WOODLAND TRUST

Core Hill Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM **Page No.**

Introduction
Plan review and updating
Woodland Management Approach
Summary
1.0 Site details
2.0 Site description
2.1 Summary Description
2.2 Extended Description
3.0 Public access information
3.1 Getting there
3.2 Access / Walks
4.0 Long term policy
5.0 Key Features
5.1 Informal Public Access
5.2 Feature Trees
5.3 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat
5.4 Secondary Woodland
6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions
Glossary

MAPS

Access
Conservation Features
Management

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 www.woodlandtrust.org.uk 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 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.

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.
4. 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:	Core Hill Wood
Location:	Sidmouth
Grid reference:	SY113911, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 192
Area:	10.40 hectares (25.70 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Core Hill Wood is situated approximately two miles north of Sidmouth. Access is via Core Hill Road, a single track no-through road with no pavements, which runs off the A3052 west of Sidford and terminates at the Woodland Trust car park at the wood. There is parking for seven cars in the Woodland Trust car park if tightly parked. The main track, which is a byway open to all traffic (BOAT), rises steeply from this car park but is rough and rutted. There is a public footpath leading from the car park through a squeeze stile, along unsurfaced paths, again with uphill slopes, and also another linking up to a bridleway on the open heathland of the Common.

2.2 Extended Description

Core Hill Wood is a part of the larger Harpford Common and Fire Beacon Hill area to the north of Sidmouth. As such the site, when taken as a part of the whole area, provides part of a much greater range of wildlife habitats and many more options for the visitor. While this plan focuses on the Woodland Trust holding of Core Hill, all management decisions have been taken in context of the area as whole. The heathland across the whole area is managed through grazing under licence by the RSPB.

Historically Core Hill was an open area of heathland and scrub woodland. The area has a large number of old boundary banks and a number of old trees, that are approaching veteran status, who's growth form are that of an open grown trees. They are mainly large beeches. Much of Core Hill has developed as secondary woodland typically of ash, beech and sycamore but the lower slopes to the southeast have good stands of bluebell. There are other none native trees such as lucsombe oak and turkey oak as well as a smattering of scots pines. Much of the wood outside of Core Hill is conifers, managed by the Forestry Commission, or private owners. The 2ha block of heathland, within Core Hill, is currently under restoration and, while having heather and bell heather in it, is dominated by gorse and purple moor grass. The open top of Harpford Common and Beacon Hill have large areas of good quality heathland; while the less accessible slopes to the south have more of a mosaic of scrub, gorse and purple moor grass. The heathland areas have breeding nightjar, Dartford warbler and adder.

The wood lies on the south western edge of the Blackdowns National Character Area but has stronger physical and ecological connections with the Pebblebed heaths more associated with the eastern fringes of the Devon Redlands NCA.

The wood and surrounding land is well used, predominantly by walkers, but also by horse-riders. Parking is available both at the south of Woodland Trust land and on Forest Enterprise land to the north.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Bus
The nearest bus stops are on Sidford High Street where Core Hill Road meets the A3052, and opposite at Stowford Rise which leads to Waitrose supermarket. The wood is around ¾ of mile from here. Information from the Traveline website as at August 2015
Further information: 0871 200 22 23 or
http://www.travelinesw.com/swe/AHF/1100DEB10351_150821_FP.pdf

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To provide an enjoyable visitor experience using Core Hill Wood in conjunction with the neighboring Beacon Hill and Harpford Common, using a combination of designated footpaths and bridleways and permissive routes for walkers. The area is well visited and will fulfil the Trust's corporate objective of increasing public understanding and enjoyment of the wood.

Core Hill will be managed by the Woodland Trust, taking into account the mosaic of other habitats in the area that are outside our boundary control. This will mainly affect the heathland area on Core Hill which will be grazed by the RSPB in conjunction with its grazing work on the rest of Fire Beacon Hill, for Sidmouth Town Council, with the aim of restoring it back to high quality heathland
Large feature trees by maintaining existing feature trees, and recruiting new trees for long term retention, to provide continuity of habitat and landscape. While most of the current feature trees are non-native, it is expected that future feature trees are likely to be native as they will be developed from natural regeneration. The woodland will be left to natural processes, intervention only occurring if natural regeneration does not occur apart from the he area under the pylons, which will be managed as coppice by Hi Line as safety requirements dictate.

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

The wood forms part of a larger complex of land (including White Cross owned by Forest Enterprise, and Fire Beacon Hill owned by Sidmouth Town Council) open to the public, and there are a number of public rights of way crossing Core Hill. The wood is less than a mile from the edge of Sidmouth and a number of leaflets and websites promote access in the area. This and the availability of parking both at the Woodland Trust and Forest Enterprise end to the north means the woodland is well used, primarily by dog walkers and horse riders. Although the main route through the wood (Core Hill Road) is not owned by the Trust, the woodland contributes to the enjoyment of those using this track for recreation.

Significance

Increasing public enjoyment and understanding of woodland is a corporate aim. Although access is up a quiet lane, and therefore not immediately obvious to passing visitors, promotion of the area by The Woodland Trust, Forest Enterprise, Sidmouth Town Council etc. through websites and leaflets means that visitors are drawn not only from the surrounding area but from further afield.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Historically the wood is occasionally misused e.g. by motorbikes, joyriders, ravers and squatters, and those dumping litter. Core Hill Road, a rough track which bisects the wood is not owned by the Trust, and as a BOAT, makes it difficult to limit undesirable access.

Factors Causing Change

The wide range of users of the wood and surroundings can cause conflict and make some surfaces unsuitable for various user groups.

There are a number of large notable / veteran trees which add to the visitor experience on Core Hill, the experience could be reduced if something catastrophic happened to them.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A woodland that contains a well maintained bridleway & footpath, car park and entrances, providing for medium to high access for the local population as part of a wider network of routes in the area.

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

Operational Objective
Easily accessible, attractive, well maintained and safe woodland that the public frequently enjoy. Entrances and bridleway/footpath condition are appropriate to the level of use and type of demand of visitors. This will be done by:

1.Tree safety checks on a regular basis in line with Trust recommendations with work as necessary
2. Ensuring car park, bridleway and paths are well maintained in a condition appropriate to use.
3. Upgrading site signage particularly the car park entrance.
4. Upgrade path (surface and drainage) leading from car park through woods (PROW footpath) in association with Devon County Council.

5.2 Feature Trees

Description

Along the external boundaries, and enclosure banks which divide up the wood, are some very large feature trees, mostly beech, scot's pine and oak (including pedunculate, turkey & Lucsombe), thought to have been established at the same time the land was enclosed. Some of these trees have trunks of 1m diameter at breast height and over, some are single stemmed, some old pollards/coppice. 19 of these trees are currently mapped as notable or veteran trees on the Ancient Tree Hunt maps, and a further 8 are recorded in the adjacent Forestry Commission and private woodland. Collectively they enhance the internal landscape of the wood. . A number of beech saplings have been taken from other parts of the wood and planted in gaps on the enclosure banks to provide future cohorts for the existing feature trees.

In the wider landscape, Core Hill is close to Sidbury Castle and park which is approximately 1km distant at nearest point. Sidbury is on the Provisional Inventory of Parkland and Wood pasture sites in Devon currently of unknown quality/value but expected to be at least of regional value.

Significance

Very large, old trees are a scarce resource, which can be of value both in landscape terms and for a variety of lichens, fungi, invertebrates and mammals. The Woodland Trust supports the retention and enhancement of old growth and veteran trees.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: Creating a more open feel around some trees may encourage more of a heathland community to develop.

Constraints: The current veteran scots pines do not appear to have much viable seed as there are not a large number of seedlings in the heathland. The planting of new scots pines with higher seed viability could be significantly detrimental to the condition of the open heathland and is therefore not considered a good option.

Factors Causing Change

1. Position on top of the hill, makes these trees more vulnerable when there are strong winds. Although thought to have developed before the rest of the woodland, they have for some years been sheltered by surrounding woodland (except for some on the western boundary by open heath). Sudden changes to this woodland may affect their stability. It may also affect the habitat they offer by changing light levels and humidity.
2. Conversely, encroachment by younger trees on the canopy of the feature trees may be detrimental.
3. Erosion of the banks around their roots, primarily by public use will also be destabilising.
4. Age and tree diseases may affect the trees and it is possible that tree surgery may be required.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Notable, Veteran & ancient trees will be a feature in the internal landscape, particularly concentrated on and near the enclosure banks, but with younger trees earmarked for long term retention to provide continuity of habitat. Species mix will include species currently represented. It is not intended to actively manage the trees themselves (for e.g. re-coppicing old stools) unless for safety purposes.

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

Operational objective

To create optimum habitat conditions to the long term survival of existing veterans by managing light levels as required, and
to recruit future veterans, on or near the boundary banks, by identifying suitable naturally regenerated trees of different ages by managing light levels so that the trees develop an open grown structure.. Target in the long term to have one veteran or developing veteran at least every 30m on the boundary banks. This will be done by:

1. Mapping and assessment of potential future veterans, by end 2016.
2. Careful & slow removal of younger trees encroaching on the canopy of the existing feature trees, in line with Natural England 'Guide to Managing Veteran Trees' assuming it is necessary.
3. Where possible direct public access away from the banks surrounding the trees to prevent erosion & look to improve ground conditions where erosion has occurred if necessary.

5.3 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

A glade with remnant heathland vegetation, which was scrubbing over, has been cleared in the middle of the wood between 2003 and 2006, to link in with Fire Beacon Hill heathland to the west. Species present include Bell Heather, Ling, Western Gorse, purple moor grass, as well as bracken, regeneration of birch and other trees. The heathland is synonymous with the NVC heathland community H4 Ulex gallii – Agrostis curtisii heath (Western gorse – Bristle bent) which is the common heathland community of the pebblebed heaths and the rest of Fire Beacon Hill.

Nightjars have been recorded in the area and the adjacent Fire Beacon Heath also supports yellowhammers and Dartford warblers.

Significance

Lowland Heathland is a habitat of international importance, but the habitat is under pressure from alternative uses. The area of heath at Core Hill links directly with the wider area of Fire Beacon Heath which is an LNR.

Nightjars, which have been recorded on site, are the subject of a species action plan in the National Biodiversity Action Plan, as is Lowland Heathland. The wood's situation next to an area of heathland provides the necessary combination of nesting and feeding areas.

Corporate objective to improve biodiversity. WT approach to woodland management – to appropriately manage and/or restore other semi-natural habitats on its estate

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
1. To link the woodland and the adjacent heath thus enhancing the conservation value of them both - particularly in providing suitable conditions for nightjars.
2. To liaise with neighbours on management where appropriate

Constraints:
1. The heathland needs regular management to prevent reversion to scrubby woodland, and encroachment by bracken and to monitor for regeneration of rhododendron.
2. The site is part of a registered common and therefore permanent fencing currently cannot be used, however the current use of electric fencing enables better control of livestock and therefore makes restoration of the area easier.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Bracken, Invasive Rhododendron, Natural Succession to woodland, High levels of atmospheric nitrogen may cause a slow change in the plant communities increasing the amount of grasses such as purple moor grass and therefore a greater need for management. A cessation of grazing would have a major impact on the area allowing coarse species to become dominant again.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Lowland heathland of dwarf shrub heath plant communities, linked to Fire Beacon heath to the west. The vegetation should be representative of the NVC H4 community and include Bell Heather, Ling, Common gorse, Western gorse. Structurally the heathland will be a part of the diversity of the whole area not just the Woodland Trust property. Invasive species (purple moor grass, bracken, tree regeneration) may be present they will be in the minority only covering 20% of the area. The best management for the restoration is through low level pony grazing done in conjunction with the rest of the area by the RSPB, however if this failed a cutting regime could be implemented..

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

Objective:
The heathland area will grazed by ponies at an intensity to reduce the course woody species such as gorse and course grasses such as purple moor grass. This work will be done by the RSPB. It is difficult to predict the levels of heather regeneration during this time but the aim is to at least reduce the amount of purple moor grass growth over the period.

Trees/shrubs and their regeneration should be no more than 15% of the area
Bracken should be no more than 10% of the area
There should be no rhododendron in the area

1. Graze the area using the RSPB ponies and electric fencing to control purple moor grass and tree and scrub regeneration.
2. Control scrub to obtain only 5% coverage by the end of the plan period.
3..If rank vegetation has decreased through grazing by the end of year 4 scarify an area of dense bracken or gorse in year 5 of this plan to create habitat for nightjars and kick start heathland regeneration
Liaison with Sidmouth Town Council and RSPB (who manage Fire Beacon Heath) as necessary.

5.4 Secondary Woodland

Description

Mixed woodland, which has developed since at least 1840, although individual areas have not been continuously wooded since then. Areas in the north east, and south west appear to be natural regeneration, whilst areas in the north west and south central and east are thought to have been planted. Prior to afforestation, the land was enclosed and is thought to have been heathland/rough grazing. Non-native species are prominent - including, sycamore, turkey oak, Lucsombe oak and scot's pine. Native species present include pedunculate oak, ash, birch, alder and sallow, and hazel and field maple in the understory. Older trees line the enclosure banks (see separate key feature). Stocking and age varies across the wood, but where gaps in the canopy occur there is a healthy level of regeneration with a wide range of species although beech and sycamore are the major ones.There are overhead electricity cables crossing part of the northern section of Core Hill Wood. This area was coppiced in 2013 and will remain under this management regime which will add to the structural diversity of the site.

Significance

Woodland Trust objective to restore and improve biodiversity. The wood forms part of a mosaic of habitats in the area, together with adjoining woodland, heath & pasture

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: to provide secondary woodland of an uneven age distribution, by allowing natural processes of growth, ageing and regeneration to take place. Non native trees will be accepted in the mix.

Constraints: 1) the competing needs of maintaining this habitat, feature trees, and the heathland glade, need to be balanced to ensure that the woodland does not encroach on or diminish the feature trees or heath. 3) pest damage, particularly by squirrels and deer may inhibit the development of natural regeneration, or good crowns on older trees 4) Possible wind damage, particularly as a result of opening up of areas on adjacent land

Factors Causing Change

1. Ash die back may restrict the natural development of the structure
2. Pest damage, particularly by squirrels and deer may inhibit the development of natural regeneration, or good crowns on older trees.
3. Significant wind damage, particularly as a result of opening up of areas on adjacent land.
4. The overhead electricity cables at the northern end of the site means that this area will not be able to develop a natural structure, however this adds to the diversity of the site.
5. Damage from improper horse riding may be prohibiting natural regeneration in the SW corner. Rhododendron is not currently an issue but is present in the surrounding area.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Predominantly mixed broadleaf woodland with an understory of trees, shrubs and natural regeneration providing age & species diversity. Non-native species already present on site will be accepted as part of the mix, except for rhododendron. The northern strip under the electricity wires will remain as coppice managed on a long term rotation by the electricity company, which will add structural diversity to the site, and potentially increase the area of heathy ground flora. A diverse ground flora will be evident throughout the wood.

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

Operational objective
The wood will be allowed to develop naturally with no interventions planned unless for the development of future feature trees as mentioned elsewhere in the plan. Damage in the SW corner will be monitored to understand whether lack of regeneration is due to horse riders disturbing any seedlings or through inappropriate light levels.

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	6.30	Beech	1900	High forest		Feature Trees, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Mixed woodland, predominantly broadleaved, but with occasional mature Scot's Pine. Main components include Beech, Oak (both pedunculate, turkey, and possibly hybrids), Birch and ash, with some sallow and sycamore. Understorey where present includes hazel, rowan, hawthorn and holly. Exact canopy composition varies over the compartment. Establishment thought to have begun about a century ago, but the age structure is quite varied, due to the natural development of the wood over time. Regeneration is present in all parts of the compartment where there are gaps in the canopy. Birch and oak regeneration is more predominant where it has developed on former heath. Elsewhere, beech and sycamore regeneration is more dominant under the canopy.. Some signs of historic squirrel damage and some deer damage in places, although this does not seem to have been sufficient to prevent establishment of woodland in the past, and younger regeneration is getting away. There has been scattered rhododendron in the south of the wood particularly south of the heath glade (cpt 2), although this has been controlled in recent years							
1b	1.30	Scots pine	1950	High forest		Feature Trees, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Mixed broadleaf (oak, ash, hazel) and Scot's Pine thought to have been planted c.1950. Mature feature trees on boundary/enclosure banks - oak spp Beech and Scot's Pine. Regeneration is abundant in canopy gaps- mostly sycamore, ash and birch.							
1c	0.70	Sycamore	1950	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Feature Trees, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Dominated by sycamore thought to have been planted in c.1950, although birch is also a component. Regeneration abundant - predominantly sycamore. Neighbour's laurel hedge on southern boundary may encroach over time. Mature feature trees on boundary banks - oak (some turkey), beech							
1d	0.30	other willows	1900	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Feature Trees, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
A mix of predominantly alder in the south east, sallow in the south west. Steep slopes, dense growth make it difficult to access, but it appears to be in a stable state							

2a	1.80	NULL		null		Feature Trees, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Heathland community including bell heather, ling, western gorse, bilberry & purple moor grass. Regenerating birch, oak spp, beech etc, and bramble and bracken encroach but are controlled by a regular programme of works. Occasional mature Beech and Scot's Pine on boundary banks.							

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.