



Lady Mabel's Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Lady Mabel's Wood
Location:	Haigh
Grid reference:	SD590080, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 108
Area:	26.46 hectares (65.38 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Green Belt, Other

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Planted in 1995 as part of Greater Manchester's Red Rose Community Forest, Lady Mabel's Wood complements mature woodland in neighbouring Haigh Hall Country Park. In addition to the mix of native broadleaf trees, the site also contains hedges, shrubs and ponds which add to the mosaic of wildlife habitats in the area.

2.2 Extended Description

Lady Mabel's Wood is approximately 26 hectares in size and located close to the centre of Wigan adjacent to Haigh Hall Country Park. The area of Haigh Estate was awarded a grade 'A' status in the Sites of Biological Interest Survey undertaken by the former Greater Manchester Metropolitan Council, this new plantation adds value and core area to that local mosaic of habitats.

The site came into Woodland Trust ownership in September 1994 and was planted as part of the Red Rose Forest in 1995. 50% of the area has been planted with native species oak, ash, hazel, birch and wild cherry; and 48% has been dedicated to paths and meadows with the remainder accommodating alder, hawthorn and willow hedgerows, with small groups of horse chestnut and small leaved lime planted to complement the species mixture on Haigh Hall Estate. Other woody shrubs planted include dog rose and guelder rose. New Native Woodland and Open Ground are both Key Features of the site.

The site is bounded by mature woodland to the south, a canal and golf course to the east, and pasture to the north and west. The land has a moderate slope with a south western aspect. In the early 1950's the majority of the site was used for open cast mining. No detailed records were kept regarding the infilling of the land, but it is believed to be scalplings. This is confirmed by the results of borehole tests and report on ground conditions made by Exploration Associates Ltd. which classifies the soil as 'made ground' comprised largely of dark grey sandy clay with numerous fragments of sandstone, mudstone coal and ironstone.

The site is popular with dog walkers and ramblers and due to its urban fringe location is accessible to a large number of people. Many of the footpaths crossing the site link to public rights of way and open areas such as Haigh Hall Country Park and the Leeds Liverpool canal towpath. The public rights of way network also links the site to two other Woodland Trust sites Crawfords Wood and Kirkless Wood. Informal Public Access is a Key Feature of the site.

In May 1998 the Woodland Trust re-named the site as Lady Mabel's Wood to commemorate a character from local history. The land is thought to form part of the penitent route walked by Lady Mabel, daughter of Hugh le Norreys of Haigh and Blackrod in the 1300's. Lady Mabel who thought her husband Sir William de Bradshaw dead in action took a second husband, a Welsh knight. Sir William however returned to England and fought and killed the Welsh knight. Lady Mabel was given the penance of walking barefoot from Haigh Hall to a cross in Wigan, which is now known as Mab's Cross.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By bus:

The nearest bus stop is located at St David's Crescent which is 4.8 kilometres/3 miles from the wood.

By train:

The nearest train stations are Wigan Wallgate and Wigan North West, just over 5 kilometres/3 miles from the wood.

For further information on public transport contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit traveline.org.uk

By car:

Lady Mabel's Wood is located close to the A49 (Wigan Road), approximately 5km (3 miles) from the centre of Wigan and adjacent to the Haigh Hall Country Park.

From Wigan take the A49 northbound and continue for just over 3km (approx.2 miles). Drive past the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary on your left then turn right onto Leyland Mill Lane. When you reach a mini roundabout carry straight on and join Hall Lane, following signs for Haigh Hall Country Park. After around 0.8km (0.5 mile) you will see Lady Mabel's Wood to your left.

The wood has four pedestrian entrances, two on the site's southern boundary bordering Hall Lane and two on the eastern boundary bordering the towpath adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

Parking is available in lay-bys on Hall Lane to the south but may be limited.

3.2 Access / Walks

Lady Mabel's Wood has four entrances: two on the southern boundary bordering Hall Lane and two on the eastern boundary next to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

The site has a moderate slope with a south-western aspect. It is well used and has approximately 2.2km (1.3 miles) of flat, level, formal and informal paths which link to other local footpaths such as the canal towpath and open space at Haigh Hall Country Park. The paths and access offer circular and through walks and provide easy access to site features. The public rights of way network also links Lady Mabel's Wood to two other Woodland Trust sites - Crawford's Wood and Kirkless Wood.

The paths can be muddy and slippery when wet so check the weather forecast and don't forget your boots!

There is no car park but limited parking is available in lay-bys on Hall Lane to the south.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to create and maintain a site with an intimate and rich mosaic of habitats that compliments the surrounding landscape and provides a workable balance between the Woodland Trusts access policy and woodland management principles.

The plantation areas will be managed as a mixed, native species, high forest. The dominant appearance of which will be oak-ash woodland.

At this current time (2015) there appears no practical rational for maintaining the open space, the meadow area is wet making it very difficult to mow, the domination of juncus reed means the hay crop would be of no value or use. Heavy disturbance by dogs means that the area is of no value to ground nesting birds; a recent survey (2011) failed to find a single ground nesting bird on site. Therefore the open areas will be managed as transitional habitats and allowed to scrub up and eventually succeed to woodland over a long period of time.

The current high level of public access with 6 entrances and approximately 2200m of paths will be maintained and where possible enhanced in the future. It is also hoped that more linkages can be created between the wood and its nearby neighbouring Woodland Trust sites Crawford's Wood and Kirkless Wood. Consultation and involvement of local people will continue to be important.

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 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

This site is part of the Welcoming Sites Programme, which aims to improve the visitor experience to this site. The Welcoming Site Programme will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that will improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to the wood. An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths will further encourage the appreciation of the woodland both on the site and in the locality. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme and will provide a clear welcome: entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors. The site will be a truly valued resource in the local community and well respected.

Its position in the landscape

Lady Mabel's Wood is located on the north-eastern edge of Wigan, approximately 2 miles from the town centre. It is bounded to the east by the historic woodlands of Haigh Hall-a listed building and historic grounds, built in the early 1800's for the 7th Earl of Balcarres, now managed as a hotel and leisure facilities (Metropolitan Borough of Wigan), to the north by the Leeds Liverpool Canal (and Haigh Hall golf course), to the west is open grassland used for cattle grazing and to the south private residential properties.

General description of the access

The site is well used and has approximately 2.2km of formal and informal paths with six entrance points linking the compartments to other local footpaths and bridleways, the canal towpath and open space at Haigh County Park. The paths and access offer circular and through walks and provide easy access to site features, and some of the routes within the site are now surfaced. Lady Mabel's Wood was planted as a community woodland and is part of the Red Rose Forest.

The visitor profile

The majority of visitors to the woodland are locals within easy walking or driving distance, offering very easy access for local people to enjoy informal recreation and access to nature very close to where they live. Many of the visitors walk further afield making use of the extensive path and bridleway network and the adjoining mature woodlands

Events, activities and volunteering

There are currently no people engagement events planned for Lady Mabel's Wood and it does not have any formal volunteer group, although there are volunteer and friends of groups that operate at Haigh Hall and also nearby on the Leeds Liverpool Canal (Canal and Rivers Trust). Volunteers from the Woodland Trust Smithills Estate occasionally visit.

Nearby Woodland Trust sites

Lady Mabel's Wood is part of a complex of establishing native woodlands around the Wigan area, including Crawford's Wood and Kirkless Wood. All three woodlands are accessible from one to another via footpaths and bridleways and with the Haigh Hall Country Park form an almost continuous accessible green space. The largest site in England for the Woodland Trust is nearby at Bolton - Smithills Estate

Significance

In accordance with the Woodland Trusts general aims the site is open to the public for quiet informal pedestrian activities. It is part of the Red Rose Forest, and its juxtaposition alongside Haigh County Park and close to the centre of Wigan means that it extends the opportunities available for informal recreation in the heavily populated and urban county of Gt. Manchester.

Opportunities & Constraints

Car parking at the site is limited to Hall Lane, directly adjacent to the wood. There is sufficient provision along the roadside verges for a large number of cars, but it is outside Woodland Trust ownership and maintenance. Visitors are on the whole likely to be local people who have driven in from the surrounding couple of miles. As a former coal surface mine, the site is also permanently wet and the path network which is only partly surfaced is likely to limit the visitor experience over some parts of the wood. The high usage and close proximity of an urban population also mean that the site is subject to fairly intense use throughout the year. "Use" can manifest itself as miss-use and over-use. Wear and tear on open spaces; disturbance of wildlife by dogs; fires; den building; vandalism; unauthorised access and fly tipping are perennial problems in urban woodlands that need to be taken into consideration when creating or improving access.

The site offers great potential for engagement with volunteers and community woodland groups. There could be potential to develop the wood allotment model or similar and there is also possible local business opportunities linked to coppicing, wood fuel, charcoal and events / training. The sites close proximity to a large population coupled with its habitat value and management requirements will provide excellent opportunities for use by local interest, field study, and volunteer groups, and will give rise to opportunities during public consultation to present and explain the Trusts overall aims. There may be opportunities to develop wider volunteer partnerships with the nearby Woodland Trust Smithills Estate as well as other organisations such as the Canal and Rivers Trust. There is an opportunity to improve the welcome, with a revamp of the entire site signage, waymarking and existing entrances. The short term upgrades in infrastructure, trails and on site interpretation would support the needs of the local visitor groups, as well as providing potential development opportunities for events, volunteering and community engagement. Given the size of the site and range of habitats and areas there is also potential for engagement with volunteers and community woodland groups, as well as the potential to develop areas dedicated to forest Schools without having any major impact on the site or other users. Woodland Trust Schools schemes (Green Tree Schools, DEFRA and People Postcode Lottery programmes) should be encouraged to make use of the wood, and there could be potential for developing an onsite education area and resources.

Factors Causing Change

Anti-social problems, such as litter, fly-tipping, vandalism and illegal camp fires occur occasionally and are difficult to tackle proactively. Pressure from bridleway users to extend the existing network beyond the existing permissive path are ongoing. Increased numbers of visitors would require significantly improved infrastructure on the site and greater engagement capacity with visitors, volunteers, and community engagement. The wood does require a greater level of annual maintenance, with a periodic (maximum 10 year) refurbishment of the entire welcome facilities, utilising bespoke and robust infrastructure.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will provide an extensive area of native broadleaved woodland, for quiet informal recreation to a wide range of users both from the local community and from further afield (visitors linking a visit to the woodland and Haigh Hall Country Park). The use of the site will be promoted through positive relationships locally with neighbouring tourist destination sites, with good signage and interpretation.

Entrances and signage will have a welcoming appearance and there will be a network of well-maintained paths providing a range of circular routes suitable for walkers with viewpoints over a range of varied habitat types. Interpretation or waymarking that is integrated with, or compliments existing routes and tourist opportunities will provide visitors with information on directions and points of interest.

The use of the site for education will have increased, and linked with other Woodland Trust sites in the area, will have a sustainable events and schools programme established, including demonstrations and workshops, and as an educational and recreational resource. Volunteering would ideally be active and linked to or complement the activity locally and at Haigh Hall.

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

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines. Achieved by ensuring that:

Entrances & signage are welcoming to visitors and well maintained (annually).

All managed paths are kept well-drained and free from encroaching vegetation by strimming, and that access features (e.g. bridges, steps, entrances, boundary features, etc. are kept in good order (annually).

The site is kept safe and welcoming by: repair of vandalism (when needed); clearing of fallen or dangerous trees where access is obstructed (as needed); and regular site safety surveys (as per risk assessment).

The visitor welcome & experience will be further enhanced by the following infrastructure improvements by the end of the current plan period:

Significant improvement to the welcome signage, including replacement of the existing signs, and potentially waymarkers at key locations through the woodland. Minor entrances will be formalised with a consistent access standard (eg kissing gate and named welcome and exit signs)

The network of paths will be extended, and maintained at least once per plan period, with a more regular maintenance (surfacing and drainage) of the permissive surfaced route.

Furniture, including feature benches, information points will be maintained annually or as required.

New volunteer activity and volunteer roles will be developed and encouraged, where the opportunities arise, although these are unlikely to be proactively developed.

Identified areas of the woodland will be available for education, with forest schools and other local user groups suited to the aims and objectives of the Woodland Trust will be encouraged wherever possible.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

Approximately 50% (14ha) of the site is new plantation (planted 1995) with a few remnant sections of hedgerow. Approximately 1 hectare of the planting area is pure or mixed alder and willow stands. The remainder is in large blocks of mixed native broadleaves. Made soils and poor drainage during wet summers have resulted in establishment difficulties requiring heavy beat-ups. Two thirds of the plantation is now established at approximately 90% planting density the remainder is variable with some patches of less than 50% establishment success (See conservation features map). The planting regime consisted of a complex mixture of fast and slow growing trees in small planting clusters; this complexity has been compounded by the degree of failures and subsequent beat-up programs.

Significance

The creation of new native species woodland is one of the Woodland Trusts core objectives. Lady Mabel's Wood lies alongside existing mature mixed oak, beech and ash plantations on Haigh Country Park and serves to compliment and diversify woodland structure and habitat variety in the local area. On a regional scale woodland cover is below the national average, Lady Mabel's Wood was planted as part of the regions Red Rose Forest initiative designed to increase and improve woodland cover across Greater Manchester.

Opportunities & Constraints

The plantation has a complex mix of trees with widely different growth rates, forms, tolerances and growth requirements, all planted in a mosaic of small stands. The sites former land use as an open cast mine, as well as its wet and exposed nature means that tree growth has been slow. However the planted trees growth rate is acceptable and the site has now taken on the appearance of young woodland.

The site is on the whole abutted by farmland and a golf course, and hence the sites ecological value will always be limited due to a lack of surrounding semi natural habitats. However part of the site also abuts Haigh Hall Country Park which is designated as a Grade A Site Of Biological Importance.

An opportunity exists during public consultation and media coverage to incorporate and re-familiarise the local population with the Woodland Trusts aims and objectives.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The aim is to create a high forest of mixed predominantly native broadleaves. The wood will be managed predominantly as a recreational and landscape feature. This will involve maintaining the diverse mix of species, regeneration of both natives and non-native species will be accepted.

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

Thinning work will be carried out in 2022 to promote age & species diversity on site.

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out in the final year of the current plan period. This will make recommendations as to the management of the site, key elements of which are likely to include open ground, the effects of ash disease and the development of natural regeneration.

5.3 Open Ground Habitat

Description

12.4 hectares of the site has been left as open ground, the open ground is predominantly to the north and east of the site. The area supports a variety of grassland communities from areas totally dominated by rush to mixed meadow grasses, a high proportion of which is red fescue seeded in 1995, there are also 4 small ponds. Past land use has included open cast mining of shallow coal deposits back filled with scalping's, the resultant soil is graded as made land and has poor drainage with numerous large flushes and areas of seasonally wet ground.

Significance

The transitional open space/scrub habitat will be utilised by many different types of flora and fauna locally.

Opportunities & Constraints

Despite a regime of annual hay cuts, a number of large wet flushes and a succession of wet summers in the 1990's has led to colonisation of much of the area by rush's degrading the value of the hay produced. The opportunity exist to further diversify the habitat within the site by letting these areas develop naturally to scrubland and further tree planting could also occur. Unfortunately high usage by dog walkers compromises the value of many areas for nesting birds.

Factors Causing Change

Development of scrub

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Manage the open space as a transitional habitat allowing scrub woodland to develop.

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

Informal visual assessment of density and range of regeneration species present once per plan period.

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	26.40	Ash	1995	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Legal issues, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, New Native Woodland, Open Ground Habitat	Community Forest, Green Belt, Other

Compartment 1a is 55% establishing woodland plantation and 45% open ground and rides (14 ha & 12.4 ha respectively). The woodland blocks were planted in 1995, in small complex stands of native woodland species, the mix was made more complex by high losses and subsequent beat-up during establishment. The open ground supports a variety of grassland communities, from low yielding meadow grassland, sown prior to planting, through to relatively species rich wet meadow areas. The site has a slight to moderate gradient with a southwest aspect and poor drainage across its south and eastern slopes as the site is wholly 'made' (infill) soil on a former opencast coal mine. The compartment is bounded by mature woodland to the south, a canal and golf course to the east, and pasture to the north and west.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2016	1a	Coppice	1.00	2	2
2019	1a	Thin	0.50	20	10
2020	1a	Thin	0.50	20	10
2022	1a	Thin	14.00	20	280

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.