

Kea Wood

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



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

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Kea Wood

Location:	Kea nr Truro Grid reference: SW801426 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 204
Area:	9.60 hectares (23.72 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The second largest of the Woodland Trust's Woods on Your Doorstep sites in Cornwall, Kea Wood was planted with native tree and shrub species into two separate blocks of agricultural land close to the communities of Kea, Playing Place and Penweathers and only 2 miles from the City of Truro. It helps fulfil three of the Trust's aims of creating native woods and places rich in trees, protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future and inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

Lying on almost level ground in the basin between Carrine Common, Kea and the Killiow Estate and being generally surrounded by woodland of differing types the site is well sheltered. Soils lie over Upper Devonian slates and can be quite heavy and waterlogged in times of wet weather as a result. Ground conditions in the western part of the wood (compartment 1) supports a more natural grass sward with some agricultural flora like buttercups while that in the eastern section (compartment 2) is more enriched as a result of its past and plant species tend to be coarser.

The wood adjoins a large area of secondary mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland as well as being in close proximity to Carrine Common (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) and ancient semi-natural woodland and links into these through well-developed hedgerows and semi-natural corridors. The site is bounded by established species rich hedges. Most of these have been intensively flailed in the past for highways and agricultural reasons, but two of these hedges have semi-mature trees standing on them.

A narrow country lane, forming a 'rat run' to Truro from local communities, divides the site and another forms the southern boundary of both compartments making access to the wood very easy. A section of the Truro to Falmouth railway line forms the west boundary and a green lane part of the north. There is access into the wood off the adjacent lanes via a number of gates and stiles however due to parking and public highway constraints the main access points are located in the northern corner of compartment 2 where there is space at the entrance to the adjacent green lane to park 2-3 cars and in the eastern boundary of compartment 1 through a gate off the wide verge which has sufficient stoned surface for 2-3 cars. Despite its level topography, the support it received at the planting event, the large local population and its good accessibility it is not a well-used site however it is visited regularly by a number of local residents and its usage is steadily increasing.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision for Kea Wood is of an attractive mature broadleaf woodland of varied age, size and species structure with an understorey of woodland shrubs complimented by other habitats such as rough grassland and open glades, clumps of shrubs and scrub, wide rides, over mature trees and managed hedges adjacent to the roads. The maturing woodland will generally be managed as high forest under a limited intensity continuous cover regime to allow the main tree species to develop and to start to diversify the age and size structure naturally. It is intended that the alder in the species mix will recede due to drier conditions at years 30-40 allowing the ash and wild cherry to mature later with the oak forming the climax woodland species. The minor trees and shrubs will then capitalise on the open canopy and increased light levels created and develop into understorey and woodland edge habitats. The woodland's paths and tracks will form an attractive resource for quiet informal recreation and will be managed to appropriate levels to provide a network of routes but light and airy and within the woodland canopy. Areas of the woodland planted with shrubs will to be managed to provide wood-edge habitat. Where these lie adjacent to roadside boundaries their canopy will be maintained at a height and size so that future roadside tree safety liabilities will be reduced and where they lie next to viewpoints, glades, or tracks they will managed so that light and views will be retained. The edges of the wide rides will be managed by irregular mowing regimes to encourage naturalisation to rough grassland habitat that will improve nectaring for insects and to colonise to scrub and natural low level woodland habitat types to provide nesting cover and food sources for birds and animals. Legal obligations such as boundary responsibilities and highways requirements will be managed as necessary. Deadwood will be created gradually as part of any limited intervention and non- native invasive species will be controlled. Deer damage will be controlled as necessary to maintain appropriate levels of natural regeneration.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

Description
<p>Native broadleaf woodland planted in 2000. Species mix is of predominantly Oak and Ash with Gean and Common alder with lower proportions of woodland shrubs and minor trees planted around the outer edges of each compartment to create lower level wood edge type habitat especially in areas close to the roads and properties. Some of the open ground and shrub planting was also designed in order to reduce canopy heights along vistas from the adjacent dwellings to help reduce shading. The area is generally quite sheltered and with soils of good depth and richness tree establishment is generally good however some patches of trees in wetter areas have remained stunted when compared to others and these currently add some diversity in size structure and flora content. The wood stands adjacent to and therefore is buffered by an area of secondary woodland and conifer plantation and is close to a heathland SSSI. As such it forms a substantial core area of native woodland. The mature and managed hedges around the woodland add extra conservation interest and provide corridors linking the matrix, although due to their past estate links they do contain some elements of rhododendron that could colonise the new woodland if allowed to. Around 2015 it had been cut and was under a control programme. The rhododendron within the wood's hedge has been controlled for a number of years but some seedlings and odd bits of regrowth persist. Currently there is still coppice regrowth in the adjacent site which if it falls out of control may present the threat of seeding into the wood</p>
Significance
<p>The woodland and woodland edge habitats created in fill much of an open space within an area of secondary and conifer woodland, hedgerows and associated habitats. It therefore forms a new native woodland core area and links to several other such habitats in the locality improving the sustainability of the present conservation resources. The Woodland Trust believes that there should be twice as much native tree cover in the UK as there is at present. Through the creation and management of Kea Wood we aim to create an exemplar of encouraging other land owners locally to plant and manage their woodland and therefore help deliver our aims of protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future as well as helping to double the area of existing broadleaf woodland across the UK. The woodland helps to deliver national, regional and local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats in the form of new native woodland.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
<p>Squirrel damage The southern boundary of cpt 2 has some persistent seedlings and cut stump regrowth remaining from the control of a number of clumps of dense rhododendron present when the site was acquired. This remaining a target for control; however the secondary woodland opposite has considerable amounts of coppice remaining from recent control programmes. If this is allowed to persist it may present a risk of seedling spread into Kea Wood or as a host to <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> (Pr) which may then spread to susceptible tree species in Kea.</p> <p>Deer damage preventing establishment of natural regeneration of tree, shrub or flora species.</p>

Pest and diseases with current threats from Ash Die-back and Phytophthora ramorum (Pr) causing loss of woodland cover and increase of open ground of colonisation by ruderal species.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A healthy native broadleaf species high forest with open glades and woodland fringe areas in rides and boundary edges providing a diverse age and size structure with a good proportion of mature trees having large spreading 'open grown' type crowns. Common alder will have receded or thinned out allowing Ash and Wild Cherry to mature and Oak to form climax woodland species. Minor trees and shrubs will form a diverse understorey and woodland edge element around glades and wide rides. Areas of land planted with clumps of minor trees and shrubs will have naturalised with a reduced canopy height and size to retain views and reduce roadside tree safety issues in the future. Existing specimen trees on boundary hedge banks will have matured and developed as veteran trees, but otherwise boundary hedges will be managed to as hedge habitat and will not have mature trees on them. Open glades, grassland areas and wide ride sides will have become colonised by rough grasses, wild flowers and scrub providing varied habitats, and nectaring areas for wildlife. There will be no non-native invasive species presenting any adverse effects on site

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

Develop a healthy and vigorous, well stocked woodland with a varied size structure, range of habitat types and open rides and glades with any non-native invasives eradicated or under control measures.

maintain vigour and health, by removing all remaining tree shelters by the end of the plan period

Manage woodland areas to allow the colonisation of scrub and shrub to improve habitat diversity where this doesn't compromise tree growth and health by reducing the intensity of mowing of track and open space edges against the wood on an irregular 2-4 year rotation according to amounts of colonisation.

Allow natural regeneration and colonisation of scrub and tree species to develop as it occurs to provide a more diverse spacing and give natural gradation between planting blocks, hedges, glades and rides linking this to the rotational track edge cutting above as appropriate

Coppicing of some localised areas of predominantly willow and alder adjacent to ride edges and glades where they are impeding access, where their shading is affecting richer floral areas or where they are suppressing preferred species such as ash and oak

Control any non-native invasive on site, but particularly rhododendron which is present in adjacent land and which may also act as a host for phytophthora ramorum

4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

Description

A network of mainly wider management tracks linking open glades/viewpoints and areas of shrub plantings to retain vistas and views. These tracks tend to undulate around the wood in lines roughly parallel to the boundary hedges of each compartment. They therefore provide good distance walks for visitors so that the need to cross the busy road

from one compartment to the other to get a longer walk is reduced. Within the triangular shaped eastern compartment three narrower pedestrian paths run from each corner of the wood to a circular glade in the middle. These will remain narrow paths that weave through the maturing woodland to the hidden glade which is small and contains the granite sculpture selected by the community as their millennium feature. The glade is also lined by a row of the local variety of plum, the 'Kea plum'. It is intended that these will grow up with pendulous branches that will droop to reach the top of the tall sculpture to form an 'umbrella' type arbour or circular tunnel.

Significance

The site is located within a short distance of Truro and other centres of habitation as well as centrally in an area of other high conservation and amenity facilities. Although not currently well used its location and its rapid establishment will increase awareness of its presence and therefore its use will develop in the future. The Woodland Trust believes that everyone should recognise that trees and woods are an essential part of a healthy environment and that there should be a wood with open access close to everyone's home. This will be achieved at Kea Wood through access being a Key Feature of the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

Increase in access levels causing poaching and erosion of path surfaces.
Unauthorised use of the wood by horse and mountain bike riders living in nearby Truro or villages with no local facilities to ride in
Fly-tipping, vandalism and use of the wood for other anti-social activities.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A network of attractive and safe naturally surfaced tracks maintained to provide the required level of community and management access, close to the major population of Truro. Managed open grassland and shrub clump areas and woodland glades with naturalised plants and shrubs along their margins graduating between the differing heights and benefiting wildlife but also being aesthetically pleasing to visitors.

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

An easily accessible network of naturally surfaced and grassy tracks and paths that will sustain and maintain the steady but relatively low level of access required. Currently the site is judged to be Access Category C

Manage tracks by mowing the central 3m wide strip for management and access reasons. Raise cut height and irregularity of mowing along track edges to promote a coarser and more conservationally valuable sward.

Manage open grassland areas by mowing bulk of the grass once annually to help encourage more visitors, but as with tracks raise cut heights around edges with woodland to allow naturalisation and reduce cut numbers of these strips to once every 2-4 years to develop naturalised vegetation of differing heights to graduate from mown grass to shrub/tree heights for aesthetic and conservation benefits.

Maintain gates, stiles, and signs annually to encourage safe access and offer the Woodland Trust welcome.

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	4.42	Mixed native broadleaves	2000	High forest		
<p>Planted in November/ December 2000 with native broadleaved species on improved grassland. The ground is generally level with only the slightest slope towards the western boundary, but as it lies 'downhill' of cpt 2 and subject to the road water run-off the ground can be wet and heavy with surface water in wet weather. . North boundary post and rail fence against meadow belonging to adjacent private dwelling, east and south boundaries along roadsides are hedge banks with the former regularly flailed to keep growth tight for highways reasons and the latter supports a number of semi-mature, mainly beech, trees along its top. The west boundary against the railway is a concrete post and plain wire fence typical of those used in the area for this, which is well grown in with thorn and scrub growth. Access is through two management and one pedestrian gates. One off the lane running west from the X roads is narrow awkward and will generally not be used. The other, a management gate with hunter's gate alongside, enters the site off the road running between the two sections of the property.</p>						
2a	4.95	Mixed native broadleaves	2000	High forest		
<p>Planted in November/ December 2000 with native broadleaved species on arable land. The ground, again, is generally level with only the slightest slope towards the western boundary, but as it lies 'downhill' of surrounding land to the east, and still has 'ridging' from past potato crop management to collect and channel water any run-off gradually "collects' in low areas and inside the hedge at the western boundary and makes the ground soft in wet weather. The soil is of brown earth and drainage is fairly good other than in wet weather when the surface can become quite heavy and waterlogged.. All of the three boundaries are hedge banks, the north hedge adjacent to the old overgrown green lane supports a range of trees and shrubs of varying ages and sizes, the hedge banks to south and west run along roadsides and again have been regularly flailed to maintain road safety and visibility. Access is gained through two management gates, a pedestrian gate and one stile. One off the lane running east from the X roads to Kea Church is narrow and awkward to entre other than from the east and will generally not be used. It has a restrictor fitted to allow pedestrian but prevent unauthorised vehicular entry. The other, a management gate with hunter's gate alongside, enters at the northern corner of the site off the road running between the two sections of the property. The splayed area where the green lane meets the road at this point also affords a small amount of parking space for visitors. A second pedestrian entrance point lies at the southern corner of the compartment opposite North Lodge via a stile.</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:

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