



Munces Wood & Kimbers Copse

Management Plan

2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Munces Wood & Kimbers Copse, Hunts Wood
Location:	Marlow Bottom, Marlow Bottom
Grid reference:	SU846891, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 175 SU846881, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 175
Area:	14.77 hectares (36.50 acres) 2.06 hectares (5.09 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Chilterns Heritage Woodland, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Munces Wood has a mixture of woodland types with some areas almost exclusively populated by yew trees. Other parts have the more typical beech trees. It is on quite a considerable slope, but is well used by locals as many gardens back directly onto the woodland. Kimbers Copse is very different kettle of fish being flatter and consisting largely of young ash trees with the odd oak. It has a much more spacious air to it.

2.2 Extended Description

Munces Wood, Kimber's Copse & Hunts Wood are a 17 hectare / 42 acre complex of woods within the Chilterns AONB situated within Marlow Bottom, a suburb to the town of Marlow. The Chilterns is characterised by its high density of ancient woodland, much of which is semi natural.

The woodlands are in three geographically distinct blocks:

1. The main block is Munces Wood and Kimbers Copse (14ha / 35 acres - Cpt 2a and 2b), which are joined. The main entry point is off New Road
2. A small outlier of Munces Wood (0.5Ha / 1 acre - Cpt 1a), just to the west of the main block, which can be accessed off Badgers Way
3. Hunts Wood (2ha / 5 acres - Cpt 3a) which is further south, and can be accessed off the main road - Marlow Bottom

Munces Wood was acquired by The Trust in 1993, Hunts Wood in 1995 and Kimbers Copse in 2002.

Hunts and Munces are both mature with some trees of around 150 years old, and the majority of the woodland (80%) is classified as ancient. Kimbers Copse is young woodland which is naturally developing over former grassland. Typically for the locality, beech is the dominant tree in both Munces and Hunts Wood, together with oak, yew and ash. The woods are on shallow chalk soils and in places the ground is very steeply sloped. The woodland is classified under the National Vegetation Classification as beech - dog's mercury W12, and is designated a Chilterns Heritage woodland due to the important flora, with 9 species which are typical components of botanically rich ancient woodland of which 2 indicate long continuity.

The woods have suffered appreciably from storm damage, especially 1987 and 1990; the remains of large fallen beech trees can still be found and their loss has opened up gaps for groves of young ash woodland to develop. Consequently the structure of the woodland is quite diverse with a range of tree age classes, with some significant trees nearing old-growth status.

Hunts Wood and the majority of Munces Wood are classified as ancient woodland. The rest of Munces is long established secondary woodland which is now barely distinguishable from the ancient area.

From the southern part of Kimbers Copse there are impressive views over the valley of the Thames. The woods are located close to the population in Marlow Bottom, and there is an extensive network of well-used public paths. They are of great local landscape importance and are of high recreational value. There is strong support from the Marlow Bottom Valley Resident's Association who were integral in the original fundraising in 1992 which helped secure Munces and Hunts Wood, as well as the purchase of Kimbers Copse in 2002. The association have a continued interest in the management of the wood.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Getting there: Buses running from High Wycombe to Marlow stop at the corner of Wycombe Road and Marlow Bottom Road - from there it is about a 15 minute walk to the woodland. Access is from Marlow Bottom Road, New Road or via Badgers Way - in Marlow Bottom. No public rights of way run through Munces or Kimbers Copse but a public bridleway runs through Hunts Wood and there are many permissive paths throughout. Kimbers Copse is located on top of a hill but Hunts and Munces Woods are situated on the sides of a steep valley - although some permissive paths run along the contours, others run up/down the steep valley side. There are no surfaced paths and there is some path furniture such as squeeze gaps to negotiate. The views from Kimbers Copse across the surrounding country are well worth the visit.

Public conveniences: there are several public conveniences in Marlow maintained by Wycombe District Council at Central Marlow, Gossmore and Pound Lane (www.wycombe.gov.uk or phone 01494 421 415).

Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Management at Munces Wood, Hunts Wood and Kimbers Copse will focus on two of the Woodland Trusts key aims;

- to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife
- to create new native woodland

Due to a large number of major management constraints and the lack of invasive species on site, the mature woodland of Hunts and Munces Wood will be largely managed through an approach of minimum intervention, allowing natural processes to take place which will diversify the overall age and stand species structure over time.

The deadwood habitat is a strong feature and likely to naturally succeed through trees being left to age and collapse naturally. Deadwood, both standing and fallen will therefore be maintained to provide important niche habitats within the wood, particularly for invertebrates and fungi, except if they pose a significant tree safety risk. Trees that are felled for safety reasons and will be left on site to decay where possible.

Young ash and beech trees are currently infilling the gaps created by the loss of mature beech, though the confirmed presence of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) at the site threatens the diversity of regeneration. Observations will therefore be carried out to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland. For example there should be no damaging invasive species present on the site, (in the past both laurel and Japanese knotweed had escaped from a garden and were controlled), and the likely colonisation by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) and other pests and diseases monitored and managed where necessary.

Natural regeneration of broadleaved trees will continue to be encouraged in Kimbers Copse, to establish buffering woodland alongside Munces Wood and to extend the existing habitat. Currently this regeneration is dominated by ash. Ash dieback is present here, and the death of the young trees is making way for the minor components (including oak, field maple, goat willow, birch) to thrive. 20% of Kimbers Copse (approx. 1ha / 2.5 acres) will be maintained as open space to encourage wild flowers and open grassland bird and mammal species, and to preserve the views over the surrounding countryside.

Public access to the site will continue to be provided and the Trust has given this site a category A access designation (high usage with more than 20 people using one entrance per day). Annual management of entrances and paths will therefore be undertaken to ensure the wood is kept open for use. Good information will be made available on and off the site to enable visitors to explore and navigate around the wood and to appreciate its inherent qualities. High quality and prominent signage will greet visitors on their arrival to the wood. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors and neighbours through regular tree safety inspections along footpaths and the boundaries with roads and houses.

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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

All of Hunts Wood and most of Munces Wood (over 80%) are now classed as ancient woodland within the revised ancient woodland inventory for the Chilterns (2012).

The woodland contains a broadleaved mixture dominated by beech but is reverting to ash and other minor components such as oak and birch, especially on the slopes where storm damage has taken place. Yew dominates the wood on the scarp slope and forms dense groves in parts of Munces. The small outlier of Munces is much more mixed in species composition: mainly oak, ash and beech.

The woods overall approximate to a W12 beech / dogs mercury NVC classification, with W13 yew on steep chalky slopes, and W8 ash / dog's mercury for the small outlier (Cpt 1a).

The geology on the south and west of the site is shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone, favouring beech hangers and other lime-rich woodlands. To the extreme north and the east of the site the soil becomes more freely draining slightly acid loam, favouring neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands.

Other minor tree and shrub species include wild privet, whitebeam, wild cherry, hazel, field maple and elder. The field layer contains a number of specialist woodland plants which are indicative of ancient woodland: woodruff, wood spurge, white hellebore, dog's mercury and bluebell.

There is not much archaeological evidence that is clearly visible, though the bridleway through Hunts Wood forms a sunken lane in parts and is a strong historic feature.

Significance

Ancient woodland is a limited and irreplaceable resource which is home to more species of conservation concern than any other habitat in the UK. The Chilterns AONB is one of most heavily wooded areas of the UK with a very high concentration of ancient woodland (over 13% of the land area), though Buckinghamshire is a county where 45% of ancient semi natural woodland has been lost since the Second World War with only 4000 ha (9885 acres) remaining. ASNW is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- The steep slopes and poor access to and within the site restrict management operations
- There has been garden encroachment and garden rubbish dumping at the site in the past, some dumped garden exotics have rooted within the woodland area and been cleared

Opportunities:

- Retaining the old growth trees well into the future to enable them to become veteran and ancient trees; this may require some control of competing trees
- Improvement of tree age range, structure and species diversity through management

Factors Causing Change

- Increasing shade and loss of structure in minimum intervention stands
- Mammal damage (deer, rabbits, squirrels)
- Changes in structure and gaps in canopy due to wind-blow and disease/dieback e.g. *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* in ash

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The mature woodland, Hunts and Munces Wood, will be largely managed through an approach of minimum intervention, allowing natural processes to take place.

The deadwood habitat is likely to increase over time through trees being left to age and collapse naturally. Trees felled for safety reasons will be left on site to decay.

Young ash trees are currently dominant infilling the gaps created by the loss of mature beech, though other species are present (beech, oak, birch) and gradual succession by these species is expected.

Deer damage to the broadleaf trees will be monitored and action taken if the damage becomes unacceptable.

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

No silvicultural intervention is planned during this plan period other than tree felling for safety reasons and ride maintenance work, which will be dictated by the inspections.

- Monitoring and observations will be carried out during the course of the management plan period, for woodland condition, deer browsing pressure
- Tree safety inspections will be undertaken along paths and boundaries where required
- Routine assessments of effect of ash dieback undertaken throughout period

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

A 4.75ha / 12 acre area purchased in 2002 and allowed to naturally regenerate, with trees being seeded directly from the mature trees from the existing hedgerow and woodland. Named Kimbers Copse (sub-compartment 2b) it is currently dominated by ash, though ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is present on site and spreading slowly through the young trees. There is a minor component of oak, beech, field maple and goat willow regeneration also present, and the die-back of the ash is opening space for these trees to succeed. The regeneration is spreading out from the mature hedge on the eastern boundary and from Munces Wood on the western boundary of the compartment, and is more advanced in these areas and to the north of the compartment. Open space is being maintained in south. The composition of the new woodland area is just over 3ha / 7.5 acres.

Significance

The creation of this woodland area has helped to increase the amount of new native woodland cover as well as establishing a wooded buffer between the ancient woodland and open farmland. It is also providing a different woodland habitat on the site, especially suitable for species requiring early stage woody growth. The area of open grassland is providing another habitat type, which open grassland species can adopt over time.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Sudden change in structure due to disease/dieback e.g. *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* in ash

Opportunities:

- To develop a diverse and mixed natural woodland that is resilient to pests and diseases

- To develop new woodland via natural means, with the minimum of cost

- Sudden change in structure due to disease/dieback e.g. *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* in ash

Factors Causing Change

- Deer damage

- Ash dieback will alter the composition of the woodland

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will be allowed to grow and develop through natural processes, though there will be (through some management intervention if required) a diverse mix of species and age classes, quantities of deadwood and open glades / paths.

Natural colonisation of ground flora from the ancient woodland will occur over time.

Approx. 20% of the area known as Kimbers Copse will be retained as open ground habitat.

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

Other than the annual inspection of the tree safety zones by the Site Manager, no silvicultural intervention is planned during this management plan period.

- Colonisation of new trees will continue to be encouraged throughout Kimbers Copse, with an open meadow area of around 1Ha / 2.5 acres including viewpoint maintained by annual mowing in the south.

- Tree safety inspections will be undertaken along paths and boundaries where required

- Routine assessments of open ground composition and checks of effect of ash dieback undertaken throughout period

5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Munces and Hunts Woods are a category A site, (high usage with more than 20 people using one entrance per day). Therefore the site will be managed to meet the required standards and will provide a clear welcome with well-maintained entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as suitable paths and tracks across the site.

The woods lie within the large village (pop 3400) of Marlow Bottom, and are 2 miles from Marlow centre (pop 14,000). High Wycombe lies 4 miles to the north (pop 120,000).

The woods are open for public access across the whole site. Access is from Marlow Bottom Road, New Road or via Badgers Way in Marlow Bottom. No public rights of way run through Munces or Kimbers Copse but a public bridleway runs through Hunts Wood and there are many permissive paths throughout (over 3.5km / 2 miles - all of which are un-surfaced). Although some permissive paths run along the contours, others run up/down the steep valley side. The sloped terrain also adds interest for the visitor, and there is an excellent viewpoint from the southern edge of Kimbers Copse looking south over the Thames valley towards Bisham Woods in the distance. There are in total 8 access points into the site, though there is no official car park. Due to this, the site is mostly visited by local dog walkers and neighbours to the wood, as opposed to visitors from further afield.

Significance

The woods are providing an excellent natural amenity within a suburban setting close to Marlow, they are very well used and provide a strong landscape feature in the locality.

In a busy part of the country Munces Wood provides a relatively peaceful and accessible place for visitors to enjoy. This is a significant ancient woodland open to the public in the Chilterns and offers a good experience to visitors, as well as good connectivity to neighbouring landscape of high amenity value.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Enhanced signage / information and activities at the site need to be balanced against preserving its natural qualities
- No formal car parking exists at the wood

Opportunities:

- Increased community involvement in management of the wood through volunteering opportunities
- To maintain an area of open ground for landscape views, which will also support common grassland flora
- Further develop relationships with local partners e.g. Chilterns AONB for cross-promotion and joint working on engagement activities

Factors Causing Change

- An increase in visitors is likely to occur through better facilities and greater promotion of the wood. This could also lead to more antisocial behaviour and more conflicts between different user groups
- Government adopted local housing targets will lead to increased development in the area and further pressure on the wood through increased visitor numbers

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Munces Wood will offer a quality visitor experience in line with a category A access designation (high usage with more than 20 people using one entrance per day). Public access for informal recreation will continue to be provided in perpetuity, and paths and entrances will be managed and kept open, the woodland will provide an area of quiet informal recreation to a range of users both from the local community and occasionally from further afield.

A viewpoint from Kimbers copse will be retained and sections of the major paths through Munces will be made more open and sunny for improved visitor enjoyment. Public information about navigation and the importance of the woods will be provided. The wood will be made as safe as practicable through regular safety inspection of trees in high risk zones and inspection of access furniture.

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

- Paths and entrances will be kept open through annual cutting and mowing
- The risk to the public and neighbours will be minimised through annual tree safety inspections along the high risk zones such as the property boundaries
- The glade and viewpoint from Kimbers Copse will be maintained through the annual mowing of approximately 1ha (2.5 acres) of open ground to the south of the compartment
- Public information at the site will be improved by installing 3 information boards at the site in 2018: New Road entrance, Marlow Bottom entrance into Hunts Wood, and at the viewpoint in Kimbers Copse
- A circular waymarked route around Munces and Kimbers will also be marked out in 2018 to improve navigation. A route of approximately 1.7km marked with 30 posts
- Rideside coppicing/felling will take place on a total of 200m of path through Munces Wood to provide sunnier sections of path and more variety for the visitor; this will also benefit flowering plants and insects. Some limited ride edge coppicing will be carried in Kimbers Copse as well, and this coppicing will seek to create scallops along the main paths. This work is planned for 2018 and will be delivered by volunteer groups

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	0.57	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
<p>A small outlier to Munces Wood and west of the main wood. Now an island within the housing estate with roads to the south and west, and housing to the north and east. A mixture of mature oak, beech and ash, with hazel and field maple and other minor species.</p>							
2a	9.69	Beech	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This is the main part of Munces Wood. The compartment rises steeply from west to east. On the whole the woodland is dominated by beech and ash, with other species such as whitebeam, hornbeam, cherry, hawthorn and field maple. On the lower slopes in the west there are also yew dominated groves. Ash is prolifically regenerating in the canopy gaps.</p>							

2b	4.85	Ash	2002	Wood establishment	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
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This compartment is known as Kimbers Copse. It is a mixture of naturally regenerating woodland and rough grassland (approx. 2/3 woodland and 1/3 open grassland). Woodland creation dates back to 2002 and the main species emerging is ash with a small percentage of oak, goat willow and beech.

3a	2.20	Beech	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
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This compartment is known as Hunts Wood. Steeply sloped woodland rising from south to north, on the other side of the valley from Munces Wood. Mainly mature beech, but the woodland is more mixed and structured on the lower ground to the east, where ash, yew, holly and hazel is also present.

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.