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WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Bron Garth

Management Plan 2017-2022

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

SUMMARY

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

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Coed Bron Garth
Location:	Llangwstenyn, Mochdre
Grid reference:	SH820791, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 116
Area:	5.32 hectares (13.15 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This ancient woodland is a carpet of bluebells in the spring and well worth a visit. Combine a walk with a visit the historic Llangystennin church or nearby Bryn Pydew Nature Reserve, or take a break from the National Cycle Network route from Penrhyn Bay to Llandudno Junction.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed Bron Garth is an ancient woodland occupying a prominent, mainly east/ south east-facing mudstone and limestone slope to the north of Mochdre, visible from the A55. The site forms part of the Creuddyn Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which includes a patchwork of ancient woodlands in the vicinity of Llandudno Junction. Although much of the land adjoining Coed Bron Garth is grazed, there is some adjoining woodland and established hedgerows connect the wood within the landscape.

The woodland is an ancient woodland site, of which much retains a more or less semi-natural character, typically with a diverse canopy comprising frequent ash, sycamore, wych elm, wild cherry and sessile oak. However, much of the woodland was replanted around 1960, with patches of larch to the north and dense stands of beech to the south, which have in recent times been restructured by thinning operations. The southern tip of the site is dominated by mature hornbeam. The shrub layer is locally abundant in the unplanted stands and recovering beneath planted beech and larch, being quite diverse in composition. Hazel, Ribes spp., blackthorn, elder, and spindle are typical and there is much natural regeneration of the canopy species. Clematis is common. The field/ ground layer is typical of ash woodland and includes ivy, bramble, dog's mercury, wood anemone and abundant bluebell, which adds to the woods' appeal to visitors in the spring.

There is a large badger sett present at the site and lesser horseshoe bats are likely to use the site for foraging since they roost in the vicinity.

Public footpaths cross the northern part of the site, with linked permissive footpaths following narrow earth tracks. There are five maintained access points, two linking to the adjacent bridleway (Ffordd Bwgan), two stiles to the north and east allowing access via public footpaths, and one squeeze gap to Cystennin Road. Management access is currently rather restricted.

The Key Features of the site are:

Informal public access

Ancient Woodland Site

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General location

Coed Bron Garth is near Mochdre on the outskirts of Colwyn Bay. Leave the A55 North Wales expressway at junction 19 and take the first exit off the roundabout onto the A470 southbound (Betws y Coed) and then almost immediately at the next roundabout take the first exit onto the A547 which runs parallel to the A55 on its south side; Mochdre is reached in about 1½ miles. In Mochdre turn left into Station Road which then crosses the A55 and at the T junction turn right. There is an entrance into the wood on the left hand side just off the lane in less than 300m.

General overview of paths & entrances

The footpaths in Coed Bron Garth are generally unmade with natural surfaces of earth, stone and grass. There are many very steep sections, and these can be slippery in wet weather. There are several entrances into the wood, four via step stile and one via a squeeze stile from Cystennin Road. From the minor road to the east of the wood two entrance points may be accessed: a permissive path enters just off the adjoining road near the southern tip of the wood and another is reached via the public footpath from opposite Llangwstenyn church entrance and follows a field edge to the wood. An old green lane (now a bridleway) adjoins the wood's western boundary and two entrances enter the woodland off it, one a public footpath; both paths meet the public footpath from the church, which exits at an entrance in the northern boundary.

Parking

There is no convenient parking near the wood. Visitors with vehicles are advised to park in Station Road in Mochdre and walk to the wood which is about 500m away, or to access the site via the public rights of way network.

Public transport

The nearest railway station is at Colwyn Bay about two miles to the east. A daytime hourly bus service (number 27) travels from the centre of Colwyn Bay (Tourist Information Centre) to Conwy via Mochdre. To walk to the woods, follow the directions in General Location above. For up to date and more detailed information about public transport, please see the Traveline website www.traveline-cymru.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33. [Information as at April 2007]

Public toilets

The nearest public toilets are in Colwyn Bay in numerous locations. Several of these are RADAR accessible toilets, including one at the railway station and two on the Promenade: some are open only April-September.

3.2 Access / Walks

Coed Bron Garth can be accessed via a number of public and permissive paths from the villages of Mochdre or Bryn Pydew. There is a particularly impressive display of bluebells and other woodland flowers in spring. Visitors might want to combine a walk with a visit to the nearby Llangwstennin Church.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Coed Bron Garth will in the long term be a diverse semi-natural broadleaved woodland. A majority of the canopy will comprise site-native broadleaves, including oak, yew, cherry and elm along with naturalised sycamore (and, hopefully, ash, although the impacts of ash dieback are as yet uncertain). Whilst the beech, chestnut and hornbeam (and scattered larch/ Scots pine) components originate from plantation, their presence as part of the woodland mix will be accepted so long as other species remain well-represented at all levels within a varied woodland structure and the rich ancient woodland ground flora remains robust. There will be an abundant shrub layer, including hazel, holly, spurge laurel, privet, Rosa and Ribes spp. Mature trees will be allowed to develop veteran features and levels of deadwood will build over time. Invasive species will be rare or absent and animal pest impacts will not impact on the wood's ability to regenerate. No stands will have in excess of 20% conifer cover.

The site will continue to enjoy moderate usage by local people and walkers for quiet recreation and informal play. A network of paths will allow visitors to explore the woodland, accessing the site on foot via the connecting rights of way network. The woodland will be maintained in a welcoming and safe condition and continue to offer an attractive display of woodland wildflowers.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

The site is located close to Mochdre and is accessible from a minor road (at the southern end) and from the public rights of way network. The Trust has provided stiles (with Welcome signs) at the four entrance points from the public footpath network and there is also a squeeze gap at roadside. Several moderately well-used earth paths are present through the woodland. There is potential to combine visits to Coed Bron Garth and nearby Marl Hall Woods within a day's circular walk. The woodland occupies a prominent scarp slope clearly visible from Mochdre, the A55, the railway and parts of Colwyn Bay. The site has a good display of bluebells in spring and is regularly used by local people, dog walkers and children for quiet recreation and informal play.

Significance

The wood is an important local amenity with two public footpaths. Local people value the spring wildflowers.

Opportunities & Constraints

The presence of badgers may impede structural work on the footpath network. The terrain/ paths are relatively steep, limiting all-ability access. The ownership of the small patch of land between the road and the entrance is unknown, therefore opportunities to change the entrance-way to make it more visible from the roadway are limited. Although clearly visible, the proposed management of the site is unlikely to give rise to an impact on the landscape.

However, there are opportunities to link in with walks and events held at nearby Marl Hall Woods and to promote all-day walking routes, especially at bluebell time (usually late April/ early May) to tie into wider Trust communications around this season.

Factors Causing Change

At present there is a low level of undesirable activity such as vandalism, graffiti and fire-setting, although this may change depending on local factors. Growing demand for off-road cycling may increase user conflict.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site will continue to enjoy moderate usage by local people and walkers for quiet recreation and informal play. A network of paths will allow visitors to explore the woodland, accessing the site on foot via the connecting rights of way network. The woodland will be maintained in a welcoming and safe condition and continue to offer an attract display of woodland wildflowers.

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

Entrance furniture including Woodland Trust 'Welcome' signage and stiles/ entranceways will be maintained in a safe and tidy condition (see also Risk Assessment). There will a minimum of damaging behaviours recorded in the Site Diary during the current plan period. Occasional guided walks will encourage visitors to link in a visit to Coed Bron Garth in bluebell season.

5.2 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Coed Bron Garth is an ancient woodland site, parts of which remain in a more or less semi-natural state. Located on Silurian mudstones and Carboniferous limestone, natural areas of the canopy are primarily dominated by ash but with frequent sessile oak, wych elm, wild cherry and sycamore. The age composition is particularly varied and includes many mature trees (dating from at least 1900). The shrub layer is often dense comprising hazel, wych elm, holly, elder, *Ribes* spp., yew regeneration (locally abundant) and occasional spindle and hawthorn. The species-rich field layer supports carpets of ivy and dog's mercury with locally abundant bramble and occasional to frequent false-brome, woodruff, sanicle, bluebell, black bryony, spurge laurel, wood melick, gooseberry, herb robert, wood avens, male fern, hart's tongue fern, primrose, wood sedge, wood speedwell and common dog violet (W8). Clematis is abundant. A large active badger sett is present.

Much of the woodland has, however, at some time been subject to plantation: the southernmost end of the site in c1900, when hornbeam and sycamore were planted within the woodland mix. Red oak is also present in small numbers. In the 1960s, further areas of the wood were planted with a mix of beech and larch. Once rather dense, these younger stands have been thinned on a number of occasions, most recently in 2011, and a more diverse structure and species mix is now starting to develop throughout much of the wood. The shrub layer is varied in cover but well developed in many parts, comprising a mix of shrub species and natural regeneration (wych elm, cherry, elder and holly). The field layer is generally dominated by carpets of ivy and/or bluebell with a scattering of other species found within the semi-natural woodland (see above - W8). Small areas with more neutral (to acidic) soils occur supporting a field layer typical of the W10 community (creeping soft-grass, bramble, honeysuckle, common bent). Remnant features include ground flora hotspots, native broadleaf regeneration, precursor deadwood and a small number of pre-crop trees; these features are now generally felt to be secure and a high percentage of crop species such as sycamore and beech will be tolerated in the future canopy, although structural diversity will be promoted. Much of the wood can now be considered 'restored PAWS'.

Significance

Various types of semi-natural woodland - including upland mixed ashwood (W8d) - are priority habitats in the UK and Wales BAP and in a European context (SSSI and SAC feature). Priority or protected species are also known to use the wood: a large badger sett is present and the woodland is likely to be of value as foraging habitat for lesser horseshoe bats, which roost in the vicinity.

Ancient woodland restoration is a Trust priority: ancient woodland as a habitat is both scarce (just 2% of UK land use), species-rich and, once lost, impossible to re-create.

Opportunities & Constraints

The number of mature trees (particularly oaks and yew but also wych elm, wild cherry and ash) is notable providing opportunities for future veterans. Despite past plantation, there remains a rich woodland ground flora throughout the wood, with strong natural regeneration of site-native species. Opportunities taken to restore the woodland by thinning of closed canopy/ uniform-aged stands have therefore been relatively successful in allowing in more diverse and semi-natural structure to develop.

However, the lack of good management access, and locally steep internal slopes, are a practical and economic constraint upon management, meaning timber extraction has not in the past been possible.

Care will be required in the vicinity of the large active badger sett (a licence may be required for work within 30m).

Factors Causing Change

Sycamore is present and may be cyclically abundant in canopy gaps: its coverage is likely to increase if ash dieback impacts are as predicted (possible first symptoms were observed on site in 2016). If ash is to be rapidly and generally affected as current thinking suggests, there is likely to be an opening of the canopy equivalent to that of a further heavy thinning within the next 5-10 years, as current early mature canopy ash dies or retrenches, although natural regeneration of other native species could reasonably be expected to capitalise on these small canopy gaps. Beech coppices and hornbeam seeds at the site, and therefore are both likely to remain a notable component of the wider woodland. Planted beech stands, whilst presently sufficiently open, could become more densely shaded if the beech canopy closes over time.

Species such as cherry laurel are present in neighbouring gardens and have the potential to invade the understorey, shading out ground flora. Squirrel damage is likely to impact on the long term timber value of any crop trees, especially sycamore and beech. Local deer populations could increase, however, browsing pressure is currently limited by external stock fencing.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Coed Bron Garth will in the long term be a high forest semi-natural broadleaved woodland. The original expectation for the woodland was that it would be typical in composition of the SAC woodland type (Tilio-acerion woodland of screes, slopes and ravines), in which ash and yew might have been expected to be dominant. Given the potential impacts of ash dieback, it is likely that ash will be a much-reduced component of the canopy, however, a majority of the canopy will still comprise site-native broadleaves, including oak, yew, cherry and elm along with naturalised sycamore. Whilst the beech, chestnut and hornbeam (and scattered larch/ Scots pine) components originate from plantation, their presence as part of the woodland mix will be accepted so long as other species remain well-represented at all levels within a varied woodland structure and the rich ancient woodland ground flora remains robust. There will be a abundant shrub layer, including hazel, holly, spurge laurel, privet, Rosa and Ribes spp. Mature trees will be allowed to develop veteran features and levels of deadwood will build over time. Invasive species will be rare or absent and animal pest impacts will not impact on the wood's ability to regenerate. No stands will have in excess of 20% conifer cover.

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

Invasive species will remain rare, with no specimens of reproductive size. If seen, laurel seedlings/saplings will be pulled. Stock exclusion will be maintained, with current fencing replaced or repaired as required.

There are no thinning interventions proposed for the coming plan period, in particular due to uncertainty of the impact of ash dieback, which is likely to markedly open up the canopy over the coming years.

Although in 2016, all but one of the PAWS zones was considered to be RAWs, the PAWS and Woodland Condition Assessments will be repeated in spring 2021 to confirm. At this stage, the ancient woodland remnants, most notably woodland ground flora and precursor deadwood, should remain robust (with a range of ancient woodland specialist species around the margins of the dominant bluebell swathes) and there should be at least 50% site native tree and shrub species intermixed with planted broadleaf species in each stand at all levels. The need for future thinning of the conifer and beech stands will then be reviewed: the need will likely depend on the extent of the ash dieback impact on canopy density and the proportion of native (light-demanding) to planted (shade-tolerant) broadleaved species within the resulting recruitment (with the option to consider halo thinning of alternative species such as oak to encourage seed production etc).

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	0.50	Hornbeam	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation
<p>Ancient woodland, presumably replanted early in the 20th century. Area is dark in parts under spreading canopies of mature hornbeam, alongside some planted sycamore and red oak, and native broadleaves such as sessile oak, ash and wild cherry, some of which may pre-date the crop. The shrub layer is well-developed: holly is frequent, alongside hornbeam, ash, yew and sycamore regeneration, young wych elm, and elder. Ivy dominates the field/ground layers but scattered bluebell, enchanter's nightshade, dog's mercury, lords-and-ladies, honeysuckle, male-fern and occasional bramble (W8).</p>							
1b	0.60	Beech	1960	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation
<p>Ancient woodland replanted in the 1960s with beech, which has been thinned in more recent years. Regenerated ash and wild cherry now forms a good proportion of the canopy, although beech is still a significant component. There are also occasional larch and several mature sessile oak. Shrubs and native regeneration are locally frequent (wych elm, ash, oak, wild cherry, holly and sycamore). The field layer is dominated by carpets of bluebell with frequent ivy, but there are more diverse hotspots, particularly on upper slopes, where Galium, Arum, pignut, Dog's mercury and honeysuckle can be found. A few Spurge laurel plants are in evidence. Broad buckler-fern, male-fern and occasional gooseberry, false-brome, bramble, primrose, dog's mercury and dog-rose also occur (W8). Pre-cursor deadwood is frequent overall and there are a good number pre-crop broadleaves.</p>							
1c	1.20	Beech	1960	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation

Ancient woodland mainly replanted in the 1960s but with a mixed age and species composition. There remains a prominent component of young (planted) beech with scattered mature sycamore, sessile oak, sweet chestnut and pines and frequent ash and larch. Shrubs are generally sparse - a few yew saplings occur (locally abundant on scree) with occasional hazel and there is locally frequent sycamore and ash regeneration. The field layer is dominated by carpets of ivy and bluebell with bramble, spurge laurel, honeysuckle, dog's mercury, herb robert, enchanter's nightshade and lords-and-ladies (W8) and patches supporting creeping soft-grass, common bent, bramble, ivy, bluebell and honeysuckle (patches of W10). One area heavily thinned in the 1990s now supports dense scrub comprising elder, wych elm, wild cherry, ash and sycamore with abundant bramble. At the northern end and to the north-east are patches of semi-natural woodland. Here mature tall broadleaves (wild cherry, ash, wych elm, sessile oak and sycamore) dominate over dense holly, wych elm and hazel and a field layer rich in bramble, ivy and dog's mercury (W8).

2a	2.90	Ash	1900	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation
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Primarily ash-dominated ancient semi-natural woodland with locally frequent sessile oak, sycamore (locally dominant), wild cherry and wych elm (including some large individuals). The age structure is particularly diverse. The shrub layer is often dense comprising hazel, wych elm, holly, yew (locally abundant) and occasional spindle and hawthorn. Patches of planted larch occur scattered throughout and there are occasional other conifer species (pine, spruce). A small area of beech occurs on the boundary with sub-compartment 1c. Small areas have been felled in the past and now support dense regeneration (sycamore, wild cherry, ash). The species-rich field layer supports carpets of ivy and dog's mercury with locally abundant bramble and occasional to frequent false-brome, woodruff, sanicle, bluebell, black bryony, spurge laurel, wood melic, gooseberry, herb robert, wood avens, male fern, hart's tongue fern, primrose, wood sedge, wood speedwell and common dog violet. Clematis is abundant (W8). A large active badger sett is present.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2022	1a	Thin	0.50	10	5
2022	1b	Thin	0.60	50	30
2022	1c	Thin	1.20	50	60
2022	2a	Thin	0.44	40	17.5
2026	1b	Thin	0.60	50	30
2026	1c	Thin	1.20	50	60

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.