



Coton Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 New Native Woodland	
5.2 Informal Public Access	
5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
MAPS	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

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

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

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

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Coton Wood
Location:	Coton in the Elms
Grid reference:	SK247147, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 128
Area:	32.95 hectares (81.42 acres)
Designations:	National Forest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Planted in 1995, the trees have thrived and the wood has proved popular with locals. It boasts of neatly-trimmed hawthorn hedges and overgrown elm and blackthorn scrub, where wildlife thrives, including small copper and skipper butterflies.

2.2 Extended Description

Coton Wood is a 33 hectare new native woodland plantation planted in the National forest in 1996 across seven fields of which six of these were pasture and the seventh arable. The soil is free draining and the topography is gently undulating in an area recognized as having landscape typical of the Mease lowland.

Coton Wood is one of a number of woodland creations sites in the local area both under private and Woodland Trust ownership. The nearby Woodland Trust properties are Top Wood, Foxley Wood both located at Linton and Penguin Wood located at Botany Bay. There are also a number of other attractions in the vicinity such as Beehive Farm Shop and Rosliston Forestry Center.

There was much support for the wood locally and the it is well used by local people.

The wood has a purpose built car park and five public entrances with two public footpaths running across the site, these are now linked by approximately 5 kilometers of permissive access paths.

There are several interesting aspects to the wood, these include two large depressions in the north east of the site possibly the result of mining subsidence or mineral extraction. In the north there can be seen extensive ridge and furrow open field system in the adjacent pasture. A ditch and bank feature of archaeological note has also been recorded in a nearby field.

The most striking features of the site are the large hedges and the wide rides which are much more evident now that the trees and shrub fringes have grown up since planting.

There are some 4.7 kilometers of hedges within the site, much of this is the wood boundary hedge but there are significant lengths retained within the wood itself. They are a mix of more recent (enclosure age) straight hawthorn hedges neatly trimmed by neighbouring landowners and older meandering overgrown lines of elm and blackthorn scrub with standard oak trees where no management has occurred for many years. Of particular note is the double hedge and bank, which is known as "Procession Way" and which divides the wood in half. It is thought to be the remnant of an historical lane used as far back as the Black Death for moving plague victims to the nearest church burial ground. All these hedges provide an invaluable resource for wildlife species as well as an interesting record of field patterns and past land use, several of them have formed lynchets (a stepped profile) as a result of soil creep and ploughing over the centuries.

The rides and paths within the wood have developed to give a varied interesting experience for visitors: - there are narrow dark stretches a few feet wide and wide sunny rides up to 40 meters wide. There is an interesting community of common invertebrates and plants thriving in these grassland/scrub edge conditions. Timothy grass, gorse, small copper butterfly, skipper, brown hawker dragonfly, meadow brown butterfly, marbled white butterfly, Roselle's bush cricket to name just a few. In addition the extensive scrub edges associated with these hedges and ride margins will be ideal breeding and foraging habitat for many of the common farm and garden birds such as Yellow hammer and Dunnock.

There is evidence of badger activity over much of the wood and there are a number of relatively old trees within the hedgerows, which are highly valuable for all manner of wildlife species.

It is interesting to note that of the 8 ponds mapped on the 1889 map of the area only 2 still remain and both of these are outside the wood boundary.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Coton lies immediately to the south of the village of Coton in the Elms on the Lullinton Road. There is a WT car park next door to the Old Malthouse. The village is 8 kms south of Burton on Trent and 8 kms southwest of Swadlincote. There is a bus service to Coton from both of these towns. See traveline.org.uk for further details.

The paths are mostly of mown grass, smooth and with only gentle gradients. However the kissing gates at the car park are not wide enough to allow the passage of a motorised wheel chair.

There are two public footpaths which traverse the site. One which takes you to Grange Wood and WT sites at Botany Bay and Top Wood and the other which follows the old "Procession or Coffin Lane" to Lullington. Up until the late C19th there was no consecrated ground at Coton so the dead were processed to Lulligton churchyard.

The nearest public toilets are at Woodville Road, Overseal some 5 kms away. They are open 7 days per week during daylight hours. They have disabled but not baby changing facilities. Further information concerning this and other public toilets in the district can be found at the following webpage.

<http://faqs.south-derbys.gov.uk/portal/an/default.aspx/ServiceView/?SvcID=4BDF2A01EFE>

Additional information about places to visit, accommodation, walks, activities in the locality can be obtained from the National Forest website at <http://www.nationalforest.org>

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The current plan pertaining to the Woodland Trusts "Conservation" corporate aim is to allow Coton 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.

Any 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 Die-back and Grey Squirrel damage both of which have the potential to be significant at Coton Wood and also environmental changes resulting from climate change.

In the long term it may be possible to explore opportunities associated with economic thinning at Coton Wood and the practical and economic feasibility of related operations 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.

In order to meet the Woodland Trusts "Public" corporate aim Coton 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 New Native Woodland

Description

Mixed new native broadleaved woodland comprising mainly of oak, ash and field maple with birch, hazel and other native shrubs. This wood has developed very rapidly into a significant landscape feature and wildlife habitat with well defined areas of canopy, dense thickets of scrub, open glades and wide rides. Already many common types of birds invertebrates and plants inhabit the wood. This rapid ecological progression has been accelerated by the presence of many km of mature hedgerows and patches of scrub that existed on the site prior to planting.

Significance

As part of the national forest area Coton Wood helps to fulfill many of the original goals set out for the national forest, these were:-

To create a diverse landscape and enhance biodiversity.

To create a major resource for tourism, recreation and education.

To provide a productive alternative use for farmland.

To help stimulate the economy and to create new jobs.

Before the Forest initiative got underway, woodland cover across the area accounted for just six per cent of land use, well below the national average.

Coton Wood achieves the Woodland Trusts corporate objective associated with "Woodland Creation" and that associated with "Conservation".

Opportunities & Constraints

A large site which has a variety of tree species and lots of edge habitat.

Has dead wood and old trees in the hedgerows.

This wood has the potential for further promotion in terms of increasing visitor numbers and growing the Woodland Trusts Supporter base.

Squirrel damage in-particular to oak has been significant throughout the property, this combined the threat from ash die back is of particular concern at Coton Wood.

Factors Causing Change

Ash-die Back - Already well established in the National Forest area. Potentially devastating for the ash component at the property.

Grey Squirrel Damage - First noted in 2014 that squirrel damage throughout the property is particularly bad, especially on the oak component.

The two above factors combined are potentially very significant to the ongoing resilience and continuity of the woodland.

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. The key is to ensure the on-going resilience of the woodland given the threat from ash die-back and the significant amount of squirrel damage to oak at the property, both ash and oak being key components of the current structure of the woodland.

In the longer term it may be possible to explore opportunities associated with economic thinning at Coton Wood and the practical and economic feasibility of related operations 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.

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, pay particular attention to the development and effects of ash die-back and the impact of squirrels on oak and other susceptible species.

Carry out Grey Squirrel control at Coton Wood annually in spring and winter. Make sure to monitor and collate cull sheets / reports and advice from the pest controller. Work collaboratively with the National Forest Company in this regard and to assess the effectiveness of control at Coton Wood and the wider area as part of periodic squirrel and deer control meetings organised by the National Forest Company.

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.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

The wood contains 5km of permissive paths and rides which provide a varied experience for visitors. There are 5 access points into the wood. There are good views of the surrounding countryside and villages. The wood also has it's own car park and is currently well used by local people.

Significance

The pattern of public and permissive footpaths at Coton 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 Coton 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

Occasional unauthorized access by fox hunts has been an issue in the past.

Opportunity for further promotion within the National Forest area to attract more visitors and further raise the Woodland Trusts profile.

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

Coton 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.

Factors Causing Change

Overgrowing blackthorn and scrub unless periodically cut back will eventually inhibit public and management access.

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.

5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Access/Infrastructure

Coton Wood has 5 public entrances and 2 PROW that cross the site. The main entrance is via a purpose-built car park which has a 2 metre height barrier on entry and space for around 6 cars. The car park is bounded with post and rail fencing (including two wooden management access field gates) and has a hard all-weather surface. This entrance also features a large WT 'Asda' sign, a public footpath fingerpost, 2 wooden welcome signs, a WT welcome plaque, 2 metal kissing gates leading to the wider site, a radar key gate, a National Forest plaque and 2 interpretation/info panels in wooden frames. There is also a dog bin in the car park. All other entrances have a small wooden WT welcome sign.

Paths throughout the wood are grassy, with some muddy/wet stretches.

First impressions of the wood are good. The car park looks welcoming and well maintained, with some basic visitor information. The wide rides and open spaces make the wood inviting, and the wood feels like a safe environment in which to walk.

General communication drivers

Coton Wood lies immediately south of the village of Coton-in-the-elms. The village is 8 kms south of Burton on Trent and 8 kms southwest of Swadlincote. The site was planted in 1995 so is a young but thriving woodland. The PROW that run through the wood link it with the villages of Coton-in-the-elms and Lullington, and the cities of Leicester, Derby, Nottingham and Birmingham are all within a 1 hour drive.

An interesting feature of the site are the old hedgerows which pre-date the planting of the existing wood. These include the 'procession way', which is thought to be the remnant of an historical lane used as far back as the Black Death for moving plague victims to the nearest church burial ground. All these hedges provide an invaluable resource for wildlife species as well as an interesting record of field patterns and past land use. Several of them have formed lynchets (a stepped profile) as a result of soil creep and ploughing over the centuries.

Coton Wood also has many wide, grassing rides and glades/clearings that are good for butterflies and wildflowers during the summer months. The current visitor offer at Coton Wood typifies the Trust's original intention of creating places for quiet, informal recreation. The wood is quiet and tranquil, and its network of paths encourage independent exploration by visitors. This provides a contrast to some of the other areas of activity within the National Forest and should be valued as an asset of the site.

Most significant feature is that Coton is one of several WT sites (17 in total) that lie within the boundary of the National Forest. The National Forest covers 200 square miles of the Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire) and is transforming the landscape via woodland creation with the aim of linking the two ancient Forests of Charnwood on its Eastern fringe with Needwood Forest to its West. The National Forest Company is leading the creation of the forest, with a vast array of partners also contributing, and is this year (2017) celebrating its 25th anniversary - <http://www.nationalforest.org/>.

The Rosliston Forestry Centre is approx. 1.5km away, and the National Forest Way runs less than 1km from the boundary of the wood. Other Woodland Trust woods in the close vicinity include Top Wood and Penguin Wood at Botany Bay, both within a kilometre of Coton Wood.

Anecdotally we know that the largest user group at Coton Wood is dog walkers from the surrounding villages. It's estimated that between 30 and 50 people visit the site each day; with many of these being repeat daily visitors. A barrier to access for wider audiences is likely to be a lack of awareness of the site, which isn't helped by the challenging functionality of the Woodland Trust website.

Events

Coton Wood is not currently used for delivery of Woodland Trust Events.

Volunteering

No volunteers are currently associated with the wood.

Schools

As far as we are aware, Coton Wood is not currently used by school groups. The four closest schools are:

- Coton-in-the-elms Primary school
- Rosliston C of E Primary school
- Linton Primary school
- Overseal Primary school

In addition, there are 10 other primary schools within an 8 mile radius of the site. The closest school; Coton-in-the-elms Primary School, would be within walking distance of the wood, so there may be potential for them to use it as an outdoor learning resource.

Wider community engagement

Both Coton-in-the-elms and Rosliston have village halls/community centres that host a range of groups to potentially link in with.

Significance

Coton Wood is a tranquil gem amongst much of the hustle and bustle of the wider National Forest landscape. Its peaceful setting allow visitors to relax and enjoy the natural world, while still being close to lots of the other attractions the National Forest has to offer. Its varied habitats; young woodlands, open rides and glades, and mature hedgerows represent valuable habitat.

The old hedgerows also link the site to the history of the area, and offer a glimpse into a landscape that is now much altered.

Coton Wood's location within the National Forest is of most significance. The Woodland Trust has 17 sites within the forest boundary, and collectively they offer significant potential for increasing our supporter and membership base, connecting people with woods and trees, and raising our brand awareness/support of our cause messaging.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Access/Infrastructure

A way-marked trail may be a beneficial addition, to assist new visitors/those less familiar with the site to orientate themselves round the wood (lots of paths and rides - can easily lose bearings) and pick out key features.

One of wooden signs on a secondary entrance is not placed at the most logical point currently - this should be moved.

Another entrance which is well used (in addition to car park entrance) could have some additional signage / interp similar to the car park entrance.

Some sections of muddy path could be improved to aid access round the site.

Asda sign in car park need repairing and ideally repositioning as does not currently sit well with the fence line.

Events

Coton Wood could work well for small - medium scale events. Areas of open space would work well for groups of congregating people, and could link in well with the 'take a tree to tea' brand moment/ community picnics - could link in with 'big lunch' initiative.

Themed guided walks, such as dawn chorus etc, could work, as could silviculture demonstration events - sharing important messaging around woodland management. Woodland product events, such as willow weaving could be held here, as could orienteering and family nature trail/story telling type events.

Welcome Sites

See visitor basics audit for Coton Woods. Visitor experience could be improved by sharing more of the stories of the site - hedgerows, 'procession lane', woodland management etc.

Volunteering

There is limited scope to offer volunteering at this wood in the near future. However, there are lots of volunteering opportunities across NF - could link in with this.

Would be good to promote Talking Trees across NF area as a whole.

Schools

It would be good to jointly promote the wood and the GTSA to nearby schools, particularly the school in the adjacent village, who could potentially access the site for use as a learning resource.

Coton Wood has good potential for FS activities (small groups arriving by mini bus by prior arrangement overcomes limited parking)

Wider community engagement

Promotion of the wood (and other Woodland Trust woods in close proximity) via local village halls and community centres could be beneficial.

There may be potential for some kind of woodfuel / wood allotment set-up once thinning is required

We should continue to work closely with the National Forest Company to maximise mutual benefit and seek opportunities to work in partnership to further our similar aims/objectives.

Constraints:

Access/Infrastructure

Budget may be limited to install components such as way-marked trails - funding may need to be sought.

Events

A consideration for events would be lack of onsite facilities, and limited parking. May be scope to use land adjacent to car park as an overflow space.

Volunteering

Staff capacity to manage increased numbers of volunteers will always be a constraint.

Schools

Staff capacity to invest the necessary time to build relationships with schools will be limited

Wider community engagement

Staff capacity is limited; we need to find our place within an area that already has a lot of alternative engagement offers, and prioritise which sites within the National Forest we should focus on.

Factors Causing Change

The National Forest Company are striving to realise the National Forest as a destination area within the midlands and the wider country, and has a strong emphasis on growing the tourism industry throughout the forest area. This may result in increased visits from further afield in future years, and we will need to anticipate and be ready for this in terms of our visitor experience and offer at our National Forest woodlands, how we potentially package ourselves up with other nearby facilities, and how we can utilise the extra footfall to increase our supporter and member base.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Coton Wood is a calm and tranquil woodland, which provides a contrast to the surrounding hustle and bustle of the National Forest. It is used and valued by the local community, and a local woodfuel group are active in managing the site as it continues to grow and evolve. The local school uses Coton as an important outdoor educational resource on a self-led basis supported by WT resources, and the community appreciate having a high-quality green space to use for an annual picnic event which celebrates local life and the importance of the wood, its wildlife, and the wider National Forest. New visitors are able to explore the wood from the well maintained car park and welcome/orientation points, and feel safe to explore the network of clearly defined rides and pathways. All visitors come away with an increased awareness of the WT and some of Coton Wood's most treasured stories, of both its wildlife and history

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

Action items identified in the Entrance Survey deliverables list, completed
Review/refresh/update online information about the wood on WT website - include map as downloadable PDF, June 2018
Ensure National Forest is a focus for volunteer growth / development - including Talking Trees programme, 2018
Promote site and GTSA to local schools, 2018
Make contact with closest school to raise awareness of WT, site, and potential to use Coton Wood as a learning resource (self-led), 2018
Trial an event at Coton during the next 5 years - potentially a community picnic - could link in with school, By 2022

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	33.30	Mixed native broadleaves	1996	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	National Forest

This compartment comprises the whole of the woodland. The wood is an irregular figure of eight shape and was all planted in 1996 (apart from 0.8 ha which was planted in 2002). The mix throughout consisted primarily of Oak, Ash, Field maple as well as Willow, Silver birch, Aspen, Poplar and Hazel with a 10% fringe of shrubs such as Guelder rose, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Goat willow along the glade and ride edges. 2250 trees were planted per hectare. There is also 3.3 hectares of open ground within the wood, this is incorporated as very wide rides (up to 15 meters) and large glades mainly where there is a dip in the ground surface or a significant high point from which views can be had of the surrounding rural area. Incorporated within the wood are the original field hedges mostly Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Elm with Oak and Ash standards. These have for the most part been allowed to grow out and have received no management since planting time and now have developed as highly significant linear shrub habitats with ditches, dense thickets of thorn, rabbit disturbed bare ground, standing and fallen dead wood as well as older mature trees. These hedges surround the whole of the perimeter of the site and within the site all of the original hedges which divided up the site into seven fields still remain. In all there are 4.7 kilometers of hedgerow. Of particular note is the feature which runs north west to south east across the center of the site which is known as Procession Way which takes the form of a sunken lane approximately 5 meters in width with well grown out banked hedges on each side. This feature joins Coton Road at the northwestern end but disappears after leaving the site. There is a perimeter stream (Pressall Brook) running around part of the perimeter of the wood to the south.

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.