Church Covert

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

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

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features

    4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

    4.2 f2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

    4.3 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Church Covert

Location:	Slaugham Grid reference: TQ259280 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 187
Area:	5.60 hectares (13.84 acres)
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Church Covert is situated in the village of Slaugham, West Sussex, in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which comprises 78% of the High Weald National Character Area (NCA). It lies between the ancient parish church of St Mary's and the ruins of Slaugham Place, home to the Covert family for 240 years. The landscape surrounding the wood consists of a rural patchwork of fields interspersed with hedgerows and small woodlands, with occasional properties between. The hedgerows and woodlands are well connected to larger swathes of woodland to the south and to the High Weald treescape to the north. The High Weald AONB and NCA have 26 to 28% woodland cover, approximately three times the national average, with 17% of the NCA being ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and 5% planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS).

Church Covert was planted in the winter of 1997/98 as part of the Trust's Woods on Your Doorstep (WOYD) project to mark the millennium, and local residents chose Church Covert as its name. Funding for the project came from various sources including The Millennium Commission, Forestry Commission, the Sainsbury Family Trust and The Manifold Trust. There was also some tremendous fundraising from enthusiastic local people who helped plant trees on the site.

The planting scheme was designed in conjunction with local people, working around the constraints of overhead and underground services. The open aspect of the site, with just over half of the land planted, was chosen to maintain views both within the site and beyond to Slaugham Place.

The site was previously used for turf production and slopes gently from the north-west to the south-east. Around the edge of the site to the west and the north are established hedgerows with many larger hedgerow trees. In the north west corner is the churchyard of St Mary's, which includes some notable trees, including a one thousand year old yew. On the south eastern corner are the remains of the 400 year old Slaugham Place. The immediate surrounds are rural, with improved grassland to the west, a marshy meadow giving way to scrub and woodland to the east and a riverside woodland adjoining the River Ouse and a large mill pond to the south.

The planted trees are now well established, natural colonisation by native trees is supplementing the original planting and the developing grassland areas and rides provide complementary open habitat.

The wood is accessible via St. Mary's churchyard, from Staplefield Road and via Slaugham Manor to the south, with two public footpaths and numerous permissive paths throughout the site.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In the long-term (50 years+) the site will be developing a high forest structure with significant open space and views to surrounding land.

Due to the small scale of the site, the site functions as one component in its rural setting and management here will not significantly influence the ecology of the wider landscape. However, management to maintain public access and the existing features of the site should be sufficient to maintain the sites integrity as an ecological link to the wider landscape.

Native broadleaves such as oak and alder will dominate the canopy of some stands, with natural colonisation of trees such as birch and willow supplementing the planted trees. A diverse understorey of field maple, hazel, hawthorn, cherry and holly will complement some areas of woodland, with the occasional Scots pine and yew tree adding further interest and diversity. The composition of existing tree stands will change with the onset of diseases such as ash dieback, and some trees will be coppiced or felled where they begin to significantly encroach on existing open space. Where possible, a small number of trees will be retained as open grown specimens to develop into veteran trees and to enhance the aesthetic of the more open areas of the wood.

Herbivore impact (e.g. deer browsing) will not be preventing succession and establishment of native trees and understorey from natural regeneration, or resulting in significant losses of established trees, following appropriate assessment and management to prevent a detrimental impact, if required.

The network of public and permissive paths and rides will be kept open with annual mowing and ride-side coppicing to allow access throughout the whole site and provide visitors with a varied walk through woodland, wildflower rich rides and meadow. The meadow will also be mown annually, with a margin of diverse ground flora and scrub left to develop. Entrances, boundary fences, and infrastructure will be maintained to support this access.

Periodic tree safety work will be necessary on mature trees surrounding the site and as the sites own trees reach maturity, however, both standing and fallen dead wood will be retained wherever it is safe to do so to benefit invertebrates and other wildlife that depend on dead wood.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

Description
The site was planted in December 1997 with help from local residents who also assisted with the planting design. Pedunculate oak was the main canopy species planted, supplemented with ash, wild cherry, common alder and field maple, with an understorey of goat willow, hazel, hawthorn and holly. A small number of the native conifers - yew and Scots pine - were also planted to add diversity. Most trees were well established after 5 years and today many of the species have reached a height of ten metres or more, with areas of understorey beginning spread, giving the site a wooded aesthetic and atmosphere even at this early stage in the sites development. A significant and ongoing influence on the wood is ash dieback, a disease which resulted in the decline and removal of ash on path edges and boundaries, with the decline of young ash within stands allowed to continue naturally. The outcome is likely to result in ash no longer featuring as a canopy tree species, as was originally intended at the time of planting. However, scrub and shrub development is increasing within stands where ash has diminished and the original composition and quantity of planted trees has been supplemented with natural colonisation of birch, oak, ash, alder and goat willow from surrounding trees and hedgerows. Bramble scrub and herbs are developing on ride edges following coppicing and ash felling in the last plan period. The coppicing has also increased pockets of understory development where light has been able to penetrate the stands. Some individual specimen trees (e.g. yew) have been haloed on ride edges to develop into open grown stand-alone trees long-term.
Significance
It is a main objective of the Trust to plant woods and trees to combat climate change, build a greener future for the UK and create havens for wildlife. In addition, one of the objectives (Statement of Environmentally Opportunity) of the High Weald National Character Area includes promoting small-scale woodland creation to buffer existing woods and enhance landscape connectivity.
Opportunities & Constraints
Constraints: Coppice needs to be cut above the browsing height of rabbits, but may still be browsed by deer.
Factors Causing Change
Browsing and bark stripping by herbivores (e.g. deer, squirrel, and rabbits) may have an impact on the developing ground flora and understorey. Natural regeneration of trees (e.g. oak, birch, alder and willow) will alter the species composition and site layout. Ash dieback will affect the ash present within the wood and surrounding landscape. This will alter the structure of the woodland that was envisaged at the time of planting, creating open areas where ash diminishes, giving opportunity for

other species to establish in their place. There is likely to be an increase in dead wood as a result of the disease and this will be retained on site where possible, in places where it does not present a hazard to neighbours or visitors to the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish predominantly native broadleaf woodland with high forest structure, including a diverse understorey. Oak will be the main canopy species, interspersed with stands of birch and occasional Scots pine, with alder dominating the wetter areas. Areas of denser tree cover will be present, particularly on woodland margins where natural regeneration will be most prevalent. Wild cherry, goat willow, field maple, hazel, hawthorn and holly will be plentiful in the understorey and a mosaic of more open woodland and scrubby coppice are likely to be present where tree disease and/or animal browsing and coppicing have affected species regeneration.
Open views will be present between woodland blocks, with occasional individual open-grown, large-crowned tree retained as features.
Dead wood will be plentiful on the woodland floor, with some standing dead wood present where it does not present any health and risk to neighbours or visitors to the site.

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

To enhance the structure of existing woodland blocks. This will be achieved in the plan period with the following:
• Annual coppicing of ride-side trees along approximately 500m (100m per year) of the main path network and adjacent plantation block edges. Where possible, halo thin around existing individual trees to maintain them as stand-alone open grown feature trees for the long-term.
• Retention of cut material on site to increase dead wood habitat.
• Completion of herbivore impact assessments in 2024 and 2027.
• A woodland condition assessment in 2027 to inform the next management plan review.

4.2 f2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

Approximately 40% of the site is open ground in the form of unimproved grassland in meadow areas and wide rides. There is a large central meadow area between the church in the northwest and Slaugham Place in the southeast. The widest ride sections are up to 20 metres in width, with narrower rides along the boundaries. The design of the planting and open ground was carried out in conjunction with local people who requested that the site should have an open aspect with views across it maintained.

The grassland contains several species of fine, slow growing grasses as well as an increasing number of flower species including birds-foot trefoil, self-heal, clover, fleabane, common spotted orchid, with thistle and ragwort diminishing after a recent period of frequent colonisation from those species.

Significance

Unimproved grassland has declined hugely during the 20th century due to changes in agricultural practices and subsidies. Remaining areas of habitat are often fragmented and unmanaged. This habitat can include rare species of

wildflowers and invertebrates. The High Weald is a stronghold for this habitat although areas are often small such as at this site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
Regular mowing is needed to maintain the open ground. Grazing is impractical. Removal of cut material is very expensive and not viable on such a small scale.

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession of trees, scrub and dominating ground flora such as ragwort and thistle.
Grazing by herbivores (e.g. deer and rabbits) may have an impact on the developing ground flora.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Approximately 40% of the site will be open ground. The main meadow area will remain as semi-natural neutral to acid grassland with key indicator species such as birds-foot trefoil, red clover, common spotted-orchid, crested dog's tail and black knapweed. A variety of grasses, wildflowers, coarse vegetation and scrub (e.g. bracken and bramble) should be present on the margins of rides and open areas and between trees, providing beneficial transition zones between habitats.

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

Existing open ground (currently approximately 40% of the site) will be maintained with the following annual operations in this plan period:

- Annual cut and collect mowing of the main meadow and wide ride sections.
- Annual ragwort treatment with organic citronella-based herbicide in line with an environmental and social risk assessment (ESRA) with annual monitoring to assess effectiveness of treatment. To prevent ragwort from dominating other plant species and spreading to neighbouring land.
- Assessment of open space condition in 2024 and as part of the woodland condition assessment in 2027, to inform the next management plan review.

4.3 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Church Covert is situated in Slaugham, a small village seven miles south of Crawley, with a population of just over two thousand people. It is a WT is a WT category B access site (Moderate usage sites. Regular usage, 5 – 15 people using one entrance per day). The wood can be accessed by two public right of way footpaths, one of which is part of the High Weald Landscape Trail, leading to the expansive treescape to the north. Access for people of all abilities is available through St.Mary's churchyard in the northwest corner of the site, via a kissing gate on Staplefield Road and via gaps in the south and west boundaries.

A series of approx. 1.5km of wide rides lead through the tree stands, leading to open areas including a central meadow which gives good views across the site to Slaugham Place, a picturesque set of ruins over four hundred years old. For a rest stop or picnic, the millennium feature created at the site is a group of large concrete mushroom seats and table made by local craftsman Arthur Shopland.

There are occasional mature trees around the perimeter of the site, notably in St Mary's churchyard, which includes a one thousand year old yew tree that is well worth a visit. Exiting the site via the public footpath in the southwest corner leads to a riverside woodland with impressive views across a large mill pond, home to a variety of waterfowl such as grebes, ducks and geese.

A world war two pillbox is situated on the south boundary.

Significance

It has been proven that access to woodland provides an improved quality of life with benefits to both mental and physical health. The residents of Slaugham chose new native woodland as the best use for the site and as a way of commemorating the millennium and it is well used and treasured by the local community. It provides safe and easy access close to the village centre without the need for travel by car, and is also linked to the wider countryside by the two public footpaths.

In addition, one of the objectives (Statement of Environmentally Opportunity) of the High Weald National Character Area includes ensuring that any increased woodland cover is informed by the historical nature of the area. Before the planting of Church Covert, Church Field as it was known, had been used for the production of turf, and before that for hay and grazing. There are, however, some old accounts that the Covert family used to walk through woods to Slaugham church from Slaugham Place. Therefore, as the newly planted trees become established, an historic landscape may in part be reinstated.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
Parking is limited to a few spaces at the church and there are no opportunities to provide additional parking.

Factors Causing Change

Wet ground conditions: Increasing wet weather may lead to increased mud and standing water resulting in further damage, widening of paths and trampling of ground flora by visitors if appropriate footwear is not worn.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Access infrastructure will be maintained and reviewed to cater for the level of footfall in the wood. A well-maintained network of rides and paths throughout the site with a variety of rideside habitats will be present. The open nature of the site will be maintained to keep views open and provide a welcoming experience for all visitors.

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

To maintain safe and enjoyable public access provision within the plan period. This will be achieved in the plan period with the following:

- Annual path and entrance maintenance.
- Tree safety inspections and remedial work in line with the Woodland Trust Tree Risk Management Policy.
- Annual inspection of the pillbox and an assessment of access infrastructure and signs in 2024.
- An assessment of access infrastructure and signs in 2027 as part of the whole site woodland condition assessment, to inform the next management plan review.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2023	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	June
2023	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	June
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2023	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2024	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	June
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2024	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	June
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2024	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2025	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	June
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2026	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	June
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2027	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	June
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5.6	Oak (pedunculate)	1998	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
3.06 ha of P98 mixed native broadleaves. 2.89 ha of open ground. Species: 50% pedunculate oak; 17% ash; 10% wild cherry; 4% common alder; 4% goat willow, 13% other native broadleaves (field maple, hazel, hawthorn and holly) 1% yew and 1% Scots pine. Planted at 1100 trees/ha (3m spacing). 3800 trees, originally protected by 1.5m tree shelters. Shelters replaced by rabbit spirals in 2005.						

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.

Windblow/Windthrow
Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.