**National Trust Ullswater**

**Woodland Management Plan**

**FAQs**

**The National Trust manages around 480ha of woodland in the Ullswater valley (include the outlying Wetheral Woods near Carlisle). As with most woodland and forest managers in the UK, we produce woodland management plans to detail our long-term vision for the woodlands we manage as well as more immediate ten-year program of work. This is reviewed regularly.**

**What’s the plan for?**

The plan helps ensure that woodland management is thought through, considered, and not on a whim. Woodlands and trees may be over a century old so it is important that plans think long-term and that decisions on their management are well considered!

**What do you call a woodland?**

It can be difficult to differentiate a woodland from a group of trees in the landscape. We tend to go off size of the group of trees, how many trees are in it, and whether it has a clear boundary or not. For example, some of our largest woods may have no boundary but clearly be a dense group of trees forming a wood; other areas may be a clearly bounded area of wood-pasture (a field with more trees in it than most farmed fields), or quite a small block of trees but with a fence that delineates them from the surrounding land.

**Why do you manage woodlands?**

Sometimes we may do little management in a woodland and leave it with minimal intervention. However, many woodlands (even those that are ancient) have been previously managed, which has left them ‘simplified’ with a narrow range of species and/or a lack of different ages of trees. Management often mimics natural processes, such as trees falling in storms, to speed up the otherwise long process of woodlands become more varied and natural. It can also enable a sustainable supply of products from the woodland.

**What will this mean for nature?**

The National Trust manages its woodlands to improve their habitat value to nature, and their value to the local community. This general means promoting native or naturalised species (species that have been in the UK for a long time) and diverse woodland structures, including fallen and standing dead trees. Some Ullswater woodlands are nationally and internationally designated for their wildlife value and we make sure to work with Natural England to promote the best possible habitats that we can. Some of these woodlands host rare species such as red squirrels, otters and unusual rare plants, which we try to promote through sensitive work. Likewise, we plan our woodland work to protect ecologically-important species and areas, as well as archaeological and cultural features.

**Do you extract timber from woodlands?**

If it results as a by-product of our woodland management we may sometimes remove timber or wood products to provide wood fuel and sawlogs, reducing reliance on imported timber or fossil fuel-based products such as plastic. This is only as long as producing and extraction timber won’t cause significant ecological damage, and we try to leave some felled wood as standard to become deadwood habitat.

**Who undertakes the woodland management?**

The National Trust is lucky to have internal Forestry teams in the Lake District to undertake woodland management, as well as Woodland Rangers who organise and plan woodland management and Countryside Rangers who also help with woodland work. We also use local contractors, sometimes with specialised low-impact machinery.

**What about trees outside of woodlands?**

We will continue to manage trees on farmland or outside woodlands; these are often individual ancient trees in pastures, and we aim to improve their health, continue pollarding if trees are active pollards, and plant new trees in cages. With ash dieback expected to cause the tragic loss of some wonderful ancient ash, we are working with our tenant farmers to plant new trees of varying species.

**Are you planning to increase woodland cover?**

There is no new woodland planting planned at present. However, we continue to work with our tenant farmers to increase the number of trees in the landscape, such as areas of scrub planting, individual trees in cages, and ‘wood pasture’ under low grazing levels to allow scattered tree regeneration. If future opportunities for woodland planting or regeneration arise in alignment with the farming businesses of our tenants, and the parameters of the cultural landscape, we will explore how these may be taken.

**How do you manage the safety risks posed by trees?**

The National Trust has robust tree safety management policies, where trees near target areas such as roads, buildings and footpaths are inspected regularly at a frequency related to the area usage, and works considered necessary to reduce risks are then carried out.

**What happens next?**

After consultation, we will consider comments and suggestions that have arisen and, following changes, submit the plan for approval by the Forestry Commission. We will continue to provide information prior to specific woodland management operations, and if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact your local team; see [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/aira-force-and-ullswater](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/aira-force-and-ullswater) for more details.