



Eltringham 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Eltringham Wood
Location:	Prudhoe
Grid reference:	NZ084631, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 88
Area:	1.44 hectares (3.56 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This small wood is popular and well used by local people and sits just across the river from the Tyne Riverside Country Park. There are good views to the north from the edge of the wood and it provides an oasis from the surrounding landscape of factories, housing and farming.

Eltringham Wood is to the west of the town of Prudhoe about 12km west of Newcastle in the county of Northumberland; just south of the River Tyne.

There are three points of public access, the public right of way (Number 68), enters the wood in the south west corner from the A695 Prudhoe bypass. The boundary of the woodland is denoted by a small welcome sign. The footpath heads north east to exit the site adjacent to the railway crossing (pedestrian) and leads into Tyne Riverside Country Park. Public access can also be gained from the south west corner where steps leading from a grass area in public use descend steeply to join the public right of way.

Parking is available at the Tyne Riverside Country Park 20m to the north east of the wood across the railway. The Tyne Riverside Country Park has a pay and display car park, a small visitor centre and toilet facilities. Additionally, public toilets can be found in Prudhoe on Tyne View Terrace behind Front Street near to the police station. Two RADAR toilets are also available in Prudhoe, one on Neale Street and the other on South Road. For further information about the country park please visit the [Northumberland Life](#) website.

For visitors using public transport to get to the wood Prudhoe is on the main Carlisle to Newcastle railway line and there is a station in Prudhoe adjacent to the Tyne Riverside Country Park. The nearest bus stops to the wood are at Prudhoe railway station or on the A695 by-pass at West Road cemetery. Buses come from Newcastle and Hexham into this area. Alternatively call National Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 (national rate) or visit their web site <http://www.traveline.info/>.

2.2 Extended Description

Eltringham Wood, gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1986 by Tyndale District Council, is rectangular woodland extending to 1.44ha (3.6 acres). It is located just to the north west of the town of Prudhoe; 9 miles east of Hexham and 9 miles west of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne in the county of Northumberland. The surrounding area is a mix of industry, housing estates, farming and parkland.

Though situated next to a factory site, adjacent to a railway and the Prudhoe bypass the site gives the impression of being within a countryside setting with the Tyne Riverside Country Park to the north, where there is a small visitor centre, car park and public facilities. The railway line abuts Eltringham Wood to the north with the River Tyne separating the woodland from rolling parkland and farmland beyond, east and west of the site there are woodlands of a similar nature leading to housing and industrial sites with open countryside beyond. A small area of gently sloping farmland, bisected by the A695 Prudhoe bypass, separates the woodland from the town to the south east.

The wood slopes generally north and west with steep escarpments to the north where the land falls to meet the railway and the River Tyne. Steep ground also occurs along Otter Burn that bounds the woodland to the east and an extremely steep escarpment bounds the wood to the south. There are no discernible fences along any of the legal boundaries (although the railway is partly fenced, and there is a fence around the factory to the west, both just beyond the legal boundary).

The woodland is made up entirely of broadleaved trees and includes both native and non-native species. Oak and sycamore are the dominant species though there is a good representation of other trees and shrubs including birch, ash, beech, rowan, holly, hawthorn and hazel. Most of the trees are thought to be naturally regenerated or the result of re-growth from felled trees and, whilst the nature of the woodland makes it difficult to give a precise age, the trees appear to have established themselves around 1920-1930. Canopy closure is almost 100% with only a few small areas where light is able to penetrate to the woodland floor. This in addition with the extensive public use creating a myriad of paths has resulted in a limited vegetation layer dominated by wood-rush, brambles and ivy with some ferns and nettles.

A public right of way leading from the south west to the north east bisects the wood. This along with the Woodland Trusts permissive routes form some 590m of paths. Local people, children and visitors use the woodland extensively however activity is not restricted to the formal routes and many unofficial paths wind their way throughout the woodland and link to more extensive routes along the River Tyne.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Eltringham Wood is to the west of the town of Prudhoe about 12km west of Newcastle in the county of Northumberland; just south of the River Tyne.

There are three points of public access, the public right of way (Number 68), enters the wood in the south west corner from the A695 Prudhoe bypass. The boundary of the woodland is denoted by a small welcome sign. The footpath heads north east to exit the site adjacent to the railway crossing (pedestrian) and leads into Tyne Riverside Country Park. Public access can also be gained from the south west corner where steps leading from a grass area in public use descend steeply to join the public right of way.

Parking is available at the Tyne Riverside Country Park 20m to the north east of the wood across the railway. The Tyne Riverside Country Park has a pay and display car park, a small visitor centre and toilet facilities. Additionally, public toilets can be found in Prudhoe on Tyne View Terrace behind Front Street near to the police station. Two RADAR toilets are also available in Prudhoe, one on Neale Street and the other on South Road. For further information about the country park please visit www.northumberlandlife.org/tyneriversidecountrypark

For visitors using public transport to get to the wood Prudhoe is on the main Carlisle to Newcastle railway line and there is a station in Prudhoe adjacent to the Tyne Riverside Country Park. The nearest bus stops to the wood are at Prudhoe railway station or on the A695 by-pass at West Road cemetery. Buses come from Newcastle and Hexham into this area. Alternatively call National Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 (national rate) or visit their web site <http://www.traveline.org.uk/>.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Trusts long term vision is to maintain a continuous cover and succession of trees to ensure continuity of the landscape and habitat value of this small woodland. Where safe to do so, mature trees and dead wood will be retained.

The woodland composition is currently around 40% oak, 40% sycamore and 20% mixed native broadleaves and shrubs including birch, beech, rowan and others. The woodland is unlikely to change character in the immediate future though natural progression may result in a reduction in the number of birch as these are replaced by secondary species. As the woodland develops and gaps are created in the canopy by trees naturally dying or being removed for safety reasons, sycamore and oak should regenerate in the gaps and remain dominant for Eltringham Wood to continue as mixed, broadleaved, high forest. Rowan, hazel and holly should also regenerate in these gaps and increase in numbers.

This small woodland provides an excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife and will develop to produce a more uneven age structure, species mix, with older trees and deadwood. This will be done largely by allowing natural processes to continue, and intervening only when necessary with low key techniques. It will be necessary to monitor this as the high levels and sometimes inappropriate types of use have sometimes produced excessive compaction and trampling, severely restricting regeneration and even the herb layer in areas, and action will be needed if this is significant.

The Trust will maintain the informal access to the woodland with the provision of entrances with welcome signs and some 370m of permissive route. In addition the Woodland Trust in conjunction with Tynedale District Council will maintain the public right of way (No. 68). Public access will be managed and improved where necessary to ensure that local users and visitors can enjoy the freedom of the woodland for walking and informal recreation. Public information through posters and local consultation will be provided to inform and involve visitors about the woodland and to enable them to gain a better understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment.

It is anticipated that this approach will ensure perpetuation of the woodland and maintain and enhance the level of public access.

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

There are three points of public access. From the south west corner of the woodland a designated public right of way (number 68) from the A695 Prudhoe bypass enters the wood, the boundary of which is denoted by a small welcome sign, and heads north east to exit the site adjacent to the railway crossing (pedestrian) a small Woodland Trust welcome sign is located at this entrance. The final public access is located toward the south west corner where steps leading from a grass area in public use descend steeply to join the public right of way.

Combined the public right of way and permissive paths extend to 590m and contain 124 steps and a safety barrier constructed with grant aid from the Forestry Commission under WGS No. 012002942, there are however a myriad of unofficial paths crisscrossing the site and accessing almost all areas of the woodland.

Dog walkers, children and other local people use the woodland extensively particularly the public right of way that links an extensive walk from Prudhoe in the south east to the Tyne Riverside Country Park and walks along the river Tyne.

At the Country Park, a short walk from the north east entrance point, there is a small visitor centre, parking and public conveniences.

Significance

The woodland is important both for the public right of way serving as a link between the A695 Prudhoe bypass and the Tyne Riverside Country Park. Combined with adjacent open space it forms part of an larger and more important recreational area close to the town. Despite the proximity to industry and the railway Eltringham Wood offers an area for informal and peaceful recreation for locals and visitors to the area; this is one of the Trusts key outcomes and helps to promote the Woodland Trusts aims and objectives and also make people aware of the role of woodlands.

Opportunities & Constraints

Developing the wood for additional access opportunities is constrained by the size of the wood and the steep internal landscape. The use of the wood by all visitors is somewhat marred by the use of the wood by mountain bikes. Opportunities exist to work more closely with the Country Park and local Prudhoe Community Partnership to improve and develop the use of the wood within the wider landscape. Opportunities also exist to inform the public of the Trusts objectives, the role of woodlands in the environment and management practices pertaining to Eltringham Wood through information boards posters, leaflets and consultation.

Factors Causing Change

Other - Possible Subsidence of steep banking, excessive use by bikes leading to erosion/compaction of paths.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Woodland Trust will maintain informal access to the woodland through the provision and maintenance of public entrances with welcome signs, access facilities and paths. In addition the Woodland Trust will ensure, in co-operation with Tynedale District Council, the maintenance of the public rights of way through the woodland. Safety inspections will be regularly undertaken to ensure that local users and visitors can enjoy the freedom of the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation. Public information and promotion of the woodland locally will be enhanced where possible and posters will be used to inform and involve visitors to the woodland to promote greater understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment. The Woodland Trust aim to work with the local community where possible on projects involving the woodland.

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

Maintain and repair three pedestrian accesses, 3 welcome signs and 370m of permissive path to Woodland Trust specification strimming and cutting encroaching vegetation from the entrances and paths annually. Maintain 123 steps and safety rail ensuring steps are kept clear of debris and vegetation. Work with the District Council to ensure continued maintenance of 220m of public right of way undertaking remedial works where necessary. Litter pick site and remove material as necessary. Undertake regular inspection of mature trees to ensure safety of visitors. Continue to involve local people by consultation and direct practical action where appropriate.

5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Within the compartment, extending to 1.44ha, the land, though generally moderately sloping (around 15%), has small stepped escarpments sloping north with some locally very steep areas particularly along the northern boundary adjacent to the railway and on the southern boundary where the land has a 50% slope. In addition the gill making up Otter Burn to the east has extremely steep sides.

Few fenced boundaries exist though remnants of a fence are visible along the railway and the factory to the west is fenced. Adjacent to the north west there is woodland of a similar nature the boundary is thought to be represented by a ditch although the exact position is difficult to define. To the east Otter Burn creates a natural boundary from a small area of similar woodland that then changes to rough pasture. To the south above the steep banking there is a small area of grassland that is in public use and appears to have been part of a larger park prior to construction of the A695 Prudhoe bypass. Crossing the railway to the north there is a particularly nice area of open scrubland and grass alongside the Tyne, which forms part of the Tyne Riverside Country Park.

The woodland comprises 40% oak (*Quercus petraea*), 40% sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and 20% mixed native broadleaves and shrubs including birch (*Betula pendula*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). Due to the nature of the site and the suspected slow growth of the trees it is difficult to determine the age however most are thought to have been established around 1920-1930 as a result of natural regeneration and re-growth from cut stumps. The shrub layer species are somewhat younger and thought to be around 20 years of age. Oak, ash, sycamore and holly regeneration were noted to be present though none in any great numbers due to insufficient light reaching the woodland floor but also due to public disturbance.

Restricted light to the woodland floor and public pressure has had a direct effect on the herb layer in the past (only 50% ground cover in 2005) but this is currently at 80%. Generally only the tough vigorous species such as wood-rush (*Luzula* spp), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) have thrived though male fern (*Dryopteris felix-mas*), broad buckler fern (*Dryopteris austriaca*), hard fern (*Blechnum spicant*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) were noted to be present along with areas of soft grasses.

In places deadwood communities are restricted to larger logs and stems of which there are a number, as most of the smaller material has been used as firewood leaving an unusually clean forest floor.

Significance

Eltringham Wood is an important woodland forming part of a larger complex of habitats consisting of woodland, scrubland and the River Tyne. It is also an important landscape feature in the vicinity screening industrial sites and urban areas, particularly when viewed from the north as well as helping to buffer railway noise from the housing estates to the south west.

The woodland provides cover, food and nesting sites for a variety of bird species and mammals including red squirrels, woodpeckers and owls. The nearby river, adjacent mixed woodland and surrounding open countryside provides a variety of habitats and link Eltringham Wood with the wider countryside.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to implement the Trusts long term vision set out in 'Keeping Woodlands Alive' to ensure retention and perpetuation of the woodland through management of a continuous canopy of trees and securing succession, through natural regeneration and, if required, planting. Retention of the mature canopy is constrained by safety needs next to the railway and the fact that the woodland is used extensively by visitors. Thinning and re-spacing of trees and shrubs to improve stability for safety reasons in high risk area is an opportunity that will help diversify the age class structure of the woodland. Due to the small area and safety concerns the retention of standing deadwood may be hampered. The regeneration of the woodland in certain areas may be prevented due to the excessive use of the woodland by motorbikes/mountain bikes and the resulting ground compaction and erosion leaving large areas of bare earth. Misuse and the lighting of fires pose a threat to the continuity of the wood. With the proximity to urban properties it is possible that exotic species from gardens may colonise the woodland. Where colonisation poses a threat to the current overall mix of species such as with removal or control may be considered. Where there is no threat the species can be accepted as part of the succession characteristics of the woodland. The quality of the water in the Otter Burn is constantly under threat from local industry and housing waste.

Factors Causing Change

Other - Damage to trees / Vandalism, Ground compaction/erosion by bikes and the creation of ramps, lighting of fires, removal of trees for safety reasons.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Trusts long term vision is to maintain a continuous cover and succession of trees to ensure continuity of the landscape and habitat value of this small woodland. Where safe to do so, mature trees and dead wood will be retained.

The woodland composition is currently around 40% oak, 40% sycamore and 20% mixed native broadleaves and shrubs including birch, beech, rowan and others. The woodland is unlikely to change character in the immediate future though natural progression may result in a reduction in the number of birch as these are replaced by secondary species. As the woodland develops and gaps are created in the canopy by trees naturally dying or being removed for safety reasons, sycamore and oak should regenerate in the gaps and remain dominant for Eltringham Wood to continue as mixed, broadleaved, high forest. Rowan, hazel and holly should also regenerate in these gaps and increase in numbers.

This small woodland provides an excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife and will develop to produce a more uneven age structure, species mix, with older trees and deadwood. This will be done largely by allowing natural processes to continue, and intervening only when necessary with low key techniques.

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

Maintain the canopy of the existing mature trees where safe to do so. Public use, particularly compaction and erosion in areas where regeneration is expected, will be assessed once in this plan period. Work with the local community to reduce the negative impact and misuse in the woodland and reduce the impact of erosion. Monitor through annual woodland observations for the colonisation of invasive species and if necessary take appropriate action to reduce numbers only if considered to be causing habitat change or loss of species.

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	1.44	Sycamore	1930	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	

Extending to 1.44ha, the woodland comprises 40% sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), 40% sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and 20% mixed broadleaves including birch (*Betula pendula*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). Due to the nature of the wood and the suspected slow growth of the trees it is difficult to determine the age however most are thought to have been established around 1920-1930 as a result of natural regeneration and re-growth from cut stumps. The shrub layer species are somewhat younger and thought to be around 20 years of age. Oak, ash, sycamore and holly regeneration were noted to be present though none in any great numbers due to insufficient light reaching the woodland floor but also due to public disturbance and heavy compaction of the ground from the continuous use by bike riders. Restricted light to the woodland floor and public pressure has had a direct effect on the herb layer in the past (only 50% ground cover in 2005) but this is currently at 80%. Generally only the tough vigorous species such as wood-rush (*Luzula* spp), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) have thrived though male fern (*Dryopteris felix-mas*), broad buckler fern (*Dryopteris austriaca*), hard fern (*Blechnum spicant*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) were noted to be present along with areas of soft grasses.

The land throughout the compartment is moderately sloping (ranging from 30-50%). There are some small stepped escarpments sloping north with some locally very steep areas particularly along the northern boundary adjacent to the railway and on the southern boundary where the land has a 50% slope. In addition the gill making up Otter Burn to the east has extremely steep sides. No fenced boundaries exist though there are fences just outside the legal boundary along the railway and part of the west boundary adjacent to a factory. Because of this it is difficult to ascertain the exact position of the western boundary, which continues as woodland of a similar nature although the ditch line is thought to form some of the boundary and then the factory to the south west. To the east the Otter Burn creates a natural boundary from a small area of similar woodland that then changes to rough pasture. To the south above the steep banking there is a small area of grassland that is in public use and appears to have been part of a larger park prior to construction of the A695 Prudhoe bypass. Crossing the railway to the north there is a particularly nice area of open scrubland and grass alongside the Tyne, which is part of Tyne Riverside Country Park with a network of footpaths following the river a small visitor centre, car park and public facilities.

In places deadwood communities are restricted to larger logs and stems of which there are a number, as most of the smaller material has been used as firewood leaving an unusually clean forest floor. There are three points of public access. Public right of way (Number 68) enters the wood in the south west corner from the A695 Prudhoe bypass. The boundary of the woodland is denoted by a small welcome sign. The footpath heads north east to exit the site adjacent to the railway crossing (pedestrian) a small Woodland Trust welcome sign is located at this entrance. Public access can also be gained from the south west corner where some 120 steps leading from a grass area in public use descend steeply to join the public right of way. Other minor paths criss-cross 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.