



# Glasswater Wood

## Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](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.

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.

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## 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

<b>Site name:</b>	Glasswater Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Crossgar
<b>Grid reference:</b>	J446537, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 21
<b>Area:</b>	5.79 hectares (14.31 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Glas means green in Gaelic and the Glaswater River runs near to this site, which was once part of the Great wood of the Dufferin that ran from Downpatrick to Bangor. The three fields that make up this wood were planted up in 2000 with much help from the local community. A pond was created incorporating two wet areas in 2002 to encourage a greater biodiversity within the site. A small car park exists at the north west corner leading off the Glasswater Road

## 2.2 Extended Description

The land was purchased from a James & Mildred Scott in 2000. Glas in Gaelic means green and the Glaswater River runs near to this site, which was once part of the Great wood of the Dufferin that ran from Downpatrick to Bangor, and now has a few patches left at the Quoile and Clandeboye. This site slopes gradually to the north east from a small hill at the south east

The three fields of 5.8 ha were bought and planted up in 2000, predominately oak and ash in the dry areas with willow and alder in the wetter areas - with much help from the local community. The wood now forms an obvious block when viewed from the main Belfast road. The grassland was reasonable grazing with good soils before and only small wet spots lie in the hollows near to the road. A pond was created incorporating two wet areas in 2002 to encourage a greater biodiversity within the site. The access is good off the Glasswater Road and a loop path is regularly mown. The surrounding land is all cattle grazing land with many copses of trees or gorse/thorn thickets. There is an electric HV line crossing west to east of the two northern fields and this was not planted to a 16m width below the lines. A small car park exists at the north west corner leading off the Glasswater Road.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Brown and white tourist information signage directs the public into the site from the main Belfast to Donpatrick Road. Access is from the Glasswater Road into a small car park. A mown grass path loops around the site.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Trust's corporate objective of increasing new native woodland has been achieved with the planting of Glasswater Wood.

The site is to be retained as a secondary woodland to achieve a high forest of predominately mixed broadleaved species mainly oak and ash in the dry areas and willow and alder in the wetter areas. This will be achieved through the establishment of the trees.

The intention will be not to thin, the site will be allowed to self-thin, although this will be reviewed in years 15-20 to ensure that thinning is not required. This will result in some trees or parts of trees dying naturally as competition increases. The resulting deadwood will be left in place creating another valuable habitat.

The Trust's corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland will be achieved by maintaining and encouraging visitors to the site through maintaining public access provision.

The path looping around the site will be maintained until approximately years 10 - 15 when the canopies close in. An assessment should be made then to determine the degree of intervention required, if any. Initial maintenance will consist of maintaining the path to a 2m width.

The pond is graded gradually and will be checked on an annual basis for safety.

Tree inspections to mature trees will be carried out annually. No trees qualify for inspection in the short-term. Tree inspections will be likely in year 2025 onwards. However the boundary hedge that runs along the Glasswater Road will be cut every 2 years, to stop it encroaching onto the road.

This site provides a valuable addition to the local landscape.

## 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

A good site for informal woodland recreation, in an area that is otherwise limited in accessible woodland. There is a mown grass path looping through the site providing access to the pond, hill & planting. Car parking is available and visitors enter the site at a kissing gate located in the NW corner. A management gate allows access for contractors opening on to the Glasswater Road further along this north westerly boundary. An information board and "Welcome" signs are displayed at the pedestrian entrance.

#### Significance

The site was developed as one of the WoYD sites, with the long term intentions of being a community woodland. Through public consultation, it is apparent that local people desire a reasonable access through the site and that there are a group of concerned locals willing to help fix fences and gates, this group has formed a "Friends of Glasswater" group. The community spirit around here is very good especially for such a small planted site. The access facilities also provide the opportunity to "increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland", one of the Woodland Trust's key objectives.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

##### Constraints

One of the more rural WoYD sites, and so it does not have as many visitors, and those that do visit are there to enjoy the woodland and appreciate the quiet nature of the site.

##### Opportunities

Although a community woodland which necessitates public access, as it is one of the more rural sites with fewer visitors, the path does not have to be high maintenance.

#### Factors Causing Change

Canopy closure, Level of public useage

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain informal public access through the site and on-site information by providing facilities appropriate for the level of use. This will include the maintenance of the path to an acceptable standard where it can be used all year round. The pond will have become well established with a multitude of aquatic species associated with it.

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



Because the site was developed as a community woodland, the provision of an informal mown path was deemed necessary. The need for path cutting should be reassessed in and around year 2015 when the trees close canopy.

Boundary inspections to be carried out during the same dates as the path cutting. This is important to ensure no livestock enter the site causing damage. Any repairs to entrance furniture undertaken as required. Litter is not a major problem on this site, however there is some anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping in the car park. The pond is graded and safety checks are carried out once per annum.

## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

Although a woodland creation site, it has potential to be a good woodland site. The development of the site as a woodland blends with the landscape of the area. There is an existing woodland corridor along the Glasswater River nearby which will compliment this site. The ground conditions are good throughout the site, with a small section of damper ground along the base of the hill. This has enabled a variety of tree species to be grown which will increase the range of wildlife using the site.

It contains 5.8 ha of trees planted in 2000 made up of predominately oak and ash trees. In total 9000 trees and 1125 shrubs were planted. The trees are in blocks of 10-50 trees each at 2.1m spacing. Willow and alder species were planted in the damper areas at the base of the hill. A small pond was created in 2002 to encourage a greater biodiversity within the site. Noxious weeds exist in the form of docks. An electricity wayleave crosses the site running SW to NE.

### Significance

Although there are small patches of woodland in the area, these are limited. The potential of this site to be an important feature in the landscape is significant. The planting also fulfills one of the Woodland Trust's key aims to double native woodland.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Constraints

There are really no major constraints to the establishment of secondary woodland of the site. An electricity wayleave exists running SW to NE which restricts the growing of trees 8-10m either side of the power lines. It will also be important to maintain the fences to a high standard as cattle have broken into the site and caused some minor damage to the trees and path.

#### Opportunities

In the future it may be possible to acquire some more arable land adjacent to the existing Glasswater Wood to provide a link with the mature woodland down by the Glasswater River.

### Factors Causing Change

Introduction of non-native species - Turkey oaks, Natural regeneration of willow and alder

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish a secondary woodland. Canopy composition will be of mixed deciduous and conifer species dominated by oak and ash in the dry areas and willow and alder in the wetter areas, with only 1% Scots Pine.

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

As with most other woodland creation sites, the benefit of the site in terms of woodland is small. However, this increases each year as the trees mature. The site has the potential to be a valuable woodland. The trees have become well established. Noxious weeds will be assessed across the whole site and spot sprayed when required to ensure they do not spread or enter adjoining agricultural land. Public introduced Turkey oaks will be monitored to WO to monitor need for thinning, but it is envisaged that the woodland will self-thin, this will be re-assessed in 2015-2020.

## 5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

### Description

Glasswater Wood was planted in 2000 with the help of the local primary school and local community. It's situated near Crossgar (population 1,800). It has a small car parking area. Wood is 5.7 hectares in size with one main entrance. Wood has a small pond created in 2002 to address some wet areas when the wood was planted plus a number of benches. There is a mown loop path.

### Significance

A thriving woodland in a rural area which has little public accessible woodland. This wood if extended could act as a corridor to the Glasswater River nearby. One of the WOYD woods developed in 2000. Well used by dog walkers and locals.

The name of the wood comes from the Irish 'Glas' which means green and this wood has been planted on the site of the Great Wood of the Dufferin which once ran from Downpatrick to Bangor - there are still remnants left at Quoile.

Crossgar is a short distance away and there is an assisted living centre - Glasswater Lodge- just beside the wood. Crossgar has a population of around 1,800 and there are three primary schools in the local area including one integrated school. St Colmcille's High School is also in the village. Community support was strong when the wood was created.

Belfast is 15 miles away from the wood.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunities

Pond area - potential for a dipping platform

Forest School - local contractor using the wood from 2017 to run forest school activities on site

Glasswater Lodge - nearby assisted living scheme, potential to link in with diversity theme focusing on disability events

Possibility to extend wood - create new adjacent planting as a corridor to the river

#### Constaints

Lack of parking - road is a narrow country road- could restrict visitors

Rural location restricts visitor numbers

### Factors Causing Change

Woodland is over 20 years. Coppicing is taking place with Wild Woods Crafts. Some fly tipping at entrance. Climate change. Impact of ash dieback and tree disease.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Increase visitor numbers through the WSP

Look at working with the Forest School to encourage school visits (independent visits) from Crossgar schools

Look at re engaging with the Friends of group which existed in the past

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

Hold some small scale events here in 2018 - starting with dawn chorus, potential for Easter egg rolling

Improve and replace the welcome signage, reorganise the signage

Improve the car park

Widen the paths to take two abreast walking

Manage dog walkers and associated issues

Planting opportunities - wildflowers etc.

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## 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	5.80	Alder species	2000	High forest	Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

This compartment makes up the whole site and consists of 3 adjoining grassland fields used for grazing prior to Woyd / Trust ownership. The fields form a large 'L' shape around 3 sides and the top of a small hill. The slopes are gentle to moderate. The fields boundaries are a mix of fencing and mature hedges. The surrounding land is all grazing land. The site has good deep neutral to acid soil throughout. Exposure is moderate and elevation about 30-40 metres. There is a 3m management gate and a small car park off the Glasswater Road. The site contains 5.8 ha of trees planted in 2000 made up of predominately oak and ash trees. In total 9000 trees and 1125 shrubs were planted. The trees are in blocks of 10-50 trees each at 2.1m spacing. Willow and alder species were planted in "damper" areas at the base of the hill. A pond was created in 2002 to encourage greater biodiversity in the site. An electricity wayleave crosses the site running SW to NE.

## 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.