



Churchdown Hill

Management Plan 2010-2015

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Churchdown Hill
Location:	Churchdown
Grid reference:	SO879189, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 162
Area:	15.48 hectares (38.25 acres)
Designations:	No designations for this site, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

The four hill sites of Churchdown formed the site of an Iron Age Hill fort and a medieval church. The sites of Churchdown all provide different woodland, including gorse scrubland, coniferous and broadleaf woodland.

2.2 Extended Description

For the purposes of this Management Plan the four Trust sites which encircle Churchdown Hill have been amalgamated into one management unit. They are as follows;

Wood Name	Area (Hectares)	Compartment Number
Churchdown Hill West	6.61Ha	1a
The Pines	0.25Ha	2
Churchdown Hill East	0.66Ha	3a
Churchdown Hill Extension (Tinkers Hill)	7.99Ha	4

Churchdown Hill and the less prominent Tinkers Hill to the north form part of an outlier to the Jurassic Limestone escarpment which lies some 2 km to the east. The hills form a prominent feature in the landscape from Gloucester, Cheltenham and the M5 motorway. The steep slopes and comparatively isolated location within the clay vale is likely to have attracted the tribal communities of the Iron age to construct a fort around the summit. The enclosure was later quarried and during the early 20th Century three covered reservoirs were constructed within it resulting in the loss of the majority of the feature.

The commanding viewpoint was selected during the Middle Ages as the location of the Church of St. Bartholomew, hence the name Churchdown.

The four Woodland Trust sites are linked to one another and to the surrounding countryside by a number of Public rights of way and the connectivity is further enhanced by a complex pattern of permissive paths. The visitor is provided with spectacular views across the countryside, an insight into the scale of the Hill Fort and the experience of a variety of woodland habitats. Many visitors walk to and through the Woodland Trust sites on Churchdown hill from the village but car parking is available at the summit of the hill at the end of the county highway. This parking facility is not owned by the Woodland Trust.

The landscape around the hill is generally low intensity agriculture such as permanent grazing. Some of the grazing land has been planted with native broadleaved woodland and land owned by Severn Trent is under conservation management. As a result habitats are well connected and very permeable to wildlife.

The whole site was "adopted" by an active group of local people known collectively as "The Friends of Churchdown Hill" who were directly involved with the initial acquisition and its subsequent management.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Access to the complex network of public rights of way and permissive footpaths can be gained from the centrally located car park which also provides access to the Church and burial ground and for the more determined there are numerous connecting footpaths from the lower ground surrounding the hills. A number of circular paths of different length and steepness are able to satisfy a variety of visitor needs.

This cluster of 4 separate sites are all located within 2km of Churchdown village or town centre. The landscape surrounding the hill is well served with a PROW network providing links between the site and neighboring residential areas of Churchdown and Hucclecote. The sites have a myriad of public and permissive routes providing some stunning views and a range of habitats and experiences. The routes are all exclusively for pedestrians. Many are steep in sections and they are all un-surfaced and prone to becoming slippery in wet conditions.

The Woodland Trust does not own any formal parking areas but most visitors by car park at the central car park between the hill top reservoirs and St. Bartholomew's Church. From here all of the sites are easily accessed.

Currently (2007) there is a service stopping at Churchdown that is within walking distance of the site. This service stops at St John's Church, St John's Ave, Churchdown.

In 2004 Tewkesbury Borough Council had plans to provide full DDA compliant public conveniences at Parish Offices, Churchdown. More contemporary information should be sought from the Brough Council's website or traveline.org.uk.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To allow the natural succession of the Churchdown Hill woods for the benefit of woodland wildlife. Existing access provision will continue with efforts being made to ensure unauthorised access does not occur as it is damaging to the fragile path surfaces and detracts from the enjoyment of authorised visitors. The development of community engagement opportunities will be taken where they are mutually beneficial.

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 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

The entire site.

A broad woodland key feature comprising of old fields on Tinkers Hill that are in transition back to woodland (4b, 4c), the secondary conifer plantation at the Pines (2a) and the mature recent secondary woodland with semi natural characteristics in Churchdown Hill East (3a), West (1a) and the central area of Tinkers Hill (4a).

With much of Churchdown Hill in conservation ownership and/or in low intensity agriculture the permeability of the landscape to wildlife is very good. The presence of mature trees enhances the value of the woodlands and the transitional nature of the advancing scrub, gorse and bramble thickets provides a diverse habitat mosaic. Signs of natural succession have been observed in The Pines plantation where native broadleaves are occupying canopy gaps and on Tinkers hill where transition from open ground to native species woodland is taking place. The 2005-2010 management plan for these more open ground areas sought to maintain them as open habitat through grazing. This was based on intermittent success with grazing between 1999 and 2003. During the 2005-2010 period grazing options reduced and management by grazing was not achieved.

Sections of incomplete iron age ramparts run through Churchdown Hill West (1a) and East (3a). Woodland is developing across these but it is mature and the canopy is preventing further and more damaging new growth of saplings.

Although the field layer is completely missing in many areas due to thick scrub or full mature canopy ancient woodland species can be found through out and it is expected that the naturally developing mosaic will bring about opportunities for the field layer to develop and accordingly.

Significance

Native woodland is an important component of ecologically functioning landscapes for woodland biodiversity. Through our management and ownership of Churchdown Hill woodlands we aim to achieve our aim to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future.

Opportunities & Constraints

To allow natural succession.

Tree planting to supplement natural regeneration.

To manage woodland for the appreciation of the remnant iron age ramparts.

Factors Causing Change

Natural Regeneration of Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The opportunity for natural development (succession) of woodland at Churchdown Hill will be taken. It is expected that woodland species and abundance will increase over time. The course and speed of succession is dictated by many factors and these can be seen impacting on woodland development already through the mosaic of different stages and habitats. The natural continuation of this will be interesting to observe.

A change in our future vision for the more open areas of Tinkers Hill (4b, 4c) is required. Previously we have sought to maintain these as open. Given that the remnant semi improved grassland is of low quality and that there is a proliferation of semi-natural habitats around Churchdown hill these areas will continue in their development to native broadleaved woodland that has been ongoing since grazing last occurred in 2003.

The opportunity to clear trees and shrubs masking the iron age ramparts will not be taken. It is thought that such habitat management may inadvertently arrest succession and accentuate the impact of other drivers of change. This outcome may be worth considering if the fort was entire, undamaged and scheduled as an ancient monument. It will be more important to maintain canopy over the ramparts to prevent new and further damage from new roots of saplings.

Given the evidence of natural succession it is not thought that tree planting will be a necessary to achieve the long term vision for woodland.

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

Aim: To permit the natural process of succession.

Strategy: To avoid intervention that may inadvertently arrest natural succession such as wholesale increases in light levels that could bring about domination of competitive ground flora suited to growing on the nutrient rich soils.

Measure of Success: Management intervention limited to vegetation growing on ride and track sides and for site safety reasons.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

It is probable that some of the tracks and footpaths of today follow the routes of the access to the Hill Fort constructed during the first millennium BC. It is certain that the footpath through The Pines and the bridleway adjacent to sub-compartment 3a were associated with the construction of the 13th Century Church of St Bartholomew. The current pattern of footpaths therefore has a strong cultural significance as well as providing wonderful views of the surrounding countryside and the opportunity to appreciate a variety of wooded habitats.

Access to the complex network of public rights of way and permissive footpaths can be gained from the centrally located car park which also provides access to the Church and burial ground and for the more determined there are numerous connecting footpaths from the lower ground surrounding the hills. A number of circular paths of different length and steepness are able to satisfy a variety of visitor needs. It is fair to say that a combination of steepness and soil conditions mean that walking conditions along some sections throughout are difficult.

A focus for visitors is the magnificent viewpoint in the southwest of the site which provides vistas over the Cotswold scarp to the east and Gloucester, the Severn Valley and Estuary, the Forest of Dean and the Welsh Hills beyond to the west. The facility was considerably enhanced by the construction of a topograph in 2001 jointly sponsored by Churchdown Parish Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and the Woodland Trust.

There are dozens of site entrances, mostly consisting of squeeze gaps or stiles. These were replaced in 2006 and have been subject to misuse and vandalism. This appears to arise from the unauthorised use of the site by horse riders and less frequently motor bikes. Despite the significant investment to entrances made in 2006 an almost entire replacement programme is required (2010). Solutions to further vandalism and unauthorised use would be welcomed by the Woodland Trust and many of the visitors. General disrespectful use of the trig view point has also been noted.

Significance

The Woodland Trust believes that everyone should recognise that trees and woods are an essential part of a healthy environment and that there should be a wood with open access close to everyone's home. We aim to achieve that through the provision of public access to Churchdown wood.

Opportunities & Constraints

Steep Terrain.

Difficult path conditions particularly when wet.

Unauthorised use.

Commemorative tree planting given that the Pines was planted for Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee and Queen Elizabeth celebrates her Diamond jubilee in 2012.

Keep view points clear.

Factors Causing Change

Natural Regeneration of Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Continued informal public access is the aim at the Woodland Trust Churchdown Hill woods. The site should be safe and welcoming in terms of signage and/or interpretation. It is not expected that the existing public and permissive path network will be extended. Improvement to path surfaces may be undertaken should the impetus come from the local community or visitors as there is a presumption against surfacing our footpaths and bridleways. Given the potential for damage to the poorly drained path surfaces horse access will be limited to the public bridleway. The altering of existing entrances may be required to make this possible. The views from the topograph will be maintained through the cutting back of scrub in necessary locations.

Good potential exists for visitor and community engagement given high visitation and a large local population. It could be advantageous to improve community links as a strategy to prevent misuse of the site. The Woodland Trust worked with Churchdown Primary school in 2010 to plant trees and the 'Friends of Churchdown Hill' were active in reporting and managing the hill between 1999 and 2005. Using these leads the possibility of planting a second Diamond Jubilee wood on the hill should be investigated. If supported it would be feasible to plant small groves of native broadleaves in the more open areas of Tinkers hill.

Opportunities to engage with local communities and interest groups in furthering mutual aims will be taken.

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

Aim: To provide the best possible resource for existing users of the site, wider local communities and new visitors to the site. To offer local tree planting opportunities for the 2012 Diamond Jubilee.

Strategy: To ensure that Churchdown Hill is clearly signed as an accessible Woodland Trust wood including contact details providing a link between visitors and owners/managers. To act on development ideas arising through public contact/networking. To prevent unauthorised access where it detracts from the enjoyment of authorised visitors.

Measure of Success: 1) Continued public visitation and appreciation gauged through signs of visitor use such as footpath wear and tear, numbers seen during management visits. 2) The absence of unauthorised access 3) The number of initiatives developed through public interest that attract new user groups or improve conditions/accessibility for visitors.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	6.61	Hawthorn species	1940	null	Archaeological features, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Churchdown Hill West, a Semi Natural Recent Secondary Woodland.</p> <p>Is situated on the north and west-facing slopes of the remnants of an Iron Age Hill fort. The upper rampart is more significant than the lower and there is a broad terrace between the two. Other remnants of the ramparts are outside Woodland Trust ownership, damaged by quarrying and covered in thorn scrub. In the north the terrace is open and composed of Bracken, Willowherb and other tall herbs. There are a number of large trees, predominantly of Ash and Oak around the upper rampart and these species tend to form a discontinuous upper canopy in the rest of the wood. In some locations Ash and Oak are augmented by Beech and Sycamore. A secondary canopy is formed by large Hawthorns and the occasional Crab apple and a sub-canopy of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Hazel is widespread. In some areas the upper canopy is missing and the field layer is completely shaded out by the thorns.</p> <p>The open areas to the north presently covered by bracken and willowherb are being colonised by Hawthorn scrub. Flora abundance can seem low as a result but where it is found, typically along ride sides it comprises of locally typical ancient woodland indicators, including the lovely angular Solomon's seal.</p> <p>Mussel Well is situated on the north-west slope and provides an interesting location for visitors as well as a water supply to Green Farm in Churchdown Village via a pipeline across the north of the sub-compartment.</p> <p>Most of the paths through Churchdown Hill West are over steep ground and on erosion prone soils. For most of the year there are long sections that are passable only with care. The majority of access provision through the woodland is public rights of way (footpaths) but there are 2 permissive paths.</p>							
2a	0.25	Corsican pine	1887	null	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	

Known as The Pines this non native secondary woodland was planted with Corsican and Scots pines in 1898 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and now form a distinctive feature on the north side of Churchdown Hill just below the Church of St. Bartholomew. They have considerable historical significance and are now over mature and prone to storm damage. It is encouraging that Beech, Elm and Ash are beginning to fill canopy gaps and a sub-canopy of Elder, Hazel and Blackthorn has developed in places. The ground flora is composed of Ivy, Cleavers, Lords and Ladies, Bramble, Ferns, Herb Robert and Nettle. The public right of way through the site links the local residences to the church and is complimented by a permissive path offering a more direct alternative. Both paths are steep.

3a	0.66	Ash	1880	null	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	
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Churchdown Hill East; a Semi Natural Recent Secondary Woodland.

This woodland lies between the bridlepath and the road which serves the Church, Burial Ground and Severn-Trent Water facilities at the top of the Hill which were constructed within the Iron Age Camp enclosure. What are probably sections of the ramparts of the hill fort can still be identified within the upper part of the sub-compartment.

The canopy is continuous and is formed principally of mature Oak and Ash but also some Field maple, Small leaved lime, Sycamore and Wych elm. There are also five Larch stems in the lower part of the wood. The sub-canopy is well developed and comprises of Elder, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Hazel. There is much standing and lying deadwood. The ground flora include Ivy, Cleavers, Bluebells, Dogs Mercury, Lesser celandine and Lords and Ladies. The woodland is not recorded as ancient on the ancient woodland inventory (it is under the 2Ha size limit) but the presence of strong, locally typical ancient woodland indicators suggests a continuity of natural woodland cover.

There are no internal permissive or public rights of way.

4a	3.29	Hawthorn species	1950	null	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	
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Churchdown Hill Extension (Tinkers Hill).

Tinkers Hill is the largest of the Woodland Trust site on Churchdown hill. Compt 4a is semi natural recent secondary woodland located in the central section of Tinkers hill where mature woodland dominated by oak and ash and this is fringed by developing scrub habitat dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn. Flora is suppressed underneath the mature broadleaved canopy but ancient woodland indicators such as dogs mercury are present, some occasional hazel understorey can be found here too. Flora underneath the scrub fringe is not present in any form.

A mix of permissive and public footpaths traverse the sub-compartment north-south. These are narrow through developing woodland and are moderate to steep in incline.

4b	2.42	NULL		null	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	
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Comprising ex grazing land compt 4b is in a transition back to woodland and has been included in the woodland key feature as a semi natural recent secondary woodland. 4b is quite different in character to the rest of the Trust holding at Churchdown being open downland heavily grazed by rabbits but with large areas of Gorse and Bramble thickets. The eastern flank is also being colonised by Hawthorn scrub.

A complex pattern of footpaths traverses the sub-compartment. 1999-2003 provided intermittent grazing as part of the previous open ground management regime. Grazing proved very troublesome and eventually untenable given the location, access and lack of water. Access provision is some 350m distance across steep poorly drained third party grazing land.

The naturally encroaching vegetation is dominated by gorse and bramble thickets with hawthorn scrub located to the east. It has been noted that in dry summers drought stress in the grassland upon the ridge is severe and likely never to establish tree or shrub species, this is to be welcomed as the natural environmental conditions of the site will dictate the developing habitat mosaic.

Two public rights of way and one permissive route dissect the area. Walking conditions are generally good, the steepest slopes are moderate.

4c	2.28	NULL		null		Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	
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Comprising ex grazing land compt 4c is in a transition back to woodland and has been included in the woodland key feature as semi natural recent secondary woodland. 4c was formerly meadow and has been in transition back to woodland for some decades. 1999-2003 provided intermittent grazing as part of the previous open ground management regime. Grazing proved very troublesome and eventually untenable given the location, access and lack of water. Access provision is some 350m distance across steep poorly drained third party grazing land.

The naturally encroaching vegetation is dominated by bramble thickets and scrub and wetland species like willow. 4c is the lowest part of tinkers hill and is considerably wetter particularly around the wet flush which traverses the meadow.

There are both public and permissive rights of way through 4C, mostly following flat but potentially uneven and boggy ground.

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.