

Adams Wood

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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 Ancient Woodland Site
 - 4.2 F2 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Adams Wood

Location:	Frieth	Grid	reference:	SU783904	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	175
Area:	12.00 hectares (29.65 acres)								
External Designations:	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site								
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Adams Wood is a 12 ha (29.5 acre) ancient semi-natural woodland site and is situated near Frieth, Buckinghamshire within the parish of Hambleden in the Wycombe district, and the heart of the Chiltern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The woodland was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1997. It is positioned on a south-easterly aspect on the edge of a dry valley, with excellent views over the Chilterns and a particularly attractive view to the nearby village of Skirmett. It adjoins other ancient and semi natural woodland on the northern and western boundaries, as well as improved grassland to the north-west and east. Approx. 9 ha (22 acres) is classified as ancient, with 3 ha (7.5 acres) added since 1845. The Chilterns form the north western edge of the chalk aquifer that underlies the London basin. These soft rocks form a steep, north west facing escarpment and a more gentle 'dip slope' to the south east. Woodland is widespread, being found on the plateau and as 'hanger' woods in the valleys and on scarp slopes. Woodland blocks are scattered densely across the NCA as a mosaic with other semi-natural habitats and farmed land, except in the northern third where woodlands are present as smaller, more isolated fragments.

The woodland is a mixed high forest canopy planted on an ancient woodland site (PAWS), dominated by pole stage beech with oak, ash, cherry and silver birch appearing frequently, and some occasional field maple, sycamore, hornbeam and yew. The majority of the woodland was felled and replanted between 1959 and 1975 with beech, Japanese larch, Corsican pine and ash. However, there are trees on the boundaries and scattered large yew, ash and whitebeam internally which are older and pre-date the planting. The conifer element has been thinned several times, the most recent operation focusing on larch in 2015 in compartment 2 and again in 2019. The understorey is sparse and spread out, and includes elder, hazel, holly and field maple. Climbers present include ivy, traveller's joy and black bryony. The ground flora consists mostly of dogs mercury with bramble, bluebell and bracken, though 17 ancient woodland indicator plants have been recorded including hairy wood rush, remote sedge, wood sorrel, wood melick, woodruff, wood millet, wood sedge and yellow archangel.

There are many archaeological features present within the site including a sunken lane which forms part of the public bridleway as well as sawpits, wood-banks and charcoal hearths. There are a series of terraces and lynchets evident which are likely to be the remnants of an early medieval field system. These features were surveyed and mapped by John Morris of the Chilterns Woodland Project in 2002, and he concluded that the area is likely to have been wooded for perhaps 600 years.

The soils at Adams Wood are free draining loams (brown rendzina soils) overlying chalk of the Cretaceous era. The terrain is mostly flat with a maximum height above sea level of 135 metres (440 feet).

A public bridleway runs through the middle of the site, linking Frieth and Skirmett and providing good access to the woodland. It also forms part of the Chiltern Way (a long distance footpath through the Chiltern Hills). There is circular walking route possible around the wood using the bridleway and a connecting permissive path.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intentions for Adams Wood will seek to realise two of the Woodland Trust's three key aims:

- to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife
- to restore damaged ancient woodland

Much of Adams Wood is ancient semi natural woodland. Ancient woodland is one of our most valuable and threatened terrestrial wildlife habitats, and in England is defined as woodland sites with evidence of continuous wooded cover since 1600 AD. At Adams Wood, both conifers and broadleaves have been planted between 1958 & 1975 following extensive felling.

A restoration programme has taken place since acquisition at Adams wood with a number of operations focused on thinning non-native conifer species, to revert the stands to a more semi-natural composition. The conifer element now comprises a minor element (variable across the site 15-30%) and the threat from dense shade has been reduced to negligible levels in these work areas, and has therefore secured ancient woodland remnants in all bar a few isolated areas.

Existing native broadleaves will also require extra room to grow and develop however, and subsequent operations will focus on providing a diverse and resilient range of native and locally appropriate tree species. Practically this means that the broadleaf plantation component (where identified after assessment as a threat to diverse and durable broadleaf regeneration and/or forming dense shade suppressing ground flora) will be gradually thinned. In subsequent selective continuous-cover (there will be no loss of woodland cover) operations to thin stands to robust levels, management will consider practice which may provide an economic return. A minor component of specimen conifer trees will be retained long-term to provide increased biodiversity and woodland resilience.

As the woodland matures, management of the woodland will diversify the overall age and stand species structure. Some broadleaved trees will be identified and left to reach old age and decline naturally. Provision of deadwood, both standing and fallen will be maintained and to provide important niche habitats within the wood, particularly for invertebrates and fungi, except if they pose a significant tree safety risk. Silvicultural operations will focus on improving the habitat required to favour the continued presence of the rare flora present on site, increasing diversity of tree species and age structure to enhance biodiversity, and developing a diverse and mixed woodland that is resilient to pests and diseases.

Ash makes up 40-60% of some compartments and ash dieback is prevalent in the wood. These areas will be monitored and managed in the long term to ensure positive natural regeneration is achieved. Due to the excessive pressure from deer both lethal and non-lethal methods of woodland protection will need to be utilised to ensure the long term objectives and the regeneration of the site. Lethal means alone of controlling deer at Adams Wood are not practical due to the size of the wood, local population of fallow deer and the landscape that Adams Wood sites within.

Path management at Adams Wood will help to create lighter conditions within the wood which will enhance the edge vegetation structure, as well as helping to dry out the path surfaces for visitors which tend to remain damp for much of the year.

Observations will be carried out to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland. For example, where possible and given the resources available there should be no damaging invasive species present on the site. The colonisation by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) will be monitored and managed where ash trees are present alongside paths and tracks where they pose a danger.

The wood will always remain open for public access and the public's enjoyment of the woodland will be enhanced by improving and maintaining an accessible and safe network of paths and rides. Entrances, boundary fences, and benches will be maintained as necessary and the access provision will be monitored and provided.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 F1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

This is a planted ancient woodland site with most of the planting having taken place in 1959. Principally Japanese larch with some Corsican pine was planted on 5.5 ha but this now comprises a minor element (variable 5-10%) following a number of thinning operations (most recently in 2020) and the threat from shade has been reduced to low levels in this zone.

Broadleaves have been planted throughout the woodland, (beech, ash, oak, cherry) but are now mixed with younger naturally regenerated trees (mostly ash and beech) plus a scattering of older pre-plantation trees in the western side of the wood (yew, ash and whitebeam) which are older and pre-date the planting. Approximately 40-60% of some compartments are ash.

The understory is sparse and includes elder, hazel, holly and field maple. Climbers present include ivy, traveller's joy and black bryony.

The site still contains a rich ancient woodland flora, including bluebell, dog's mercury and wood spurge. The site NVC Classification approximates to 'beech - dogs mercury woodland' W12. Seventeen ancient woodland indicator plants have been recorded including hairy wood rush, remote sedge, wood sorrel, wood melick, woodruff, wood millet, wood sedge and yellow archangel.

Archaeological features are present including sawpits and also wood banks around much of the boundary, which contain some of the oldest trees growing in the wood including whitebeam, yew and field maple as well as beech. A minor element of non-native laurel is still present in the SE corner of the wood, alongside some planted box.

Roe, fallow and muntjac deer are all present and numbers are being managed on site.

Significance

Restoring PAWS woodlands is the only way of increasing the UK's area of ancient semi-natural woodland, which cannot be recreated. Buckinghamshire is a county where 45% of ASNW has been lost since the Second World War with only 4000 ha remaining. ASNW is irreplaceable, and the amount in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. ASNW is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites, and a key aim of the Woodland Trust is to prevent any further loss of ancient woodland.

Adams Wood contains a high quantity and diverse range of flora, many of which are ancient woodland indicator species and nationally scarce.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- The internal tracks can remain wet and slippery, and are very steep in parts. Access for machinery is only available through the northern entrance. Extraction of timber is limited due to the width and condition of the lane to the north linking the wood to the paved roads.
- Woodland archaeology is present and damage must be avoided during any forestry operations.
- Deer are present on site and browsing is significant.

Opportunities:

- To use the site to demonstrate the Trust's approach to woodland management and to influence neighbouring landowners and other key stakeholders.

Factors Causing Change

- Death of ash due to colonisation of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*).
- Herbivore impact.
- Increasing shade as trees mature and subsequently ground flora is reduced.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In the long term the PAWS areas within Adams Wood should be majority broadleaved in composition, with all other major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition, including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, pre-plantation trees, and a diverse deadwood component.

Adams Wood will have a diverse species and uneven age of native trees with a sustainable level of regeneration.

The colonisation by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) will affect the species composition of the wood. The resulting mixed stands (oak, beech, cherry, sycamore, birch) will be managed on a continuous cover silvicultural system to produce uneven-aged, self-regenerating stands of high conservation and amenity value.

The wood will also be free of non-native invasive species such as Portuguese laurel, which will have been eradicated. Sycamore is naturally regenerating in the woodland and this process will be allowed to continue.

Herbivore impact, will be kept in check through monitoring and control where necessary

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

Within this plan period the focus of management will be directed towards reducing threats to ancient woodland components from conifers, invasive species, deer and diseased ash.

- Reduce risk along tree safety Zone B from ash in advanced stages of decline by ride-side coppicing . Cpt 1a - approx. 850m. 2023.

- Eradicate invasive non-native species (Portuguese Laurel) by pulling seedlings, cutting and treating with herbicide (subject to glyphosate ESRA). 4 clumps. 2024.
- Reduce threat from conifers by thinning to <20% of total canopy cover. Cpt 2a. Approx. 2ha. 2024.
- Increase successful regeneration of tree species towards proposed varied age structure by protecting against deer browsing. Cpt. 1a: install approx. 600m deer fencing. 2024. Continue with fallow doe control.

4.2 F2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Adams Wood is relatively isolated in the heart of the Chilterns AONB, with the closest vehicular parking in Frieth around 1.6km / 1 mile away.

The wood has a small catchment of visitors. Adams Wood lies in the middle of the Chiltern villages of Frieth (population of 568 to include) Fingest and Skirmett, all small villages between 1km – 1.6km and 0.5 - 1 mile away. High Wycombe (population 83,523) is 8km / 5 miles and Henley on Thames (population 11,782) 9.5km / 6 miles. There are a small number of more isolated dwellings closer to the wood as well.

There are 2 public rights of way running through the wood. A 580m section of bridleway that enters the wood on the north eastern boundary joining the sunken track that runs north to south and leaves at the southern boundary . A 165m section of public footpath enters the wood at the northern boundary following the original track and ends at the junction with the bridleway. Both PRoW are part of the Chiltern Way long distance footpath, a circular walking route of around 200 km / 125 miles, taking in some of the finest scenery in the country. It is way-marked throughout and is a wandering, varied and mostly rural way stretching around the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The route passes through all four counties of the Chilterns (Bucks, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire) and takes in most parts of the Chilterns.

There are 3 official entrances into the wood and one other 350m permissive path which starts at the junction with the bridleway and public footpath and rejoins the bridleway further south, adding an additional route for walkers to explore. All routes total 1.1km / 0.7 miles and are unimproved, steep in parts and are slippery and muddy during periods of wet weather.

Due to the low level of visitors The Woodland Trust has given the site a category C for access, (low usage site where we do maintain paths), where less than 5 people per day use a single entrance.

Nearby Woodland Trust sites include Munces Wood and Kimbers Copse some 14km / 8.5 miles to the east near Marlow Bottom, Pullingshill Wood and Marlow Common 7km / 4.5 miles to the south east.

The site is isolated and far from local schools and with no parking facilities (on road parking at Skirmett).

Significance

Adams Wood provides a quiet area for walking and recreation for people living near to the woodland.

Visitors walking the Chiltern Way pass through Adams Wood.

Ancient woodland site which has been wooded for 600 years.

There are many archaeological features present within the site including a sunken lane which forms part of the public bridleway as well as sawpits, wood-banks and charcoal hearths.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- The woodland path network can become very muddy during wet weather, particularly as some of it is used by horse riders on the bridleway
- Vehicular parking is not available

Opportunities:

- There is the opportunity for habitat interpretation and public engagement as it is transected by the Chiltern Way which brings more visitors than a usual isolated woodland.
- To provide access to special interest groups interested in former land use and wildlife including some rare flora.

Factors Causing Change

Habitat change as woodland matures and loss of the ash trees due to ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access will be provided at the wood in perpetuity along accessible and safe but not over-managed access routes.

Infrastructure to be kept to a minimum with only what is required to reduce likelihood of unauthorised vehicles entering.

There will be an appropriate level of signage and interpretation for the site.

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

During this plan period access within Adams wood will be maintained to allow visitors enjoy the peace and tranquility of the woodland,.

- Routine safety inspections of the trees Zone B every 2 years. Visits increased to annually until ash die back does not face any likely threat to visitor safety - revised following 2023 operation.
- Entrances - annual maintenance and inspection: Cleaning of all signage and fixing of any immediate problems with entrance furniture.
- Path cutting and maintenance: Removal of encroaching vegetation and overhanging branches – approx. 1000m -

annually.

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,	August
2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	December
2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	February
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
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,	July
2024	WMI - NR Protection / Promotion	Physical works, other than tree felling / thinning, undertaken to encourage/promote / protect natural regeneration – such as fencing to protect natural regeneration	October
2024	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	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,	July
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,	July
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,	July

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	4.28	Beech	1965	High forest	Archaeological features, Landscape factors, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>A stand of mixed broadleaves planted in mid 1960's and mainly ash and beech. There are a scattering of larger pre-plantation ash trees, some maidens and some coppice, (last cut most likely when the re-planting was carried out). The hazel present in the stand is probably pre-plantation as well. Further planting of beech is thought to have been undertaken around 1975. The age class of trees is quite diverse overall. There is a good deal of natural regeneration, accounting for at least 20% of the stand, and a significant amount of young beech developing. Other species present include yew, hornbeam and wild cherry, (especially in the northern quarter of the compartment), as well as holly, hawthorn and field maple. The ground flora is made up of dog's mercury, bluebell and honeysuckle. Squirrel damage is evident on some of the beech stems.</p>						
2a	5.14	Beech	1959	High forest	Archaeological features, Landscape factors, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>A plantation of Japanese larch and beech estimated to have been established around 1960. The quantity of planted larch in the stand was variable; in the northern half it accounted for 30-40% of the stand and is the tallest tree in the canopy, whereas in the southern half it was 10-20%. There has been routine thinning of the larch and it now comprises no more than 15% overall. Natural regeneration of ash and beech has occurred and is now quite developed, accounting for over 20% of trees. In the northern half there is a noticeable lack of young trees below 20</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>years and therefore a lack of understory; this differs from other parts of the wood and is explained by the low light levels due to the larch. Deer browsing on broadleaf cut stumps is evident. There is an historic wood-bank on the eastern boundary which has older pre-plantation trees growing on it. Whitebeam, field maple, beech and yew are all present on the wood-bank. Other broadleaves in the stand are wild cherry, sycamore and holly. Ground flora consists of patchy dog's mercury, lords and ladies and honeysuckle. A clump of Portugese laurel and box is present in the southeast corner, probably established for game cover.</p>						
3a	2.57	Beech	1959	High forest	Archaeological features, Landscape factors, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>This is the western most block of Adams Wood and is predominantly an area of broadleaf high forest. Beech is the predominant species and is thought to have been established at two intervals, in 1950 and 1970. There is also ash coppice scattered throughout the stand which was last cut around 1960. A minor component (no more than 10%) of conifers is present, namely Corsican pine and Japanese larch and some of the pines are now forming impressive specimen trees. The larch and pine closer to the western boundary have suffered wind-snap and wind-blow. Other broadleaf species include birch, hawthorn and yew. Sycamore is now well established and regenerating. There are older beech trees situated along the south westerly edge of the wood, in several lines and presumably planted in this way. Ground flora is comprised of abundant dog's mercury, lords and ladies and honeysuckle. But nettle and ivy (on trees) are evident towards the western edge of the wood, which could indicate fertilisation of the ground in the recent past. There is a wood-bank on the western boundary with mainly field maple and hazel growing on it.</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:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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