

Oldmoor Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website <u>www.woodlandtrust.org.uk</u> or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- · Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- · Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website <u>www.woodlandtrust.org.uk</u>. 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.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

- 1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
- 2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, 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.
- The long term vision for our non-native plantations on 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 heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
- 7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential 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 allow our woods to be used to support 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. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Oldmoor Wood
Location:	Strelley
Grid reference:	SK497419, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 129
Area:	15.04 hectares (37.16 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Green Belt

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A mere five miles from Nottingham city centre, Oldmoor lies in a surprisingly rural area. Within the wood is a small circular pond with beautiful old yews standing on its central island. A network of tracks form easy circular walks through the wood.

2.2 Extended Description

Oldmoor Wood (15.11 hectares) lies within a rural location although surrounded by nearby urban conurbations, about 5 miles due west of Nottingham City centre and immediately west of the M1 motorway. The wood as we know it today was planted in 1792, as part of the wider parkland design scheme for Strelley Park, by Thomas Webb Edge. However it is known to have been "planted" or developed on a site holding surviving ancient woodland or a network of smaller copses/wood pasture.

There is a documented history of timber production on Oldmoor going back at least another century. Although the wood is not officially ancient it does contain a wide range of specialist woodland flora (usually associated with ancient woods) such as wood anenome, yellow archangel, wood sorrel, giant bellflower, yellow pimpernel and wood sanicle together with an especially good display of spring bulbs. snowdrops, dense bluebells and wild daffodil. Not much is known of the bird populations within the wood except that it holds the usual range of common woodland species. Roe deer are known to be present and the surrounding area holds a relatively large herd (30-60) of fallow deer which use the wood for shelter and calving.

The exact list of species planted in 1792 is held on the reference file (together with costs), but included mostly oak and ash with a scatter of more ornamental species such as rowan, wild cherry, horse chestnut, beech and sycamore. Also included were a handful of poplar of which one or two still survive. As these predate the development of the widely planted clones in the 19th century, they are almost certainly the rare native black poplar. The NVC types within the wood have not been assessed, but the wood holds a wide range of natural woodland types from willow dominated wet woodland to dry, acid lowland mixed broadleaves.

The topography of the wood is predominantly flat in an undulating landscape of farmland, hedgerows and which now small woodlands. The whole area overlies coal measures and there was a well documented mining industry locally in the 16th century. Remnants of this can be seen in the old pit on the north boundary of the wood, whose spoil tip can still be seen in the woodland edge. Small ponds and depressions crop up through the wood and are probably relics of this early mining period. More recently the surrounding areas were extensively mined through opencast workings for coal. This along with the subsequent construction of the M1 motorway has destroyed virtually all of the ancient woodlands in this area apart from Oldmoor itself. Prior to the 1960's Oldmoor was surrounded on north and south sides by two very much larger ancient woods; Spring Wood and Shortwood. The former was reclaimed and replanted apart from a small strip and the latter has disappeared without trace.

A large man made pond exists in the wood, complete with an artificial island planted with yews. It is assumed that this was part of the scheme for the parkland development although it may be based on an earlier medieval fishpond similar to the one that lies immediately to the southeast of the wood. A further fishpond on the same watercourse used to exist up until the beginning of the 20th century just off the west corner of the wood.

The northwest quadrant of the wood (1b) was felled during the last war and subsequently replanted with oak, beech, scots pine and sycamore. This together with the more recent 1960's planting of scots and corsican pine in 1c forms the PAWS area of the wood.

Today the dominant canopy trees are common oak, ash, sycamore, beech, birch and cherry with an under storey of holly, rowan, blackthorn, hawthorn, suckering elm, goat willow, crack willow, elder, alder, hornbeam and the occasional small-leaved lime.

There is a network of tracks through the wood forming easy circular walks. One circular route has been marked with waymarkers. The wood lies closely adjacent to two other smaller Woodland Trust properties, which are leased to 3rd parties; Holly Copse and Brickyard Plantation.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Access to the wood is via a lane from the public roadside at Strelley (opposite the entrance to Strelley Hall), where there is parking for one or two cars only. The roadside gate on the private road is locked to prevent dumping so therefore access is by foot only, over a distance of around a kilometre. The first section is a metalled surface, but the narrow trackway down to the wood from this lane is unsurfaced and rough in places. Entrance to the wood itself is via a squeeze stile. Within the wood there is a waymarked circular trail and various other permissive routes. All paths are unsurfaced and rough in places. There are many places that get wet and boggy after moderate rainfall.

The nearest known bus service is two miles away on the Strelley Road area of Nottingham. Details can be obtained on Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or alternatively on 0871 200 2233. The are no public facilities in the vicinity of the wood.

The wood lies within easy reach of a large urban population in Nottingham and the surrounding large towns of Eastwood and Ilkeston, however with the lack of reasonable parking and relativelty remote location it is unlikely to receive lots of visitors. The wood does however make a nice detour from the Robin Hood Way which passes through Strelley.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Oldmoor Wood is to maintain the existing ancient woodland of cpt 1a through continuing small scale thinning to ensure the dominance of the oak and ash in the canopy and to maintain large developing veteran trees free of excess competition to enhance their conservation value.

The two conifer planted areas will be restored to predominantly broadleaved through a thinning programme to ensure reversion to a mixed broadleaf character by gradually removing conifers and favouring native broadleaved species.

Deadwood levels will be gradually built up through a combination of retaining material from thinnings and ringbarking standing trees.

Public access facilities will be maintained at their current low key level.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

Oldmoor has an extensive network of paths relative to the size of the wood, including a waymarked circular route which begins from the pond area. The trackway leaving the wood on the northern boundary, (SK500 420) links to Holly Copse, an adjacent Trust property. This path is also the main Trust management access.

Significance

Oldmoor is an important resource for local people who enjoy walking in the woodland and for visitors coming out of Nottingham and the nearby large towns of Ilkeston and Eastwood: it is also the largest remnant of woodland with public access on the west side of the city The woodland is not as formally managed as other public woods in west Nottinghamshire, many of which have surfaced paths and information panels at regular intervals. It is important that Oldmoor retains its atmosphere of being 'natural', without being unwelcoming.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site is ideally placed for visitors from Nottingham, being situated right on the edge of the city. Visitors to Oldmoor have to walk to the wood as access is along a locked gated lane. The wood is the best part of a kilometre from the nearest roadside parking and for this reason it is not intended to promote or manage the wood for less abled visitors. Unauthorised horse riding is an occasional problem and some damage to paths has occurred, and many of the paths can become boggy and slippery after heavy rain. However the wood makes a very attractive walk especially when the spring bulbs emerge.

Factors Causing Change

Any change in the level of visitor useage, anti-social activities such as camps and fires and litter. Desire lines have formed into the areas of vegetation due to poor drainage along the main ride increasing compaction and ground vegetation disturbance.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the existing open network of rides, paths and tracks for informal public access. Public access provision should be low key but welcoming in order to retain a 'natural' feel to the woodland.

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

Maintain the current level of visitor provision over the plan period, undertaking clearance of the paths, maintenance of the signs and litter collection on at least one occasion annually - which is commensurate with the current level of useage. Thinning operations and ride management will increase light to the main path and rides enabling them to dry out as these have become unusable in periods of heavy rain. Resurfacing of the main ride in areas of standing water and drainage work to be undertaken to ease issues surrounding areas of path widening and unmanaged desire lines.

5.2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin

Description

The wood holds many ancient woodland relic features and ground flora since it has been little disturbed since the current wood as we know it today was planted in1792. It is known to have been "planted" on a pre-exisiting site or a network of smaller copses/wood pasture. The exact list of species planted is known and included mostly oak and ash with a scatter of more ornamental species such as rowan, wild cherry, horse chestnut, beech and sycamore. Also included were a handful of poplar of which one or two still survive. As these predate the development of the widely planted clones in the 19th century, they are almost certainly the rare native black poplar. One fine specimen is mapped on the conservation map and other remnants of trees felled and since recoppiced or fallen and regrown lie along the small watercourse close to the north boundary of the wood. The mature section of the wood now contains some very fine mature oak which may or may not predate the park planting. Some are know becoming stag headed and increasing in conservation value.

A small series of open glades were created around 2000, together with the widening of the main east/west ride, to provide improved habitat for woodland invertebrates, especially butterflies The ground flora encompasses many ancient woodland species such as yellow pimpernel, wood millet, giant bellflower, wood anenome in profusion, figwort, wood sanicle and yellow archangel. There is a strong vernal flush of bulbs including occaisional snowdrop, profuse bluebells and commonly, wild daffodil. NVC type hasn't been assessed but these range from wet woodland areas dominated by sallow to lowland acid mixed woodland. Sycamore and beech are present in the canopy and can be sourced back to the original park plantings,: but these do not dominate extensively in the original areas of the woodland. Areas 1b and 1c which have been subject to felling and replanting in the latter half of the twentieth century have been planted with pines, beech and sycamore alongwith oak.

The wood is used extensively by a local herd of fallow deer although numbers do not appear to be at damaging levels for the structure of the wood or its ground flora.

Conservation and Historical Features:

The wood contains one large man made pond and associated wet woodland together with smaller wet depressions/ponds and earthworks from old mining activity dating back to the 16th century. The larger pond was almost certainly developed as part of the parkland planting as it has an artificial island with several yews. It may be on the site of an older medieval fishpond similar to the one that still exists "upstream" on the south edge of the wood. Another pond existed "downstream" on the same watercourse, off the northwest corner but has since been infilled. This sallow dominated watercourse also contains remnant native black poplar in addition to the mature tree mentioned above.

The period of mining which ended in the early 1600's has also left an old pit on the north boundary of the wood where the footpath exits, and the small spoil heap can still be seen in the woodland edge.

Significance

Oldmoor wood is the largest surviving remnant of ancient woodland on the west side of Nottingham following extensive opencasting and motorway contruction.

Opportunities & Constraints

Oldmoor Wood (although heavily modified by paintings and fellings in the last two centuries) is one of the older plantations west of Nottingham: the old, heavily wooded landscape was largely destroyed by open cast mining and the subsequent construction of the M1 in the 1950's and 60's. It now lies in a predominantly agricultural landscape

The northwest quadrant of the wood 1b, was felled during the last war and subsequently replanted with a mixture of oak with scots pine, sycamore and beech. After several thinnings this is now developing well into an attractive area of largely restored native woodland. Further thinning will be necessary to ensure the promotion of the preferred native species (oak, birch and ash) and to reduce the predominance of sycamore pine and beech in some areas. Overall the form of the oak is very much better than average and long term quality timber production as the wood matures is certainly a management option for the future. The ground flora in this area is largely the same as the remaining areas of the original woodland except where getting shaded out locally by pine and beech.

The pine planted area of 1c is also showing signs of broadleaved regeneration following two thinnings. However restoration of this area will take longer due to the high dominance of pine still in the canopy and the extent to which bramble in the ground layer dominates at the expense of the ancient wooldland specialist ground flora.

Factors Causing Change

potential deer browsing, tree growth and senescence, Invasive bracken within glades. Potential opencast coal mine to south and west, initially proposed in 2012.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the woodland area in a near natural state as possible. Maintain the dominance of native broadleaves where necessary through thinning and gradually increase the limited deadwood component through leaving thinned material to rot and ringbarking a handful of trees away from paths. Leave over mature trees to senesce and enhance their conservation and habitat value by gradually reducing neighbouring competition.

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

In this planned period there will be active intervention, the opening up of the main paths to aid in developing a ride side shrub layer and encourage the drying out of the main pathways. The tinning of the poplar stand and halo thinning many of the veterans focussing upon those trees with high conservation value. Maintain the existing set of small glades free from sapling regrowth to maintain the open habitat network for woodland butterflies and invertebrates. Maintain a small annual cull of fallow deer to maintain the population at its current level.

5.3 Secondary Woodland

Description

The northwest quadrant of the wood 1b, was felled during the last war and subsequently replanted with a mixture of oak with scots pine, sycamore and beech. After several thinnings this is now developing well into an attractive area of largely restored native woodland. Further thinning will be necessary to ensure the promotion of the preferred native species (oak, birch and ash) and to reduce the predominance of sycamore pine and beech in some areas. The ground flora in this area is largely the same as the remaining areas of the original woodland -1a- except where getting shaded out locally by pine and beech.

The scots/corsican pine planted area of 1c is also showing signs of broadleaved regeneration following two thinnings. However restoration of this area will take longer due to the high dominance of pine still in the canopy and the extent to which bramble in the ground layer dominates at the expense of the ancient wooldland specialist ground flora. Groups of ash, oak, birch and rowan are developing albeit slowly.

Significance

Restoration of the woodland will enable continuous cover as part of the wider landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Only small but regular adjustments to the tree canopy is required to prevent increased shading from the planted beech and to a lesser extent sycamore, reversing excessive dominant species. The area requires further thinnings to ensure that oak is promoted in the final canopy composition. Cpt 1c is in an early stage of restoration and the pine crop is still dominant although small groups of oak birch and rowan are starting to develop. Unfortunately bramble is dominant in the ground layer at the expense of other woodland specialist species. Too heavy a thinning would result in further increases in bramble levels, so stand treatment needs to be handled carefully to maintain a balance between promoting broadleaved regeneration and reducing bramble cover.

Factors Causing Change

tree growth and regeneration, thinning/ringbarking, deer browsing

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Cpt 1b continue the gradual removal of scots pine and reduce the dominance of beech in the canopy to favour the oak, ash and sycamore.

Cpt 1c encourage the development of broadleaved regeneration groups throughout the current pine dominated areas, by thinning.

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

Over the five year period,

1) Thinning operations should be undertaken throughout 1c and 1b as many of the trees are now showing signs of becoming shaded out by more dominant species resulting in poor crown growth. Little evidence of regeneration can be seen within both compartments resulting in a single aged woodland due to the lack of light upon the ground layer. Focus for thinning operations should be made to the central ride running throughout the woodland which is devoid of regeneration and vegetation.

2) Maintain a small annual cull of fallow deer to maintain the population at its current level.

3) carry out a follow up PAWS survey early in the plan period, ideally 2019.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME					
Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By		

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	9.56	Oak (pedunc ulate)	1792	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest, Green Belt

This compartment holds most of the old woodland relic features and ground flora since it has been little disturbed since planting in the late 18th century. It is known to have been planted on a site holding a surviving network of smaller copses/wood pasture. The exact list of species planted is held on the reference file (together with costs), but included mostly oak and ash with a scatter of more ornamental species such as rowan, wild cherry, horse chestnut, beech and sycamore. Also included were a handful of poplar of which one or two still survive. As these predate the development of the widely planted clones in the 19th century, they are almost certainly the rare native black poplar. One fine specimen is mapped on the conservation map and other remnants of trees felled and since recoppiced or fallen and regrown lie along the small watercourse close to the north boundary of the wood. The mature section of the wood also contains some very fine mature oak which may or may not predate the park planting. Some are know becoming stag headed and increasing in conservation value. The ground flora encompasses many ancient woodland species such as yellow pimpernel, wood millet, giant bellflower, wood anenome in profusion, figwort, wood sanicle and vellow archangel. There is a strong vernal flush of bulbs including occaisional snowdrop, profuse bluebells and commonly, wild daffodil. NVC type hasn't been assessed but these range from wet woodland areas dominated by sallow to lowland acid mixed woodland. Sycamore and beech are present in the canopy and can be sourced back to the original park plantings,: but these do not dominate extensively. The wood is used extensively by a local herd of fallow deer although numbers do not appear to be at damaging levels for the structure of the wood or its ground flora. The compartment contains one large man made pond and associated wet woodland together with smaller wet depressions/ponds from old mining activity. The larger pond was almost certainly developed as part of the parkland planting as it has an artificial island with several yews. It may be on the site of an older medieval fishpond similar to the one that still exists "upstream" on the south edge of the wood. Another pond existed "downstream" on the same watercourse, off the northwest corner but has since been infilled. Several small glades have been created to maintain the butterfly and invertebrate interest.

1b	3.91	Oak (pedunc ulate)	1945	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor	Informal Public Access, Long Established	Community Forest, Green Belt
					vehicular access	Woodland of	
					to the site,	Plantation	
					No/poor	Origin,	
					vehicular access	Secondary	
					within the site	Woodland	

This north west quadrant of the wood appears from old maps to have been felled in the war years. It was since replanted with oak, beech, sycamore and scots pine. The planted trees have been augmented with self seeded ash and birch and now form a pole stage to early mature wood of mainly broadleaves with around 25% scots pine. The form of the broadleaves, the oak especially, is very good, and the area with a little care and attention will develop back into very attractive broadleaved high forest. Fortunately the ground flora has survived relatively well and is similar to that of 1a but with a greater tendency towards bramble and coarser vegetation. The spring flush of flowers is still relatively good. Two areas of wetter sallow dominated woodland exist: the watercourse along the north boundary and the area around the earthworks and shallow ponds. This latter area has probably developed from 16th century mineworkings that were common in this locality and would merit some further investigation. There is also a known old pit marked on old maps on the north boundary of the wood where the footpath exits. The small spoil heap can still be seen in the woodland edge. The northern boundary watercourse contains remnants of native black poplar regrown from felled and fallen trees. This far northern side of the wood is relatively undisturbed and is known as a calving ground for the local herd of fallow deer. This area was thinned in the period 1995-99, with subsequent light thinnings undertaken in 2006 and 2007, and now part of an ongoing PAWS restoration programme through annual removal of 20 stems per hectare throughout the plan period.

1c	1.45	Corsican	1965	High forest	No/poor	Informal Public	Community
		pine		_	vehicular access	Access, Long	Forest, Green
					to the site,	Established	Belt
					No/poor	Woodland of	
					vehicular access	Plantation	
					within the site	Origin,	
						Secondary	
						Woodland	

Corsican and Scots pine plantation, planted 1968 following a clearfell, but with numerous broadleaf stems surviving and small groups of beech, birch, oak and ash. The compartment was thinned in 1991 and then thinned again by approximately 30% during 1995-1999. Ringbarking of small areas (10 trees per year) was carried out during 2006,7,8. Thinning work within 1c will be undertaken in late 2019 to the best of species. This is one of the few compartments with regenerating oak. Ground flora is poorer than the rest of the wood due to the greater shading from the pine crop and bramble is more extensive. Bluebells and wood anenome still persist although at lower densities.

2a	0.19	Open ground	Non-wood habitat	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access, Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin, Secondary	
					Woodland	

Cpt 2 encompasses the access lane to the property. This consists of a 7-8 m wide strip of hedged soft track with shrubs encroaching on either side. The trackway has been in existence for at least as long as the parkland planting in the eighteenth century and possible longer: although judging from old maps it used to be wider in extent and not a uniform width. It affords access to pedestrians and 4x4 wheeled vehicles only to the wood.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Thin	9.06	40	360
2019	1b	Thin	4.24	40	170
2019	1c	Thin	1.55	26	40
2029	1a	Thin	9.06	33	300
2029	1b	Thin	4.24	47	200
2029	1c	Thin	1.55	32	50

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. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

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

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