WOODLAND TRUST

Elmstead Market

Management Plan 2017-2022

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Elmstead Market
Location:	Colchester
Grid reference:	TM073249, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 168
Area:	42.06 hectares (103.93 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archeological Site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This new woodland creation project will see thousands of tree planted, providing a valuable resource for local people and wildlife. Breeding barn owls and buzzards are already in residence – other species invited.

2.2 Extended Description

The site at Elmstead is former arable farmland once part of Lodge Farm which the site is adjacent to. It is situated east of Colchester in an area of generally flat open country, on the eastern edge of the interfluvial plateau between two tributaries of the River Colne: to the west, the Salary Brook and the to the North and East, the Bromley Brook and Tenpenny Brook. The north and south boundaries are formed by the A120 and the Bromley Road.

Within these boundaries the area of the site is comprised of the floor and gently sloping sides of the Tenpenny Brook valley. A shallow subsidiary valley, cut by a small stream which is little more than a drainage ditch, runs across the southern half of the site south of Lodge Farm, joining Tenpenny Brook about 150m before it flows under the Bromley road and out of the site.

The site is thought to have been part of a park (Elmstead Park) thought to date from at least the 17th century and which had largely been converted to farmland by 1845 Tithe Map. Maps from 1655 show Mill Wood to have been an area of pasture woodland and overall the land was generally less treed in 1655 than it is currently.

On acquisition much of the site has been planted with new woodland leaving a corridor 50m either side of Tenpenny Brook as semi natural open ground with new ponds and wetland habitats. Additional open ground areas are located where for archaeological reason new woodland could not be planted or to avoid planting trees too close to neighbours residences. The latter area has been sown to wildflowers with a clumped planting of trees to create an open pasture woodland type habitat. One of the former areas has been developed into an outdoor education area with a large chainsaw sculpture and cherry orchard while the second area is being left to develop naturally.

Key species found on site are Buzzards and Barn owls both of which nest on site. Water voles area also recorded on site but may have been lost recently due to mink predation.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Event only parking is available on site by agreement with visitor parking available nearby at the village car park. The site entrance adjoins the National Cycle route 51 with regular buses from Colchester to Elmstead Market run by First Bus Company. Nearest Train station is at Colchester with Wivenhoe also nearby with scope for an attractive walk to the site.

Pedestrian only access is permitted on site with a network of regularly cut grassy paths. Medium mobility Centre Wire kissing gates are used to provide access onto grazing fields with four foot gates giving access elsewhere where a pedestrian gate is needed and there are no livestock. An information board is to be erected in 2015.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

New Native woodland: The aim is to ensure establishment of the planted woodland blocks and to develop them towards mature secondary native woodland, which is resilient to change. This will be done by ensuring a diverse range of native tree species as possible. Management of the woodlands will respond to any changes and threats imposed on them, for instance from tree diseases. Restocking and the use of alternative species to ensure a robust and diverse tree mix will be undertaken where appropriate, and especially in areas affected by ash dieback. The new woodland buffers and extends an ASNW, Mill Wood. Mill Wood will be managed as high forest and it is envisaged that the minimum of silvicultural intervention will be required, but woodland conditions will be monitored.

New Semi-natural open ground: A diverse semi-natural open ground habitat with up to 19% woodland cover will be created comprising grassland, stream, ponds, wetland and scrub/woodland. The land will be managed to promote its value for wildlife and will seek to make use of local farmers in the long-term management of the grassland. The opportunity to combine conservation management objective with the income potential of Cricket Bat Willow growing will be explored. Open habitats will also include the development of a small orchard, and an area of wood pasture on the southwest corner of the site.

Informal Public Access: Public access will largely be low key with pedestrian access only permitted. An ‘outdoor education’ facility is to be developed and promoted to the local primary school in the first instance.

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland: It is proposed that work within Mill Wood will be focussed on creating a quiet area for the nesting buzzards and establishing a path for people visiting to see the bluebells to follow so as to minimse the impact they have on the flowers. Otherwise the woodland management regime proposed is 'minimal intervention'.

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

27.5 ha of the site has been planted with new native woodland. The woodland is situated on the sides of the small river valley along which runs Ten Penny Brook.

New woodland was established in three phases on former arable land. Archaeological assessments undertaken on all fields except for the phase one planting.

Phase one: Planted Spring 2008 by local Scouts and schoolchildren. At the time the land was not owned by the WT but we did the work and subsequently maintained the trees.

Phase Two: Two blocks totalling 13.5 ha and 28832 trees planted in March/April 2009 under a EWGS scheme

Phase three: Two blocks totalling 10.5ha and 20700 trees planted a season apart. 5.25 ha planted in Jan 2011 with the remaining 5.25 planted in Jan 2012.

60-90cm planting stock used and all trees planted within a rabbit fence except for the phase one planting which is in spiral guards. Across all planting blocks the species mix is largely: Ash 24%, POK 21%, Haz 20%, SWCH 13%, Bet Pend 6%, Bet Pub 3%, SLI 3%, HBM 3%, Grey Sallow 2%, Holly 1% and Crab 1%.Maintenace comprises two band sprays with round and two interrow cuts per year for the first three years with optional band spray in spring in years 4 and 5.

Significance

Increasing the area under native trees and improving woodland biodiversity are corporate objectives of the WT

The linking of native woodland habitats by the proposals increases capacity for native woodland flora and fauna.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

C1: Unrestricted deer browsing;
C2: Unrestricted rabbit grazing
C3: FWPS precludes coppicing/grazing within the 15 year FWPS period.

Opportunities

O1: To expand the area of site native woody species;
O2: To temporarily expand habitat opportunities for non-woodland species

Factors Causing Change

Uncontrolled grazing by deer

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The aim is to ensure establishment of the planted woodland blocks and to develop them towards mature secondary native woodland, which is resilient to change. This will be done by ensuring a diverse range of native tree species as possible. Management of the woodlands will respond to any changes and threats imposed on them, for instance from tree diseases. Restocking and the use of alternative species to ensure a robust and diverse tree mix will be undertaken where appropriate, and especially in areas affected by ash dieback. The new woodland buffers and extends an ASNW, Mill Wood. Mill Wood will be managed as high forest and it is envisaged that the minimum of silvicultural intervention will be required, but woodland conditions will be monitored.

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

The Establishment of 27.5ha of new native broadleaved woodland. During 2019 a large scale beating up (restocking) programme will be carried out in areas of new woodland which are struggling to establish (eg. through ash dieback or other factors). Beating up will be undertaken over approximately 15 hectares, in the northern planting block of 1a (10-20% of area). The most appropriate and robust species mix will be planted including common alder, downy birch, oak and wild cherry. Subsequent weed control will then be carried throughout the rest of this management period to ensure establishment of these trees, and some inter-row management of vegetation will be undertaken to enable this. Previously planted trees will also continue to receive weed control until they are established and this will be carried out via spot spraying individual trees.
There will also be a phased removal of rabbit fences and tree shelters over the entire plan period, as the infrastructure and materials become redundant and not needed in the planted areas.

5.2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

24% (circa 10ha) of the site is being developed as a diverse semi-natural open ground habitat with up to 19% woodland cover. Habitats being established/maintained are grassland, stream, ponds, wetland and scrub/woodland.

A new pond and wetland scrape were established in Dec 2010. The bulk of the grassland has been established by natural regeneration with only 2.5 has established by sowing a wildflower meadow mix on which hay from Fordham Meadow has been over sown. To date the grassland has been managed by cutting and leaving the residue however grant commitments require has us to remove the arising and it is proposed that grazing will be the most appropriate way to achieve this.

Significance

Opportunity to create a locally significant biodiversity reserve with good prospects to facilitate the spread of species along the river valley.

Grazed semi-natural grassland is a nationally declining habitat.

In landscape terms grazed grassland in the river valley restores a landscape that is increasingly being lost in Essex.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

C1The availability of appropriate graziers to use the site;
C2: Natural succession leading to woodland;
C3: Control of noxious weeds

Opportunities

O1: To create a diverse range of semi-natural habitats complementary to native woodland.
O2: To work with neighbouring landowners in the management of the site through grazing and/or hay cutting;
O3: To buffer the adjacent ASNW

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to woodland

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The creation of a significant area of conservation grassland and association riparian and aquatic habitats managed to increase populations and opportunities for plants and animals.

It is proposed that through extensive grazing a grass and woodland mosaic can be established with up to 20% scrub/tree cover.

In addition the possibility of combining the cultivation Cricket Bat willows with conservation grazing will be explored with a view to establishing a self financing conservation scheme.

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

1.Removal of annual growth by the cutting or grazing of the grassland areas to promote botanical diversification. Conservation grazing will be the preferred option. The development of trees and scrub (via natural colonisation) will be encouraged on the open ground up to a max of 20%.

2. Assessment made of the scope to integrate cricket bat willow growing with the conservation options of the site;

3.Introduction of wildflowers to the site via hay translocation from Fordham, to diversify the grass sward.

4.Erection and maintenance of Barn Owl boxes on the site and exploration of other habitat enhancement features opportunities.

5. Annual maintenance of the grassland in the cherry orchard either through cutting or grazing, and continued maintenance/replacement of the trees and labels.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

The public are free to walk over the whole site apart from a small section of Mill Wood ASNW which has been set aside as a quiet area for the nesting buzzards. A PROW runs along the southern boundary of the site and the site is on the immediate outskirts of the relatively large village of Elmstead Market.

A network of grassy paths are maintained by cutting at least three times annually. No parking is available onsite for visitors but a village car park is nearby, 10 mins walk along pavements. Event and staff parking is available. National cycle route 51 passes by the entrance to the site.

An education area has been established in the middle of the site and comprises a chainsaw sculpted seating area in the form of a giant working sundial and flowering cherry orchard.

Any gates on the site are either 4 foot wide gates of medium mobility kissing gates. Stiles are used for management access into planting areas only and not intended for wider public use although more accessible two step stiles have been used.

Significance

Increasing public awareness and enjoyment of woods and trees is one of the Trust's core objectives.

The site creates a prominent local amenity close to a large village.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

C1: A number of private residencies abut or are partially enclosed by the site;
C2: Nesting buzzards prone to disturbance by visitors;
C3: Lack of on-site parking restricts non-local visitor accessibility;

Opportunities

O1: To create a prominent local amenity for Elmstead Market Village;
O2: To promote outdoor educational opportunities at the local primary school

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site is proposed as a focus for quiet informal access for local people who can walk or cycle to the site. It is intend that local people will in the medium to long term be the main means of managing the site.

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

1. Selected paths cut at least three times a year;

2. People engagement plan prepared for the site with the aims including one to encourage practical community support for the management of the site;

3. Maintenance of education area and sculpture

4. Resources developed to support the local primary school to visit and use the area;

5. Maintenance of the boundary roadside hedge to ensure safety of neighbours, visitors and road users.

5.4 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Mill Wood ASNW has many very large coppice stools of ash, hazel and Sweet chestnut. The ground flora has carpets of bluebells, climbing corydalis and some dog's mercury all indicating old woodland. The coppice stool density is very low and the coppice long unworked and now very over mature. Hazel is being overtopped and is in decline across the wood. Buzzards have been regularly recorded as nesting in the wood towards the south and the southern third of the woodland was fenced off in Dec 2010 to help maintain a quiet area for them.

Some minor dumping and pheasant pen detritus still remain in the wood.

Significance

Protecting ASNW is a corporate priority of the trust.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints

C1: Nesting buzzards prone to disturbance;
C2: Very over stood coppice with low stool density

Opportunities

O1: Attract visitors to the wood through the stunning show of bluebells;
O2: Protect woodland biodiversity through sensitive management of the adjacent land

Factors Causing Change

Deer damage

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Minimal intervention woodland with an area off limits to the public to provide the nesting Buzzards a quiet area. A circular path for visitors to use during the blue bells season will be established to ensure trampling damage is minimised

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

1. New fence to create quiet area for buzzards erected;
2. Bluebell trail signed to discourage wider roaming so as to safeguard the bluebell from trampling;
3. Waste materials and structures removed from the site;

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	27.50	NULL	2008	High forest		Informal Public Access	

New woodland established in three phases on former arable land. Archaeological assessments undertaken on all fields except for the phase one planting.

Phase one: Planted Spring 2008 by local Scouts and schoolchildren. At the time the land was not owned by the WT but we did the work and subsequently maintained the trees. All trees were planted outside the EWGS and were protected by spiral guards and are largely planted at 3x3m stocking.

Phase Two: Two blocks totalling 13.5 ha and 28832 trees planted in March/April 2009 under a EWGS scheme. 60-90cm bare rooted trees planted into stubble within a rabbit fence. Stocking varies slightly across the blocks but averages 2.1x1.5 m spacing. Despite the large stock, late planting and dry spring the trees established extremely well with circa 2% failure in the first year.

Phase three: Two blocks totalling 10.5ha and 20700 trees planted a season apart. 5.25 ha planted in Jan 2011 with the remaining 5.25 planted in Jan 2012. 60-90cm planting stock used and all trees planted within a rabbit fence. Planting site presown with grass (Sowing rate 25kilo/ha Species composition: 20% Meadow Fescue, 20% Red Fescue, 20% Chewings Fescue, 20% Sheeps Fescue, 10% Smooth) the season before and cut twice prior to planting. 2011 planting not subsoiled due to lateness of work and the grown being too soft to take vehicles over. Field previously known as Spring Field and true to its name several springs rise from the site and the ground in places becomes very soft in the autumn and winter months.

Across all planting blocks the species mix is largely: Ash 24%, POK 21%, Haz 20%, SWCH 13%, Bet Pend 6%, Bet Pub 3%, SLI 3%, HBM 3%, Grey Sallow 2%, Holly 1% and Crab 1%.Maintenace comprises two band sprays with round and two interrow cuts per year for the first three years with optional band spray in spring in years 4 and 5.

2a	6.30	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features	Informal Public Access	Archeological Site

Former arable land straddling Ten Penny Brook converted to floodplain grassland with up to 19% tree and shrub cover by natural regeneration. The land was not ear-marked for extensive woodland creation due to known and anticipated archaeological constraints and previous grant obligations. The brook has been until recently a key water vole habitat and is still regularly monitored by Essex Wildlife Trust who reports that following mink control measures elsewhere water voles are now resident close to the site and likely to colonise. A pond and wetland scrape were constructed in Dec 2010 along with a river edge cut through to let cattle reach the brook side for water. Barn owl boxes have erected at two points across the site with a third erected by our neighbour overlooking the site Grant commitments under the ELS require us to remove the grass growth each year either by grazing or cut and removal							
2b	2.90	NULL		Non-wood habitat		Informal Public Access	
Former arable field sown to a grass and wildflower mix in spring 2010. The area was cut twice in 2010 with the second preceding the scattering of hay from Fordham flower meadow. The scattered hay was subsequently chopped up and left on site. Seed mix used for sowing: 20% Common Bent 20% Crested Dogstail, 20% Sheeps fescue,10% smooth stalked meadow grass (creeps but not as much as fescue), 15% Red or Chewings fescue (no rhizomes) (not creeping red fescue), 5% small leaved timothy (not the agricultural robust version), 1.0% Yarrow, 2.0% Common Knapweed, 1.5% Birds Foot Trefoil, 0.5% Cowslip, 1.0% Self-Heal, 0.5% Common Vetch, 2.0% Wild Red Clover, 0.5% Lady's Bedstraw, 0.5% Ribwort Plantain, 0.5% Black Medick. A new hedge was planted by volunteers along the western farm track compartment boundary in spring 2010 along with a number of treed clumps totalling 0.52 ha were planted across the whole compartment by volunteers. The hedge is protected by spiral guards while the trees in the clumps are protected by 0.75m tubex tree shelters.							
2c	0.70	NULL		Non-wood habitat		Informal Public Access	

Former arable field originally earmarked for woodland creation but following archaeological survey a possible hut site was identified and the area excluded from the extensive woodland creation proposals.

The area is being developed as an outdoor education area original sponsored by TK Maxx. A sculpted seating area in the form of a giant sundial was constructed in 2010 by a local chainsaw carver. The area was enclosed by a hedge and specially designed pencil gate and fence in Spring 2010

In Dec 2010 an ornamental cherry orchard was planted. The intention of the cherry orchard is to get the benefits of spring blossom without the problem of having to clear up or plan for the use of any apples that would arise from the more typically planted apple orchard. Two each of ten different flowering cherry varieties, two each of a flowering almond and plum were planted.

3a	4.51	NULL		Min-intervention		Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Mill Wood ASNW has many very large coppice stools of ash, hazel and Sweet chestnut. The ground flora has carpets of bluebells, climbing corydalis and some dog's mercury all indicating old woodland. The coppice stool density is very low and the coppice long unworked and now very over mature. Hazel is being overtopped and is in decline across the wood. Buzzards have been regularly recorded as nesting in the wood towards the south and the southern third of the woodland was fenced off in Dec 2010 to help maintain a quiet area for them.

Some minor dumping and pheasant pen detritus still remain in the wood.

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.