



Beacon Hill 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Beacon Hill Wood
Location:	Shepton Mallet
Grid reference:	ST639459, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 183
Area:	17.22 hectares (42.55 acres)
Designations:	Scheduled Ancient Monument

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Beacon Hill Wood is a beech and Scots pine woodland situated on a prominent ridge at the eastern end of the Mendip Hills. The stunning scenery and range of archaeological features make this a fascinating wood to visit, Bronze Age burial mounds, old quarry pits, Roman Roads and a central circular earth bank with a single standing stone are just some of the features to look out for. Springs, ponds, gullies, rides and glades add to the unique landscape and lower parts of the wood are carpeted with bluebells in Spring.

2.2 Extended Description

Beacon Hill Wood is situated on a prominent ridge towards the eastern end of the Mendip Hills, 2 miles north-east of Shepton Mallet. It lies outside the Mendip Hills AONB, but within the Mendip Hills National Character Area 141.

Beacon Hill is a predominantly even aged secondary beech and Scots pine woodland planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1950's, and is almost entirely surrounded by semi-improved grassland. It contains a few older mature beech trees pre-dating this on the south boundary, and in the centre of the wood, where they are a prominent landscape feature. There is an area of young birch woodland in the north west corner of the site as well as a few patches of natural heathland vegetation reflecting the habitat prior to plantation and the acidic soil. Ponds, rides and glades add to the diversity. In spring, lower parts of the wood are carpeted with bluebells.

The range of archaeological features make this a fascinating wood to visit, with numerous features surviving from the Bronze Age, and Roman period, right through to this century. Some of the features to look out for include 10 Bronze Age tumuli - burial mounds, old quarry pits, the route of the Roman Fosse Way, a large circular earth bank identified as a late 18th century tree ring, encompassing three barrows and a single central standing stone. The circular earthwork and most of the barrows on Beacon Hill are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) - list entry Number: 1006199 & 1006178.

There is informal access throughout the wood, including one surfaced route providing easy access to the view point in the north west of the site. Other paths within the wood are naturally surfaced, and wet and boggy in parts due to a number of springs around the site. The north of the site is on level ground, while slopes to the south provide steep climbs and excellent views across Somerset. Past quarrying has left the ground uneven with small gullies, ridges and ponds.

The wood was purchased with a grant from Mendip District Council on the condition that the Trust involves and informs the local community in the management of the wood. The community and user groups have a strong affinity for the wood and are represented by a local group - The Beacon Hill Society, who formed in 1993 and has worked with The Woodland Trust since 1995
www.beaconhillsociety.org.uk.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location:

Beacon Hill Wood is approx 2 miles north-east of Shepton Mallet on the Old Frome Road, near the A37.

Parking:

There is a small car park at the main NW entrance on the Old Frome Road suitable for approx 6 cars. There are two other entrances on the same road further east, both with verge edge parking only. There is also an entrance to the south across farmland north of Shepton Mallet.

Public transport:

the nearest bus service stops in Oakhill approx 1.5 miles north of the wood.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Secondary Woodland - In 50 years' time the woodland will have developed a mixed age species and structure diversity through management under a continuous cover forestry regime. Oak, rowan, birch, sallow, bracken and heath, will be regenerating naturally amongst a retained proportion of the thinned plantation species of beech and Scots pine and there will be abundant shrub and understory layers and robust ground flora populations. Veteran and ancient trees throughout the wood will be managed to maximise their natural lifespan with developing standing and fallen deadwood.

Public Access - In 50 years' time the importance of the wood as a local recreational resource will have been maintained and improved, so the site is valued by local users and visitors, both as a through route and a recreational and interesting resource in its own right. An improved path network will continue to work towards the Trust's objectives of inspiring everyone to value woods and trees, and appropriate access infrastructure will be installed and maintained to support visitor access to both the wood and the interesting features of the site all year round. The site will continue to be promoted to a wider audience through engagement activities and events with the Beacon Hill Society. The Trust will continue to liaise with and involve the local community in the future management of the wood.

Archaeological Feature - The rich archaeological heritage will be maintained, and the remnant historic features and Scheduled Ancient Monuments will have been secured to promote public awareness and enjoyment. This will result in clearings around the tumuli and the large circular earth bank, encompassing three barrows and a single central standing stone. The archaeological interest will continue to be promoted to a wider audience through special interest groups, archaeologists, local historians and engagement activities with the Beacon Hill Society.

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 Secondary Woodland

Description

Beacon Hill Wood is situated on a prominent ridge towards the eastern end of the Mendip Hills. It is predominantly even aged beech plantation, with some remaining Scots pine, small areas of naturally regenerating secondary woodland, planted young birch woodland and occasional mature beech trees. Ponds, rides and glades add to the diversity. In spring, lower parts of the wood are carpeted with bluebells.

The beech and Scots pine were planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1950's; the WT thinned most of the pine in two stages in 1999-2004, and again in 2010-11, but some areas of Scots pine still remain. A few older large mature beech trees pre-dating this can be found on the south boundary and in the centre of the wood within the circular earth bank; these are most likely to have been planted following enclosure in the late 18th century, and would have been visible for miles around. There is an area of multi-stemmed sycamore planted circa 1956 in the SE of the wood, and a small area in the NE corner was planted in 1988 with mainly birch and mixed native broadleaves. The understory is very low in cover with very few regenerating trees or shrubs. Occasional naturally regenerated oak, beech, birch, sycamore, willow, rowan, ash and sweet chestnut can be found amongst the beech and Scots pine.

The ground flora is generally poor under the dense beech canopy, except for bluebells to the south of the site. Some wet areas are developing a more varied ground flora including ragged robin, rushes and sedges.

The underlying geology is unusual with Somerset's oldest outcropping igneous rock dating from the Silurian period overlain by Devonian Old Red Sandstone. The surrounding area and the Mendip Hills are predominantly Carboniferous limestone. The geology of the site creates acid soil conditions in the wood in an area which is generally neutral to calcareous. There are a few patches of natural scrub woodland/heathland vegetation developing in the wood, reflecting the natural habitat prior to plantation and naturally suited to the acidic soil. This is also supported by pollen analysis from the barrow excavation.

Significance

It is an isolated pocket of woodland that lies on the south east edge of the Mendip Hills, outside the Mendip Hills AONB, but within the Mendip Hills National Character Area 141. The underlying geology creates acid ground conditions in parts of the wood for associated flora and fauna, unusual in a generally limestone area. It has a large area of woodland cover in a generally un-wooded landscape, and is large enough to sustain viable populations of woodland species acting as a reservoir for their future spread.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

The wood is even aged plantation. Opportunities exist to diversify the age, species and structure of the woodland to start the cycle of natural regeneration and improve biodiversity. There is evidence of the natural regeneration of native species specific to the geology and soil type of the wood, where light levels permit, and points to the potential success of any thinning operation.

Constraints:

Ground conditions are variable with poor tracks due to steep slopes, hollows, waterlogged areas and springs.

The presence of many archaeological features including three SAM's, which make harvesting operation difficult and restricts timber extraction on steeper sections of woodland - all works in or near Scheduled Monuments to follow standard guidance from Historic England for forestry works. There are several badger setts within the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Heavy Beech canopy suppressing natural regeneration of tree and flora species.

Deer browsing affecting recruitment of natural regeneration and squirrel damage preventing some broadleaf trees from reaching maturity.

Pests and tree diseases

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In 50 years' time the woodland will have developed a mixed age, species and structure diversity through management under a continuous cover forestry regime. Oak, rowan, birch, willow, bracken and heath will be regenerating naturally amongst a retained proportion of the thinned plantation species of beech and Scots pine and there will be abundant shrub and understory layers and robust ground flora populations. Veteran and ancient trees throughout the wood will be managed to maximise their natural lifespan with developing standing and fallen deadwood. This will be achieved by a process of light thinning works across the site over a number of years. Supplementary planting may be used if natural regeneration does not take place or provide the required diversity of species.

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

The short term objective is to improve the diversity, age structure and species composition of the woodland, increase natural regeneration of broadleaf trees, and to reduce the proportion of beech and Scots pine as highlighted in the Woodland Condition Assessment. The continuous structure of the canopy in compartment 1a will be opened up by carrying out thinning work throughout. Additional thinning may take place around key ecological features such as ponds. All thinning work around the SAM's (compartment 1b) will follow standard guidance from Historic England for forestry works. This process of thinning is designed not to drastically change the feel or character of the wood whilst increasing the light levels enough to promote natural regeneration and improved ground flora. low impact working and extraction will be favoured. Deer management may be required based on assessments of damage to natural regeneration.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The woodland is open in character with a network of informal paths. A Public Right of Way classified as a Restricted Byway (RB) runs north-south through the western section of the wood linking Shepton Mallet to the south and Oakhill to the north. A short permissive horse route has been created on the northern edge of the wood to link the Restricted Byway with the Unclassified Road to the north on the other side of the Old Frome Road.

A surfaced access for all path was created in 1998/9 to provide all ability access from the main parking area to a special seat at the west viewpoint.

The north of the site is on level ground, but to the south a steep section drops sharply before a gentler southerly slope. Past quarrying has left the ground uneven with small gullies, ridges and ponds. A number of springs arise around the site, one on a geological fault, and most paths within the wood are natural surface and wet and boggy in parts.

The wood was purchased in 1995 with a grant from Mendip District Council on the condition that the Trust involves and informs the local community in the management of the wood. The community and user groups have a strong affinity for the wood and are represented by a local group - The Beacon Hill Society www.beaconhillsociety.org.uk who formed in 1993 and has worked with The Woodland Trust since 1995. The WT commissioned an Ecological Survey in 2002, an Archaeological Survey in 2002-3 and a Study of Highway Rights along the Fosse Way 2002. Joint projects between the Beacon Hill Society and WT funded by the Local Heritage Initiative have involved local people in archaeological excavations, walks, arts events, practical projects and an education pack for local schools.

Significance

Provision of public access and increasing people's enjoyment of woodland is a key aim of the Woodland Trust, and it is furthered by ownership and management of Beacon Hill Wood. The lack of woodland in the area makes it a popular place for visitors, and the archaeological and geological interest of the wood attracts specialist visitors to the site.

The wood was purchased with a grant from Mendip District Council on the condition that the Trust involves and informs the local community in the management of the wood - through the Beacon Hill Society.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To engage with users of the wood through interpretation, signage and events.

Opportunities to enhance access via the improved management tracks to more of the features of the wood including the historical and archaeological features, viewpoints and wildlife interest.

Constraints:

Poor accessibility of some paths.

The line of the Restrictive Byway on the ground is not very obvious and it becomes very wet and boggy in the winter. It crosses a number of Holloways which are important archaeologically.

Factors Causing Change

Misuse by cyclists/horse riders straying off of Restrictive Byway. Unauthorised use of motorbikes. Erosion and deterioration of paths, Felling operations. Fly tipping at entrances.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In 50 years' time the importance of the wood as a local recreational resource will have been maintained and improved, so the site is valued by local users and visitors, both as a through route and a recreational and interesting resource in its own right. An improved path network will continue to work towards the Trust's objectives of inspiring everyone to value woods and trees, and appropriate access infrastructure will be installed and maintained to support visitor access to both the wood and the interesting features of the site all year round. The site will continue to be promoted to a wider audience through engagement activities and events with the Beacon Hill Society. The Trust will continue to liaise with and involve the local community in the future management of the wood.

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

The short term objective is to maintain and improve the site as easily accessible, attractive, well maintained and safe woodland in accordance with access category B, with the focus of this plan period to improve the path network. This will be appropriate to meet increasing needs and new access infrastructure will be installed and maintained to support visitor access to both the wood and the interesting features of the site all year round. This will be done by:

Main paths are to be cut and maintained as necessary twice each year in June and September, and cleared of litter and obstructions such as fallen branches.

Entrance furniture will be upgraded to keep them welcoming and in good condition, and maintained during path cuts to improve access.

Legal responsibilities - work to maintain roadside trees and highways clearances along north roadside boundary - Cut with tractor mounted flails every January/February and pull any tree saplings.

Particularly muddy and boggy paths will have access improved by clearing leaf litter build up and muddy sections of path using machinery down to previous hard surface avoiding work near the SAM's and any areas of archaeological interest. Following woodland works clear tracks of mud and leaf litter to improve network of paths, with possible resurfacing of only the two major paths with local aggregate stone where needed to improve public access following thinning works.

To continue to increase the public enjoyment of the wood by providing information in the form of the newly revised information board. Design and install 2 x interpretation boards - 1 x new welcome board at main entrance summarising the site, the Beacon Hill Society and a map, and 1x historic features interpretation board near to view point at the west of the site.

5.3 Archaeological Feature

Description

Numerous features survive from the Bronze Age, Roman period, and right through to this century. Some of the features include several Bronze Age tumuli - burial mounds. There are 10 Bronze age Tumuli in the wood and the circular earthwork and barrows on Beacon Hill are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) - list entry Numbers: 1006199 & 1006178. One of the barrows was excavated by Peter Leach in 2008 and a Bronze Age Urn with the cremated remains of a young girl was found; the Urn is now in Somerset Museum. Other barrows are visible in the open field to the west and some of these are recorded as having been excavated by Parson Skinner in the 19th century.

Historic roads and tracks criss-cross the area. The Roman Fosse Way and a road from the Mendip lead mines to Southampton - intersected on the hill top, though little of their original construction is visible today. The route of the Fosse Way runs north to south, whilst traces of a prehistoric track running east to west along the Mendip escarpment can also be found.

A large circular earth bank and ditch which extends between the northern and southern boundaries, identified as a late 18th century tree ring with a single central standing stone, can be found in the centre of the wood. The central monolith of dressed Douling stone is a prominent marker pre-dating 1736 on the highest point of the hill on a large round barrow at the exact centre of the circular earth bank.

The site contains numerous old quarry pits, some potentially dating to the Iron Age. Quern stones or hand operated millstones that were produced here have been found at near-by Iron Age hillforts and camps, and at British Roman settlements. The rakes, quarry pits and working platforms in the wood represent the Roman and then more recent stone extraction industry. The sandstone was also used as metalling for surfacing the Fosse Way at Shepton Mallet. Several smaller standing stones can be found in the wood including; three small estate boundary stones, and a larger Parish boundary stone, with the date 1766.

More recent World War 2 features can be found in the wood including several rectangular pits which may have formed gun locations along a Mendip defence line in case of invasion. Other, more secret, bunkers have been found which are believed to be the remains of facilities for a covert British Resistance Organisation, set up separate from the Home Guard by the Secret Intelligence Services.

Archaeological surveys and more info can be found here www.beaconhillsociety.org.uk

Significance

The Trust protects the archaeological sites in its ownership. The site is important for the concentration of archaeological features in the area, and in particular the 10 Bronze age Tumuli in the wood. The circular earthwork and barrows on Beacon Hill are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) - list entry Numbers: 1006199 & 1006178. The features date from Bronze Age, through the Roman, medieval and more recent periods showing the importance of the hill throughout history. The site is part of a larger area of archaeological interest important both locally and nationally, and these features are a direct way of linking the local community to its history.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Interpretation boards highlighting the interesting features found within the wood.

Constraints:

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's). Any extraction to avoid earthworks. Many of the tumuli were damaged by previous forestry operations i.e. deep ploughing in the 1950's prior to planting the beech and pine trees. Trees growing on earthworks could cause damage if the root plates lift. Presence of these features does constrain harvesting operations to an extent but careful planning can avoid a conflict and historic features map available on past surveys and Woodland Trust internal GIS Mapping service - GISMO.

Factors Causing Change

Illegal public activity on motorbikes causing erosion. Horse riders and cyclists ride off the Restricted Byway damaging archaeological features. Natural regeneration and mature trees on tumuli, Public access damaging surface of the earth bank with standing stone. Natural deterioration and falling veteran trees causing damage.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The rich archaeological heritage will be maintained and enhanced, and the remnant historic features will be secured to promote public awareness and through interpretation for peoples interest and enjoyment, and for people to establish a link to the history and previous uses of the site. Provision of access will continue with access points maintained and a network of paths that allow visitors to appreciate the interesting features of the site. This will result in clearings around the tumuli and the large circular earth bank, with occasional mature veteran trees.

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

To ensure the tumuli are free of regenerating trees, bracken, bramble and shrubby vegetation. Undertaken by regular monitoring and annual clearance around the barrows with the Beacon Hill Society volunteers in coordination with Historic England. To minimise the risk of lifting root plates damaging archaeology by annual tree safety checks on mature trees for stability.

No clearance of trees or shrubs, or the undertaking of any access works in the Scheduled Monument areas are foreseen in this plan period, except the vegetation clearance of regenerating vegetation on the tumuli. But check regularly for signs of damaging public access and put in place suitable control measures where appropriate to reduce the threat of damage.

To continue to increase the public enjoyment of the archaeological features by providing information in the form of a new information board. Design and install 1x historic features interpretation board near to view point and historic features at the west of the site highlighting the archaeological and historical features of the wood.

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	16.20	Beech	1956	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Scheduled Ancient Monument
<p>Secondary woodland of Beech and Scots pine P 1956. Small area of multi-stemmed sycamore P c 1956 in SE corner of wood. Occasional naturally regenerated oak, willow, rowan, ash and sweet chestnut. A small area in the NE corner was planted 1988 with mixed native broadleaves with many naturally regenerating birch.</p> <p>The ground flora is generally poor under the dense beech canopy and regeneration is absent throughout the majority. Parts of the wood on the lower slopes have abundant bluebells, Some wet areas have ground flora including ragged robin, rushes and sedges.</p>							
1b	0.80	Beech	1860	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Landscape factors, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Scheduled Ancient Monument
<p>Veteran beech on and surrounding tumuli P 1850 - 1900. Ground wet with pools of semi permanent water. Generally flat with undulations from historic earthworks.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Thin	16.65	24	400
2024	1a	Thin	16.65	24	400
2030	1a	Thin	16.65	12	200

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.