leaf) is located at the eastern corner of this compartment.</p>							
2a	2.48	other oak spp		High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value
<p>This is a long narrow fragment of ASNW sandwiched between compartment 1a and 3a. Prior to purchase by the Woodland Trust the woodland had been damaged through sustained grazing. A well-developed upland oakwood ground flora is recovering now that grazing has been excluded.</p>							
3a	1.04			Min-intervention		Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value
<p>This is a long, narrow flat field lying between the ASNW in compartment 2a and the River Faughan. Prior to purchase by the Woodland Trust it was maintained as improved grassland, grazed by stock. No management has yet taken place in this field.</p>							
4a	2.28			High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value
<p>This field slopes from the Old Glenshane Road (which leads to Claudy) on the NE to a band of ancient semi-natural woodland. Prior to purchase by the Woodland Trust the fields were grazed improved grassland fields. These fields were planted in 2001 with 60-80 stock of native species. It was given a WGS New planting grant in 2002 & 2007.</p> <p>A grass path network snakes through the planting. Access is gained through a management gate off the road.</p>							

5a	0.86	other oak spp		High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value
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This is a section of ASNW with ASNW to its NW and SE (not in WT ownership), new planting in compartment 4a to the NE and the River Faughan on the SW boundary. It slopes steeply from compartment 4a down to a flat section alongside the river. Prior to purchase by the Woodland Trust the woodland had been damaged through sustained grazing. A well-developed upland oakwood ground flora is recovering now that grazing has been excluded.

Informal woodland paths weave though the compartment both from compartment 4a and from the land outside WT ownership.

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.