

Wooplaw Community Woodlands Scottish Borders, Scotland

wooplaw
community
woodland

Big Wood

A mixed 20ha rural woodland, the first to be purchased by a community group

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

This case study is one of a set written as part of a Forest Research project. Some case studies are written by the community group, others by researchers who visited and interviewed group members, but they have all been validated and endorsed by the community groups.

Forest Research developed a standard method for describing the case studies, outlined in Lawrence and Ambrose-Oji, 2013 "A framework for sharing experiences of community woodland groups" Forestry Commission Research Note 15 (available from www.forestry.gov.uk/publications).

The case study comprises three parts:

1. The **Group Profile** provides essential information about the form and function of the community woodland group. Profiles were prepared following the methodology
2. The **Change Narrative** which documents key moments in the evolution of the community woodland group with a particular focus on the evolution of engagement and empowerment
3. The **Engagement and Impacts Timeline** documents milestones in the development of the community woodland group, its woodland and any assumed or evidenced impacts.

The case studies collectively provide a resource which documents the diversity and evolution of community woodland groups across Scotland, Wales and England. The method ensures that the case studies are consistent and can be compared with each other. We welcome further case studies to add to this growing resource.

For further information, and for the detailed case study method, please contact:

Bianca Ambrose-Oji (Bianca.Ambrose-Oji@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

For further information about this case study, please contact: info@wooplaw.org.uk

WOOP LAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

1. Group profile

Woodland: Wooplaw Community Woodland, Scottish Borders Map ref: 350249, 642083 Webpage: www.wooplaw.org.uk Date of profile: November 2013 Resources: RDFN Paper 20c 1996 , management plan. Written by Donald McPhillimy, Wooplaw warden.	
1. Institutional context (in November 2013)	
1.1 Ownership of the woodland(s)	Wooplaw Community Woodlands (WCW) is the first community woodland of the current era in the UK, having been purchased on behalf of the local community in October 1987. It is currently made up of 4 distinct woods: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Axehead Wood2. Big Wood3. Easterpark Plantation4. Gullet Wood It is owned by a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) with charitable status. It was a freehold purchase. Classification of tenure: Ownership
1.2 Access and use rights to the woodland(s)	The Land Reform Act in Scotland provides for responsible public access on all suitable land including Wooplaw Woods. All rights associated with the land are owned by the company.
1.3 Regulations/responsibilities affecting the woodland(s)	There are no legal constraints or obligations on the owners and managers, other than a presumption that the woodland will remain as woodland. The woods are not certified under UKWAS as the premium for the sale of certified timber does not justify the effort of becoming and remaining certified.

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

2. Internal organisation of the group/enterprise	
2.1 Group members, representation and decision making	<p>Membership is open to any person who is willing to be actively involved with, or who pays a subscription to, Wooplaw Community Woodlands. Current annual membership is set at £5 and there are around 120 members. Most reside locally although a few have always shown their support from further afield.</p> <p>The local geographic community is perceived to be the settlements of Galashiels, Earlston, Lauder, Stow and Blainslie together with the people living in between. This means that there is a social catchment of about 6km radius.</p> <p>The current active members are called the Wooplaw Wardens and this informal position is open to any active member. There are usually around 10 Wardens at any one time. The Wardens make the decisions about the management of the woodlands and the activities carried out there. The Wardens usually meet once every 6 weeks or so, in the log cabin when it is warm enough or else in Wardens' homes. The Directors are well represented amongst the Wardens and so there is no need for further Directors' Meetings, apart from the AGM. They represent the membership and the wider community. Non-members are encouraged to join Wooplaw Community Woodlands and become active. The Wardens are well known in the local community and can act as a conduit of ideas.</p>
2.2 Communication and learning processes	<p>The principal medium of communication is the monthly newsletter which is distributed by Email to more than 375 subscribers, of whom only a minority are members. The newsletter is compiled by the current chair of WCW and contains news of Wooplaw, local activities and news from further afield. It is an entertaining read. The Mail Chimp software allows subscribers to tick 6 possible interest boxes at the bottom of the newsletter. This allows additional special interest Emails or newsletters to be sent out to just those who have ticked one of the boxes.</p> <p>Forthcoming events (usually on the last Sunday of the month) are also promoted in the local press and sometimes by poster.</p> <p>The website www.wooplaw.org.uk contains a wealth of information about the woods and past activities. There is also a Facebook group. Active members are constantly sharing thoughts about the woodland. Training is undertaken when it is felt to be needed.</p>

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

<p>2.3 Structure and legal status</p>	<p>WCW is a Company Limited By Guarantee (SC211012) with charitable status (SC030590). This structure replaced the former Borders Community Woodland Trust. There are three Directors of the Company. In addition, there is a Treasurer who is responsible for membership and accounts. Accounts are audited and sent to Companies House annually.</p> <p>The objective of WCW is 'to manage Wooplaw woods in a way which is sustainable and which enhances biodiversity, for the benefit of the local community'.</p> <p>The legal structures provide a constitutional framework within which there is great freedom for the active members to get on with managing the woodland as they see fit.</p> <p>Classification of legal form: Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee</p>
<p>2.4 Regulations/responsibilities affecting the group/enterprise</p>	<p>Full accounts are kept, audited and submitted to Companies House and the Office of the Scottish Charitable Regulator (OSCR). In common with many small community woodland groups, the system of financial control is experienced as more complex and arduous than it needs to be for such small organisations.</p>
<p>2.5 Forest management objectives and planning procedures</p>	<p>The Objectives of Management as enshrined in the Memorandum of Association are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Making the woods and land available to all for the purposes of education, training, recreation and the sustainable production of forest products (where no activity should be to detriment of others). (b) Holding regular events to provide a woodland culture. (c) Implementing a long term plan involving balanced harvesting and planting of appropriate woodland trees and plants. (d) Wherever possible, use local contractors and spend generated income locally. <p>There has been a Management Plan in place since the first plan was drawn up in 1993. A previous short plan existed in 1987 for fundraising purposes. The management plans are revised by the Wardens on a 5 year basis. The Management Plan and other documents can be consulted in the archive section of the website-</p>

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

	<p>http://www.wooplaw.org.uk/?page_id=347. The Wooplaw Wardens are aware of it and use it to guide their activities. The Management Plan currently requires updating but due to a lull in the energy of the Wardens, this has not yet taken place. The lack of a grant system is a real disincentive.</p> <p>The woodlands being largely mixed and non commercial are not FSC accredited. The UK Forestry Standard is not regularly consulted. The main objective of the Management Plan is probably public access and recreation, although other objectives have similar importance.</p> <p>Overall aim of plan: Public access and recreation</p>
2.6 Implementing the woodland management plan	<p>There are no paid members of staff. The Management Plan is implemented by the Wooplaw Wardens. Occasional small amounts of funding e.g. from a local wind turbine community fund, are used to pay contractors to do essential work such as path strimming. Most of the work is carried out by volunteers, some as part of training courses. Borders Forest Trust has often brought volunteers to Wooplaw to work in the woods.</p> <p>2012 being the 25th anniversary of the purchase of Wooplaw woods was a focus for improvements and the refurbishment of facilities such as the BBQ area, the eating area and the compost toilet. In addition a comprehensive mobile phone based interpretation system, called Wooplore, was installed by a local social enterprise. Funds were raised to enable these improvements to happen.</p> <p>In common with many community woodlands, Wooplaw Community Woodlands found it difficult to access the previous forestry grant system (SRDP Rural Priorities) due to its bureaucratic structure, complex points system, need for contractors' quotes and long time scales. At present there is no grant system. It is hoped that its replacement in 2015 will be better suited for small and community woodlands, otherwise the feeling of disengagement is likely to continue.</p>

WOOPLOW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

2.7 Business/ operating model and sustainability	<p>Wooplow Community Woodlands operates in a non commercial way. The essential costs are insurance, equipment depreciation and the occasional removal of dangerous trees. Membership income and a small amount of grant funding covers these costs. Grant funding can be quite variable from year to year and was much higher in 2012, the 25th anniversary. A small charge is made for materials on green woodworking days and for exceptional activities such as weddings. Some who use the woods for courses and events make a donation. The overall pattern of income in 2012 was:</p> <table data-bbox="394 555 940 662"> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td>20 % of total</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations</td> <td>20 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant aid</td> <td>60 %</td> </tr> </table> <p>The woods are quite diverse and it is difficult to put together commercial lots of timber or other woodland products. The Wardens don't perceive a need to develop this income stream. The woods will continue to develop anyway, aided by inputs of volunteer time. Local people booking the log cabin for parties are not charged. The woods are perceived as a local resource and the Wardens would be reluctant to charge fees, which would be hard to collect anyway.</p>	Membership	20 % of total	Donations	20 %	Grant aid	60 %
Membership	20 % of total						
Donations	20 %						
Grant aid	60 %						
2.8 Benefit distribution rules	<p>The Directors and Wardens make no financial gain from the woods. The benefits to the individual members are physical, mental and, possibly, spiritual. The contractor who strims the path, the tree surgeon who takes down dangerous trees, the local company which services the Iron Horse (a small tracked extraction vehicle) and our insurer are the only ones who gain financially from the community woodland. Anyone can visit the woodlands by foot and anyone can apply, via the website, to use the facilities which are there- the various structures scattered around the woodland, such as the log cabin, BBQ area and Wooploft (a small hut on stilts).</p>						
3. External linkages							
3.1 Partnerships and agreements	<p>There are no formal partnerships or agreements.</p>						
3.2 Associations	<p>Wooplow Community Woodlands predates and helped to found Borders Forest Trust which acts partially as an umbrella organisation for all the community woodlands in the Scottish Borders. WCW is also an active member of</p>						

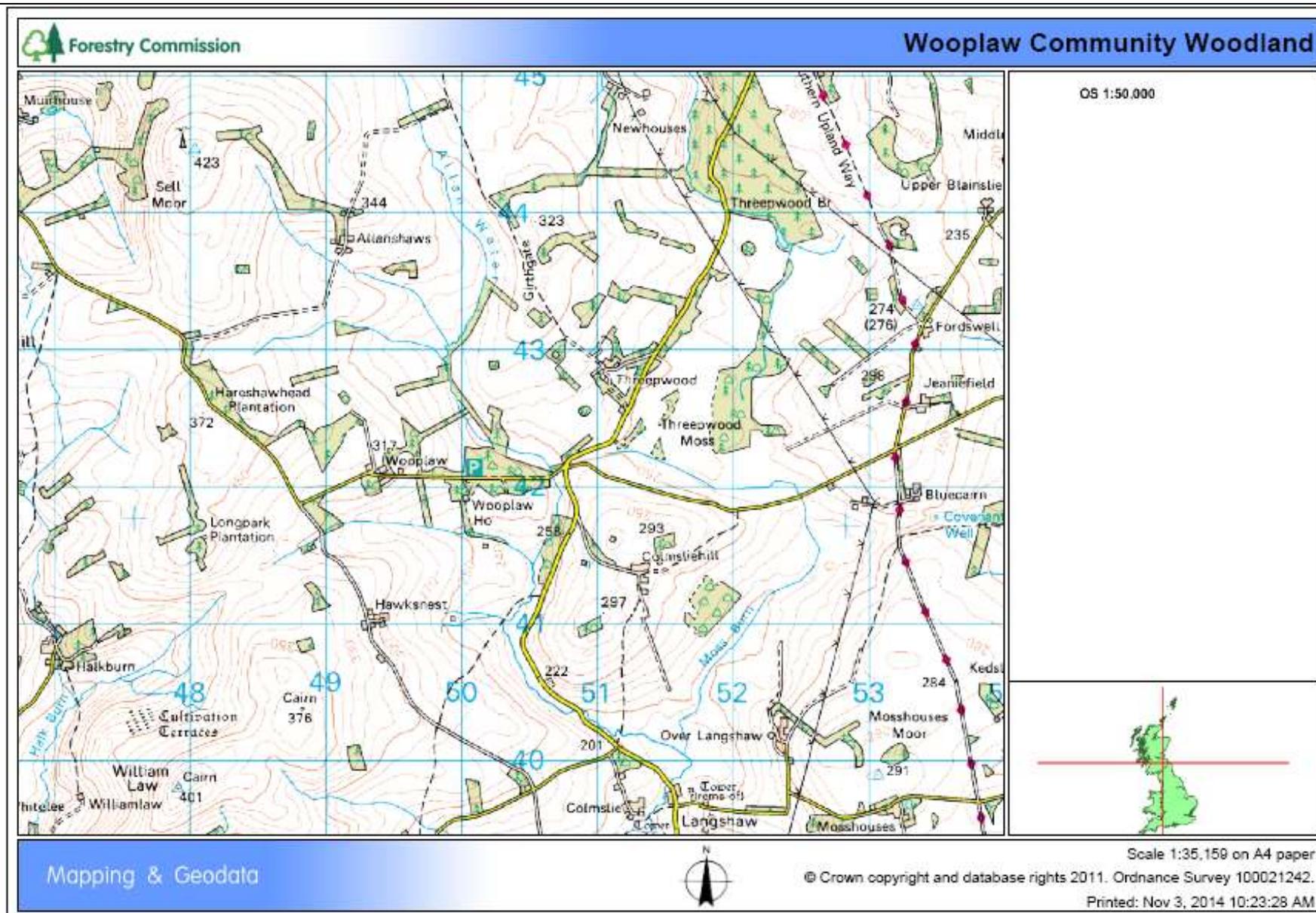
WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

	<p>the Community Woodlands Association which supports community woodlands throughout Scotland. Both these organisations provide useful services such as training and supervised volunteer groups. WCW also has links with the Scottish Wild Harvest Association, the Tweed Valley Forest Festival, Plantlife, the Scouting Association, the Drystone Dyking Association and Bushcraft UK. All the schools in the local area have visited Wooplaw and some are frequent visitors. Forest School sessions are held regularly in the woods.</p>
<p>4. Resources</p>	
<p>4.1 Forest/woodland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wooplaw extends to 20.3 hectares in 4 main compartments. ○ It is located in the hills between Stow, Lauder, Earliston and Galashiels. The grid reference of the main car park at the west end of the woods is NT 503 421. Most of the woodland lies close to 250 metres above sea level in a small wide valley. ○ Access to the woods is excellent. They lie close to minor public roads with several car parks available. The woods are crossed by a variety of trails which have developed over the years, from all ability access to wide dry rides. Steps give access where the valley sides are steep, as at Gullet Wood. There are three waymarked circular trails each starting from one of the three parking areas. ○ The soil is mineral, generally shallow and stony with the water table close to the surface in places. Yet it supports some magnificent trees, including some of the tallest conifers at this altitude in Scotland. The growth potential is good but there is always the risk of windblow. There have been 3 significant windblow episodes in the history of the community woodland. ○ One of the joys of Wooplaw is the diversity of stand types. With the new plantings, the woods are now predominantly broadleaved, having been predominantly coniferous when purchased. The age range is from about 15 years to over 200 with most age classes in between represented. Some stands are pure with one or two species, whilst others are a rich mix. ○ A wave of planting followed soon after purchase, at which time Wooplaw woods were 50% woodland and 50% pasture. This continued for about 10 years, by which time the three fields were planted. As windblow was cleared, sites were restocked and silver birch seeded into the mix. Coppicing has taken place within the last 5 years. No other major operations have taken place over the last 10 years or so. ○ Although there are 4 major compartments, they are quite varied and are sub-divided into 20 or 30 smaller compartments or sub-compartments. This was done in the first management plan and the accompanying

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

	<p>map is still sometimes referred to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Allan Water flows through the corner of Axehead Wood and the older part of Gullet Wood. A pond has been created in each of these areas. Open space has been designed into the new woodlands with wide rides and unstocked areas. Temporary open space has been created recently through coppicing. There is deadwood present in the older stands ○ Classification of woodland type: Mixed mainly broadleaved ○ The woodland is in very good condition and is not suffering from pests and diseases to any great extent. Windblow is a constant threat. ○ A great deal of monitoring has taken place and the results have been placed in the archive on the website for anyone to view- http://www.wooplaw.org.uk/?page_id=347
<p>4.2 Woodland and group funding sources</p>	<p>Wooplaw woods were purchased in 1987 for approximately £33,000. The money was raised by local subscription (events, donations and loans) plus three large grants from WWF, Countryside Commission for Scotland (as was) and a charitable trust. The income from the planting grant was greater than the costs due to the voluntary labour, and so the loans could be repaid.</p> <p>Fundraising is ongoing, initially mainly through Forestry Commission grants. In recent years these have become much more difficult to obtain and the scheme is currently closed. A substantial grant was obtained from the local wind turbine community grant to support the 25th anniversary in 2012. Since then, membership fees have been the main source of income and the woods are operating on a limited budget supported in the main by donations and membership subs. At the moment this income source is preferred to seeking and applying for more complex grant funding.</p>
<p>4.3 Knowledge, skills, human and social capital</p>	<p>Many of the Wooplaw Wardens over the years are well informed about forestry and conservation, some professionally. Experience has been built up on event management. There is a large network of people associated with Wooplaw and local experts are well known. Iain Laidlaw of FCS has been particularly helpful. Expertise feeds into Wardens' meetings which take place in the log cabin in the woods in the summertime and in Wardens' homes when it gets colder and darker. The pool of knowledge is reflected in the website and newsletter.</p>

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS



WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS



2. Change Narrative

1. Group History. Moments of change, motivations and engagement

The Wooplow story, and thus the story of community woodlands in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK in the current era, began with Tim Stead, a sculptor and furniture maker, who lived at Blainslie in the Scottish Borders. He developed an original style of furniture, making full use of the natural characteristics of the timber (see "Explorations in Wood" by Giles Sutherland, published by Canongate in 1993). The more gnarled the timber, the cheaper the price, but conversely the more interesting, desirable and valuable the furniture that could be made from it. Tim decided he wanted to put something back into the community and into nature, to create a woodland that would be open to all, and be there for the future. He began to carve wooden axe heads for each day in 1986. The axe heads symbolised the moment of transformation when a living tree becomes a beautiful and useful piece of timber. Two axe heads found their target in Donald McPhillimy of Reforesting Scotland and Alan Drever of Scottish Native Woods. They met Tim and the idea of buying a woodland (and plantable ground) for the community was born.

A public meeting was held in Blainslie Village Hall that summer to discuss the idea and how best to move forward with it. A wood at Wooplow (3 miles away) came onto the market at just the right time. Interested residents who had attended the public meeting formed a group, and the Borders Community Woodland Trust (BCWT) was established as the body to hold ownership and administer Wooplow Wood. Membership was open to anyone with an interest. This was important as there was no community immediately adjacent to the woods. The assumption was that people from a number of Borders towns would have an interest. The funds to buy the woodland had to be raised quickly. The asking price of £33,000 was a considerable sum. Around 300 local people joined the charity paying a membership fee of £5. Other funds came through local fundraising (notably a public meeting in Melrose with David Bellamy) and grants from WWF and the Countryside Commission for Scotland. The campaign certainly caught the imagination of local people and was well supported. The land was bought by the Trust on behalf of the local community in October 1987. From the outset, local access, wildlife conservation and local jobs were the objectives. The full story has been written up in "Woodlanders", edited by Ian Edwards and published by Saraband.

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

There was then a transition from **active interest** in establishing a woodland based on the founder's **informal enjoyment** and personal motivations. This then translated into community **consultation** and then to **full management** through the process of **group formation** and woodland purchase. In the early years the original founders and a few other members took on most of the management tasks, with wider community involvement developing over time. The Trustees of BCWT were the office bearers of the Management Committee which was elected by the membership. Membership was deliberately affordable, at £5 per year or a day's work in the woods, to ensure the group was as inclusive as possible. The membership fee is still at this rate, 26 years later. The reason for setting up a Trust was that it was felt to be a simple non bureaucratic structure with a simple accounting procedure.

Time passed. Some of the founders moved out of the Borders. New people moved in and moved the woods forwards. A cycle of activity followed by periods of inactivity developed. The catalyst for change to a more active phase would come about when one or two new people became involved. One such was Hugh Chalmers who decided to base his Scottish Wildlife Trust training group at the woods around 1990. Involvement of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) training group also opened up new sources of grant funding, and with the training group based in the woods several days a week and much was achieved, including the building of the log cabin that plays an important part in the woodlands today. The SWT group also helped to contribute to over 18 hectares of planting with native broadleaf species between 1990 and 2000. A number of new organisations and initiatives grew out of BCWT. The Borders Forest Trust (BFT) was formed in 1996 to be an organisation which linked communities to woodlands throughout the Borders area, it was this group who also developed the Carrifran Wildwood project.

Tim Stead died in 2000 and was buried in the community woodland. The new Trustees began to feel uncomfortable about their personal liability should the project fail or trees blow down and cause damage. So it was then decided to set up a Company Limited by Guarantee, and to seek charitable status to open up the route to sources of charitable funding. There was a trade off at this stage between lowering liability and increasing the formality of reporting procedures. The CLG established its new constitution in 2000, and took on the name of Wooplaw Community Woodlands. This helped to distinguish it from the BFT.

The management group which looked after the woods under the CLG continued to be open and inclusive, seeking to share the fun and the pressures of running a community woodland with others. It was realised from the outset of the group that informal structures would probably work best and so the Wooplaw Wardens concept was started. The Wardens are the people who really did the work and would make all the important day to day decisions about the woods and the activities which could take place

WOOPLOW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

there. This group was open to members and non members and met in the log cabin in the middle of the woods in the summer and in their homes when it was cooler and darker. With a membership fee of only £5, most Wardens were also members. The Wardens were also responsible for organising woodland walks which enabled other members and interested people to understand why particular management decisions had been made and what this meant to achieving woodland management objectives.

Today, the main media for engagement and communication is the newsletter which is Emailed to over 300 people and the website. There is also a Facebook page. There is a significant amount of activity that still continues in the woodland. The website shows the on-going popularity of the site for the monthly events, training and skills development in woodland silvicultural techniques and woodland crafts.

2. Challenges, barriers and opportunities for change: Key issues in evolution

Facilitating factors

- Given that it has been around for 26 years, Wooplow Community Woodlands has had a reassuringly stable existence. This may be related to the fact **that the woods are owned**, not agreed or leased, and third parties are (almost) irrelevant.
- Constitutionally, the **ownership has moved from a Trust to a Limited Company** to protect the office bearers.
- The ***modus operandi* has not changed**.
- **Knowledge of woodland management skills** is the one factor which has tended to grow, particularly through the management committee and Wardens, linearly throughout the 26 years of ownership.

Challenges and barriers

- What has been observed since purchase in 1987 is that energy levels and hence activity, has been **cyclical rather than linear**. Maximum engagement and participation took place during the 3 months prior to purchase. Within a month, this

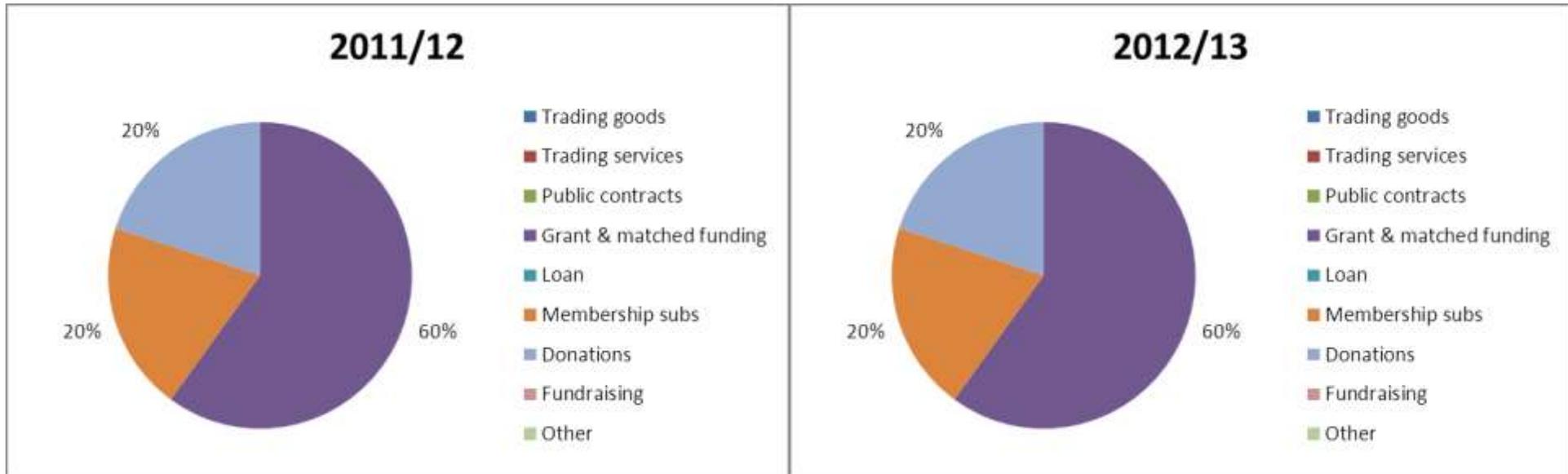
WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

had dwindled to very low levels with bursts of activity at a much higher level, for example when 20 students from NE France came to live and work in the woods for 2 weeks in the summer of 1988.

- Writing about the [Wooplaw workshop in 2007](#), Donald McPhillimy recorded an issue of “volunteer fatigue” and changing volunteer motivations which could help to account for these cycles. One person said *"I duck in and out. I enjoy buildings, structures, green woodworking..."*. At some points *"there have been lots of people, and lots of publicity - David Bellamy coming to Melrose; other times it was just Tim Stead with a wheelbarrow"*.
- Several other highs have taken place since then, each time settling back down to a period of dormancy. The latest peak came in summer 2012 to celebrate the 25th anniversary. Sites were refurbished, tables were built, the BBQ area was rebuilt, drainage was put in, paths were improved, the Wooplore app interpreting the woods was developed, tents and tarpaulins were erected and the Community Woodlands Association was invited to hold its Annual Gathering nearby. In keeping with its community roots, rather than hire marquees and a generator these were purchased and are available for other local community groups' use. All the activity culminated in a very successful and diverse weekend. Now it is quiescent again.
- The most **significant change in the finances of the woodland has been the loss of forestry grants** due to the SRDP not offering suitable options for community woodlands, e.g. requiring three commercial quotes when community woodland volunteers wish to carry out the woodland management work themselves. It is hoped that the next incarnation of this scheme, probably in 2015, will provide improved opportunities for groups such as Wooplaw Community Woodlands.

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

3. Evolution of income streams



4. Woodland history and change: Benefits and impacts before group involvement

Time Period	Owner/Manager	Objectives / Benefits (and evidence)	Major operations	Access and use rights
? - 1987	Mr & Mrs Fairbairn	Farm woodlands- shelter & pheasant shooting	Planting of Sitka spruce over 1 ha in about	Private land, no footpaths.

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

			1970.	
--	--	--	-------	--

5. Woodland history and change: Benefits and impacts since group involvement

Time Period	Owner/Manager	Objectives / Benefits (and evidence)	Major operations	Access and use rights
1987	Wooplaw Community Woodland	Local Access Wildlife conservation Local employment	Windblow clearing Planting Opening footpaths	Responsible right to roam

Main woodland management activities. When purchased, only half of the area was woodland. The first objective was to plant up the fields adjacent to the stocked areas. There were then three windblow incidents to deal with. In each case, contractors were brought in to clear the fallen trees and then the areas were restocked using volunteers. Silvicultural operations have taken place throughout the woods- pruning and respacing. A small area of broadleaves has been coppiced. An extensive path network has been developed and maintained within the woods.

Main woodland-based activities. Since purchase, the woodland has become increasingly well used by the local community and by woodland lovers from further afield. The formal activities usually take place on the last Sunday of the month. These include green woodworking, bushcraft skills, Spooky Woods activities at Halloween, fungal forays, wild harvest days, fire festivals, dry stane dyking, etc, etc. School groups are frequent visitors, some following a Forest School programme, others as one-offs. Many of the local teachers are now comfortable visiting the woods. Work parties are organised as and when required. Around 10 structures of various kinds, including a shanty style log cabin, now adorn the woodland. Young people on back to work schemes use the woods regularly. Woodland training courses are held there. University, college and community woodland groups visit. Special interest groups, such as photographic clubs, visit the woods. Two couples have been married in the woods and Tim Stead's funeral was held there. Families, couples and individuals are free to come and go as they like. And yet the woods seldom feel busy.

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

Benefits from group engagement to group membership. There appears to be no direct link between activity and membership although membership is stable. Most people who enjoy the community woodland do not think about supporting it by becoming members. A number of anonymous donations come in every year and are very welcome. The typical Warden is probably male and in the middle-age to retired category, although there are some younger people and some females also involved.

Benefits from group engagement to wider community. The purchase of Wooplaw Woods and their becoming a community woodland has provided a great resource for the local community. Young people have been introduced to nature, older people have had healthy exercise, visitors have de-stressed, many have learned about their local environment, many sausages have been eaten and beers consumed. The usage of the woods has probably increased over time as more and more people are introduced to the woods, many through school visits, and return from time to time in their own time. The benefits to most people remain the same- a place of safety and tranquillity. Anecdotally, a typical user could be male or female, younger or older but all need to have some means of transport to get there.

Any dis-benefits affecting/from woodlands? The level of vandalism has been very low, probably a factor of the woods being 4 miles from the nearest towns. The small amount of vandalism is still upsetting and ill afforded.

Any dis-benefits affecting/from engagement? Engagement with the woods is only positive.

Any surprising and unexpected impacts? What is surprising is how many people use the woodland and how often you seem to have it to yourself. In terms of organisation, the energy of the management group (the Directors and Wardens) seems to be cyclical, with peaks and troughs. Over time, this has become accepted. The woodland will always be there as will the community, although the organisers are more transient.

6. Future plans

The objectives of the management group are fairly settled. They would like to do more but are constrained by lack of funding and lack of capacity to pursue alternative sources of funding. Management and activities tick along quite nicely. The latest

WOOPLAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

incarnation of forestry grants will be closely examined when it finally emerges to see whether it is accessible to community groups such as Wooplaw.

The trees are growing, the woodlands are developing and silvicultural operations will reflect this. The woodlands are diverse structurally and there is always another area which rewards management input. Wooplaw is likely to continue as a low input, low output system, changing only slowly and bringing a great deal of pleasure to a large number of people, many of whom feel a personal connection with the woodland.

3. Engagement and impacts timeline

Year	Key Event	ENGAGEMENT (changes in type)	Reasons	Changes/ Impacts Social (evidence)	Changes/ Impacts in Woodland (evidence)	Changes/ Impacts Financial/ Economic (evidence)
1986	Time Stead, Donald McPhillimy and Alen Drever scope community interest in setting up a community woodland	CONSULTATION	Founders develop idea of community woodland and take this to community for discussion to judge if there is any support	Baseline	Baseline	Baseline
1987	BCWT established and Wooplaw woodland purchased by BCWT	GROUP FORMATION & FULL MANAGEMENT	Trust felt to be simplest route to holding ownership and managing group	Public access to woodland established Increasing number of visitors		Use of local contractors contributed to local economy

WOOPAW COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

1990	SWT involved through training group	VOLUNTEER IN ACTIVE MANAGEMENT	SWT see opportunity for use of volunteers to plant new woodland, this leads into additional woodland based training		Increased woodland cover (planting records and remote sensed data) Increased biodiversity (various wildlife surveys)	Training led to some employment in forestry
2000	BCWT changes to WCW	GROUP FORMATION & FULL MANAGEMENT	CLG more appropriate form moving forward and charitable status increases opportunities for grant capture	Large number of visitors including ,many school groups increases4e understanding and awareness of woodland issues	As above	Use of local contractors contributed to local economy