



Top Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Top Wood
Location:	Grangewood, Linton
Grid reference:	SK268155, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 128
Area:	81.01 hectares (200.18 acres)
Designations:	National Forest, Woods on your Doorstep

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This flourishing young woodland was planted as part of our Woods on your Doorstep initiative to mark the new millennium. Two decades on, its mosaic of woods, grassland and ponds is a haven for wildlife, and its open areas offer stunning views across the Trent Valley and surrounding countryside.

2.2 Extended Description

This woodland creation initiative was undertaken in 1997 as part of the National Forest Tender Scheme on former agricultural land that once formed part of Park Farm and helps fulfill the Woodland Trusts corporate aim associated with Woodland Creation.

Top Wood sits on the edge of Linton, Derbyshire within the wider National Forest and is one of a number of woodlands in the local area many of which are new native plantation and are publicly accessible. Of these woodlands the Woodland Trust owns three others in the vicinity of Top Wood, these are Penguin Wood (immediately adjacent), Coton Wood at Coton in the Elms and Foxley Wood also located at Linton. Top Wood abuts immediately up to Grange Wood which is a mix of mature ancient semi natural woodland and plantation under private ownership; there is no hard boundary between the two woodlands and visitors can easily move between the two properties both of which are open to the public.

Before planting Top Wood was originally made up of permanent pasture, arable land, temporary grass leys, some rough grassland, numerous ponds and some small copses. An embankment of a former mineral railway line crosses the northern part of the site from north-west to south-east. There was also some signs of medieval ridge and furrow at the property.

The soil type, structure and drainage status varies considerably across the site which probably accounts for the variation in establishment and growth of trees in a number of sub-compartments. The soil type largely consists of clay loam over sandy loam with frequent pebbles, there is evidence of soil compaction in some areas and resultant poor drainage.

The planting was undertaken over three years commencing in 1997 with completion in 1999. The species distribution of the initial planting was European Larch 44.5%, Oak 33%, Native broadleaves 20% and Woody shrubs 2.5%. The Native broadleaved mix included Ash, Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Field Maple, Rowan, Hazel and in addition Willow and Alder were planted in the wetter areas. The Woody Shrubs included Guelder Rose, Dogwood, Purging Buckthorn, Hawthorn and Dogrose.

When the planting plan was drawn up in 1996 one of the guiding principles was that there should be a semi-commercial element to the scheme in both the short and long term. Thus the planting of Larch was designed both to act as a nurse crop for the native broadleaves and to provide an income in the early phase of development.

The initial woodland design incorporated a number of large unplanted areas so as to maintain views across to the Trent Valley in the north and the open countryside to the south particularly from the high point just south of Park Farm. Additionally the original horse ponds of the former agricultural period were retained and enlarged and these together with the open areas will sustain a greater variety of wildlife in a diversity of habitats and contribute to the Trust's corporate objective of enhancing biodiversity.

Before acquisition there was already a well-developed pattern of public footpaths which traversed the site. These transverse paths have been further enhanced since 1996 and additional permissive bridleways established. The woodland itself fits nicely into the wider access network with a number of amenities and visitor attractions such as Beehive Farm Shop and Rosliston Forestry Center within easy travelling distance. Grange Wood Farm and a limited area of Top Wood is also open to horse riding for a small fee, permits can be obtained from Grange Wood Farm. 24/7 public access fulfills the Woodland Trusts corporate objective associated with people.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By bus: There are bus stops at Linton Main Street with services to Swadlincote and Ashby de la Zouch.

By train: The nearest station is at Burton on Trent but there are no direct bus services.

For up-to-date information on public transport, visit traveline.org.uk (0871 200 22 33).

By car: From Junction 11 on the M42, take the A444 towards Burton on Trent. After the village of Overseal, follow the signs for Linton. There is parking in Linton's streets but there is no space on the road at the Botany Bay entrance. Visitors are permitted to park in Grange Wood car park and walk through to Toptree Wood.

(February 2017)

3.2 Access / Walks

The main access points to the north are off The Crescent and Botany Bay Road at Linton. To the south, access is from Grange Wood, and to the west from the access road to Park Farm at Botany Bay.

The site has nine kilometres (5.6 miles) of easily negotiable mown paths. However, some sections can be muddy and waterlogged in winter. Grange Wood Farm and a limited area of Top Wood is also open to horse riders - permits can be obtained from Grange Wood Farm.

Paths link with the surrounding network and other publicly accessible woodlands. Part of the National Forest Way, a 120km (75-mile) long distance trail, runs along the edges of Top Wood and Toptree Wood.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The current plan pertaining to the Woodland Trusts "Conservation" corporate aim is to allow Top Wood to develop into healthy, resilient mature woodland consisting of multiple native tree and shrub species of varying age classes and to preserve the woodland in perpetuity.

However larch removal will be required to free up native tree species on site as well as thinning on Long Close Woods housing boundary to ensure a continued stand stability in that area and to mitigate as best as possible any issues in relation to the trees with neighbours. This all needs to be assessed and implemented following a full environmental and economic assessment.

Any further interventions that do take place will come about as a result of recommendations made during the periodic Woodland Condition Assessments carried out prior to each management plan review in conjunction with assessments made during New Native Woodland Key Feature Observations. Any interventions will come out of a necessity to promote the woodlands resilience in the light of threats from pests and disease such as Ash Dieback and also environmental changes resulting from climate change.

That said, there may be the potential for economic thinning at Top Wood as per the Woodland Trusts "Production of Timber Policy" document. Timber production should always be a secondary objective on Woodland Trust property and should only take place where the act of economic harvesting is not of detriment to the Woodland Trusts primary corporate objectives of Conservation, People and Woodland Creation. Economic thinning should only take place if financially viable, evidence that this is the case would be required before any works of this type take place on site. The combination of an environmental assessment and indicative costings should indicate suitability and will be investigated over coming management plan periods to ascertain Top Woods potential for Economic Timber Production.

In order to meet the Woodland Trusts "Public" corporate aim Top Wood will remain fully accessible for people to enjoy for informal recreation at all times with regular path cuts and entrance and welcome signage maintenance taking place annually as part of the Estates Management Contract associated with the property.

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

Prior to acquisition there were already five established public footpaths which traversed the site, two running north-south and three east-west. Since acquisition further transverse and circular permissive footpaths have been established together with two permissive bridle ways in the southern section of the site. In order to enhance the public enjoyment of the site the initial planting design incorporated a number of vistas where the views across the Trent valley to the north and the open country to the south will be maintained. As well as fulfilling a corporate objective of the Woodland Trust associated with people the additional provision of public access was part of the initial proposal in the National Forest tender scheme in 1996. The property links well into the surrounding access network and other publicly accessible woodlands both privately owned and Woodland Trust. Top Wood also incorporates sections of the National Forest Long Distance Trail.

Significance

The pattern of public and permissive footpaths at Top Wood contributes considerably to the publicly accessible green-space in the National Forest area and links in well to the wider access network. Public access and its promotion is an important objective of the National Forest initiative, the access provided at Top Wood being an important contribution to that wider goal and symbolic of on-going successful partnership working between the Woodland Trust and The National Forest Company.

Opportunities & Constraints

The woodland presents a great opportunity for local residents to get out and enjoy this valuable woodland improving their health and well being.

Motorbikes and occasional misuse by horses can be an issue and one that needs to be monitored and dealt with accordingly.

Top Wood remains an important amenity resource for local people; sitting within the National Forest and linking in nicely into the wider public rights of way network.

There is interest from a local horse riding group in further access for horses at Top Wood as part of a larger trail in the local area. There maybe an opportunity to work in partnership with the horse riding group, The National Forest Company, South Derbyshire District Council and other landowners in this regard. However local sensitivities regarding horse riding need to be born in mind; responsibility for investigating this possibility locally currently sits with the horse riding group.

Factors Causing Change

N/A

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the current path network, Woodland Trust "Welcome" signage and entrances in perpetuity.

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

To mow the paths three times a year in May, July and September, this includes the open grassed areas.

To maintain the Woodland Trust "Welcome" signage at the entrance, to be inspected and cleaned by the contractor in July annually.

To maintain the existing pedestrian access points as part of the visits made by the contractor as described above.

All of the above to be included in the Estates Management Contract for the property.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

A total of 64.6 ha. of former agricultural land planted in three annual phases from 1997 as part of the National Forest Tender Scheme. The species distribution of the initial planting was European Larch 44.5%, Oak 33%, Native broadleaves 20% and Woody shrubs 2.5%. The Native broadleaved mix included Ash, Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Field Maple, Rowan, Hazel and in addition Willow and Alder were planted in the wetter areas of compartments 2 and 3. The Woody Shrubs included Guelder Rose, Dogwood, Purging Buckthorn, Hawthorn and Dogrose. The species were planted in rectangular blocks along sinuous planting lines so as to avoid the regimented look of a commercial plantation. The northern section of compartment 1 and compartment 8 were planted without Larch as were the margins of the planting areas. Compartment 7, which forms a buffer between the planting and Grange Wood, was treated in such a way to encourage natural regeneration. In those sub-compartments where establishment has been problematic Ash was been used to beat up the initial planting to achieve the necessary stocking levels.

Significance

Top Wood along with the Woodland Trust's other holdings nearby and other National Forest initiatives in the wider area will help to increase the proportion of woodland habitats in location where the habitat type was considerably under-represented. Thus the site will contribute significantly to regional biodiversity in an area that is predominantly farmland.

The close proximity of the new native plantation to the large semi-natural ancient woodland at Grange Wood will act as a buffer for the ancient woodland habitat and overtime facilitate the gradual colonisation and movement of the ancient woodland species associated therewith.

Opportunities & Constraints

In some compartments establishment and subsequent growth has been haphazard and there is considerable variation within a comparatively small area. A number of possible causes were examined including poor handling of planting stock, the prevailing planting conditions, soil mineral deficiencies and compaction. A soil survey suggested that compaction was the most likely cause and those sub-compartments most affected were “ripped” to break the compaction pan.

The woodland incorporates a number of large un-treed areas so as to maintain views across to the Trent Valley in the north and the open countryside to the south particularly from the high point just south of Park Farm. Additionally the original horse ponds of the former agricultural period were retained and enlarged and these together with the open areas will sustain a greater variety of wildlife in a diversity of habitats.

The larch planting is potentially of detriment to the other native species in the longer term, being faster growing and out-competing / shading out the native species we aim to promote. Thinning of larch will likely be necessary. This however may facilitate partnership working with other woodland owners in the local area and the National Forest Company and potentially will help meet one of the woodlands original aims associated with the production of an economically viable timber crop from the property.

Pests and diseases, particularly Ash Die Back which now has a firm grip in the National Forest area. This could have a significant impact at Top Wood as Ash form a major component of the original planting.

Factors Causing Change

Ash Die Back - currently present in the wider National Forest area, could potentially be devastating to the ash component at the property.

Over topping and shading out of native species by the larch component.

Thinning / removal of the larch component.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To allow the woodland to develop into native high-forest with trees and shrubs of varying age classes and species types. The woodland will reach this state primarily via natural processes through a minimum intervention management approach. "Woodland Condition Assessments" will inform management going into the future, interventions only taking place if highlighted as necessary by the Woodland Condition Assessments; the aim being to ensure the long term resilience of the woodland in perpetuity.

Larch removal may be required to free up native tree species on site as well as thinning on Long Close Woods housing boundary to ensure a continued stand stability in that area and to mitigate as best as possible any issues in relation to the trees with neighbours. This will be assessed and implemented following a full environmental and economic assessment.

To explore the opportunities associated with economic thinning at Top Wood in the longer term and the practical and economic feasibility of related operations once the woodland has passed the 20 year mark as per the Woodland Trusts "Woodland Condition Assessment - Guidance for Site Managers" document and following the criterion stipulated in the Woodland Trusts "Timber Production Policy" document as outlined in the "Long Term Intentions" section of this management plan. To take action or not pertaining to management and associated operations based on this assessment.

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

Monitor the woodland annually to assess its health and well-being via the New-Native Woodland Key Feature observation.

Once in the plan period, just prior to the next management plan review, assess the woodland using a "Woodland Condition Assessment" the results of which will inform the next management plan review in 5 years' time.

Assess the environmental, economic and practical feasibility of commercial thinning of larch at Top Wood in 2017 incorporating an Environmental Risk Assessment and an estimate of costs versus profit / benefits and make a decision as to whether thinning of the larch is viable.

If viable look to carry out thinning of larch in summer 2017 in partnership with neighbouring landowners and the National Forest Company.

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	10.12	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest, Woods on your Doorstep
<p>Formerly compartments 1 and 2 of the Long Close Wood WOYD planted in 1997 on former agricultural land. The planting consists of European Larch together with Mixed native broadleaves. In the northern sector is a shallow pond which has been extended to create an aquatic, wetland habitat. There is also a strip of secondary broadleaved woodland growing on the old abandoned railway embankment. In the southern corner of the sub-compartment is a partially exposed storm-water drainage pipe and beneath the grassy ride on the northern roadside boundary is a foul sewer pipe made obvious by the presence of a manhole cover part way along the ride. An electricity power line runs parallel to the railway embankment above open ground for the full extent of the western edge of the sub-compartment.</p>							
2a	3.71	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>This L-shaped sub-compartment slopes gently to the south and was formerly agricultural land. The area was planted in 1997 with European Larch and native broadleaves. Both the eastern and western boundaries of the sub-compartment are made up of former field boundary hedges. A public right of way runs up along the western boundary.</p>							
3a	4.77	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment was planted with European Larch and Native broadleaves in 1997. As the area is low lying and prone to water-logging Alder and Willow were planted in addition to the normal Native broadleaved mix. There is a small pond on the eastern boundary. Between the line of the former railway embankment and the new woodland is a broad strip of open ground which has an electricity power line above it.</p>							
3b	6.32	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest

<p>This sub-compartment lies on the gently rising ground to the south of the former railway embankment which has been removed in all but the northern section and which used to bridge over the public footpath. A section of the embankment has been regraded and has been colonised by secondary woodland. The planting consists of European Larch and Native broadleaves planted in 1997. Both the eastern and western boundaries of this triangular sub-compartment are made up of former field boundary hedges.</p>							
4a	6.84	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>The planting in this sub-compartment is divided into two areas by a broad strip of open ground which was designed, together with a similar strip in sub-compartment 4b, to provide a vista of the Walton-on-Trent Power station from the high point to the south-east. The planting was undertaken in 1998 and consist of European Larch and mixed Native broadleaves.</p>							
4b	6.08	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>Like 4a this sub-compartment is divided by a broad strip of open ground providing a vista from the south east corner. The two areas of planting were undertaken in 1998 and consist of the standard mix of European Larch and mixed Native broadleaves. Located on the northern boundary are two significant ponds surrounded by mature broadleaves. A public right of way follows the eastern boundary and connects to the sub-compartments on the southern side of Park Farm.</p>							
5a	8.85	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment is most visible when approaching the site from the west being located on gently rising ground climbing up towards Park Farm. It was planted with European Larch with a native Broadleaved mix in 1998. A large pond is located on the northern boundary. Establishment in this compartment has been notoriously difficult, perhaps due to some kind of nutrient deficiency in the soil / frost hollow / combination of environmental factors. As such many of the trees here are stunted in terms of growth. This scrubby woodland block does give some habitat diversity in contrast to the wider woodland habitat.</p>							
5b	3.53	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>This long narrow sub-compartment on a gentle north-west facing slope has at its northern end three significant ponds surrounded by mature broadleaved trees, principally oaks. The sub-compartment was planted in 1998 with European Larch and mixed Native broadleaves.</p>							

5c	6.08	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
This sub-compartment consists of European Larch and native broadleaves planted in 1998. A small pond is located on the southern boundary.							
6a	2.46	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
The Botany Bay- Linton road forms the northern boundary of this sub-compartment which was planted with European Larch and Native broadleaves in 1998. A large pond straddles the southern boundary with compartments 5a and 5b.							
7a	0.94	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
This triangular sub-compartment forms a buffer between the wider planted area and the ecologically sensitive semi-natural ancient woodland at Grange Wood. The sub-compartment was enclosed by a rabbit fence, areas were scarified and treated with herbicide to encourage natural regeneration. Subsequently some additional planting of native broadleaved tree stock took place to compliment any natural regeneration.							
8a	6.53	Mixed native broadleaves	1998	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
This sub-compartment occupies the land immediately south of Park Farm and is the highest spot at the site at 126 m above sea level. In order to provide a vista to the south from this high point only 50% of the sub-compartment was planted with mixed Native broadleaves in 1998. The sub-compartment also contains a linear clump of mature Beech trees, a triangulation pillar and a radio mast. The sub-compartment is traversed by a number of public and permissive rights of way and has a major management access point in its northern boundary.							
9a	3.71	Mixed native broadleaves	1999	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
This sub-compartment is situated on the south-west slope to the immediate south of the high point in sub-compartment 8a. This area planted with European Larch and mixed native broadleaves in 1999. A significant area of open ground was left to the east of the permissive bridleway that runs through the sub-compartment in order to maintain vistas.							

9b	4.37	Mixed broadleaves	1999	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment was planted with the European Larch and Native broadleaves in 1999. As in sub-compartment 9a the area to the east of the bridleway was retained as open ground.</p>							
9c	5.12	Mixed native broadleaves	1999	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment forms the most westerly section of compartment 9 and was planted with European Larch and Native broadleaves in 1999. This sub-compartment accommodates the permissive bridleway, a significant pond in the north and provides views to the southwest.</p>							
10a	0.77	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	Wood establishment		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest
<p>This sub-compartment is a well established mature broadleaved copse which was augmented by the planting of a number of conifers in the mid 20th Century. The original 19th Century planting was of Oak, Beech and Ash and the conifers are Corsican and Scots pine. The sub-canopy is formed by Holly, Hazel and Elder. In low light environments the ground flora is sparse whereas beneath the conifers bramble and bracken dominate. There are a number of shallow depressions and banks/ditches.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Thin	10.00	8	76
2019	2a	Thin	3.71	15	56
2019	4a	Thin	6.84	7	48.3
2019	5a	Thin	8.85	7	64.3

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.