



Old Warren Woodland

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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®) under licence FSC-C009406 and 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:	Old Warren Woodland
Location:	Lisburn
Grid reference:	J259629, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 20
Area:	1.96 hectares (4.84 acres)
Designations:	Woods on your Doorstep

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Planted in consultation with the local community as a 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project, this wood has a mixture of native broadleaf trees including willow, alder and birch in wetter areas, with oak, horse chestnut and ash throughout.

2.2 Extended Description

Old Warren Woodland is a Woods on your Doorstep site situated between Old Warren Housing Estate and the River Lagan in Lisburn, Northern Ireland. Just within the boundary of the Lagan Valley Regional Park, it is frequently used by walkers to gain access to the Lagan towpath. In 2001 a bridge was reinstated over the Lagan adjacent to the site by Lisburn Borough Council and Sustrans, providing a link to Lisburn.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive gifted the land in 2000 as one of the 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 design and development of the site builds on work carried out previously by Voluntary Services Lisburn. Following consultation with the local community, and with their help, we planted 0.7 hectares of the site in 2000 with a mixture of native broadleaved trees, with a willow/alder/birch mixture in the wetter areas. This will complement the existing areas of trees comprised of 0.68 Ha semi mature Oak, plane, ash and horse chestnut, and 0.55 Ha of wet woodland to the south east alongside the river lagan, consisting primarily of Alder and Willow.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

It is intended that public access should be provided to this WoyD site. A linear hardcore path runs from Avonmore Park to the Lagan towpath. This is used by local people to access the towpath and by Rivers Agency for their machinery to access the river. A link off this path was created by Voluntary Services Lisburn to provide access to the view at the top of the knoll in the new planting area.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In the long term, whilst maintaining the site for public access, we will establish 1.86 hectares of native mixed woodland. It is unlikely that it will ever produce quality timber as it is small and vandalism levels will continue to be high due to its urban nature. Given that the main purpose of the woodland is for public enjoyment, the canopy composition will be flexible in the future allowing native tree species best suited to the site to form the climax community. Of primary importance is the establishment of the new planting. In the long term, a minimum intervention approach will be adopted across all compartments, as the trees are not being grown for timber value, and the woodland will mature, and be self-sustaining for its primary purpose of public enjoyment. Regular cutting and maintenance of all paths will maintain public access, and access features should be maintained to a high standard.

In the long term it may be more reasonable to transfer the land to another environmental organisation, but under any agreement the wood should be maintained as accessible woodland and adhere to the Woodland Trust's main aims and terms of FSC certification.

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

Old Warren Wood is a community wood providing informal public access. A pedestrian entrance is provided from Avonmore Park to the hardcore path leading to the Lagan towpath allowing access for pedestrians, single buggies and wheelchair users.

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 for local people. 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 and entrances.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Management of quality access features is constrained by vandalism including burning, theft and graffiti.

Opportunities: As an urban fringe woodland, this site provides an opportunity for many local people to enjoy woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Visitor use of path, Weather, Damage by vandals, Fly tipping

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain informal public access through the site by maintaining the paths and entrances.

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

The hard core paths should be resurfaced when necessary to ensure their suitability for the level of use. The edges of these paths should be maintained to keep long grass and nettles from inhibiting pedestrian use of the path. Access features will be checked annually for safety and maintained as required.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

0.7 hectares of new native woodland were planted in 2000 as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep community woodland creation project. This complements the existing secondary woodland and wet woodland.

Significance

The aim of the Woods On Your Doorstep project was to create community woodland. This also fulfils one of the Woodland Trust's key aims to "increase new native woodland". In addition, woodland creation will add a variety of habitats to the site and improve its biodiversity value.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Vandalism

Opportunities: The development of native secondary woodland. The development of a valuable habitat for local biodiversity.

Factors Causing Change

Vandalism, Natural succession and tree growth

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To encourage the development of a self-sustaining native woodland as a good habitat for local biodiversity.

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

Establishment of the planted areas is of primary importance, once well-established it will be managed with minimal intervention. The remainder of the mature woodland will also be managed with minimal intervention.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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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	0.70	Birch (downy/silver)	1999	High forest	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Woods on your Doorstep
<p>The compartment faces SE, sloping from Warren House and private housing in Woodland Park down to the wet woodland (compartment 1C) adjacent to the Lagan towpath. The compartment is bounded to the north by Warren House and private housing; to the east by private fields (unmanaged); to the south by the wet woodland in compartment 1C; and to the west by compartment 1B. A steep sided knoll provides a good view from the site. At the top of the knoll 2 seats were installed in 2000 but these were vandalised and removed in 2001. Previously left unmanaged by the Housing Executive, the compartment was planted by local schoolchildren in 2000 with 60-80 stock of native species. It was given a WGS New planting grant in 2000 with the final payment received in 2005.</p>							
1b	0.68	Alder species	1980	null	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Woods on your Doorstep
<p>Compartment 1B runs gently downhill from the main entrance on Avenmore Park to the wet woodland of compartment 1 C. The compartment contains multi-age but not mature broadleaved trees including oak, plane, ash and horse chestnut. The main hardcore path runs through the compartment to link the main entrance with the Lagan towpath. The compartment is bounded to the north by Warren House; to the east by the new planting in compartment 1A; to the south by the wet woodland in compartment 1C and to the west by Old Warren Housing estate. This boundary is delineated by a d-rail fence, maintained by the Woodland Trust. Children play in the wood along this edge and it also suffers from dumping and vandalism.</p>							
1c	0.55	other willows		null	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Woods on your Doorstep
<p>Compartment 1C slopes gently downhill from compartments 1A&B to the Lagan towpath. The compartment is characterised by wet woodland of alder and willow with blackthorn in drier areas. Below this bramble and woodrush flourish. Along the tow path edge a greater variety of ground flora flourishes including water forget-me-not, flag iris, meadowsweet and escaped garden plants. The main hardcore path from Avonmore Park continues from compartment 1B through the compartment to the Lagan towpath.</p>							

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.