Great Earls Wood

Management Plan 2012-2017

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MAPS

THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

Our strategic aims are to:

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

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

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

SUMMARY

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

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Great Earls Wood
Location:	Limpsfield
Grid reference:	TQ407487, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 187
Area:	9.80 hectares (24.22 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Landscape Value, Article IV Directive, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

The ancient woodlands of Great and Little Earls Woods form the western extremity of a much larger expanse of woodland. Famed for a fantastic display of bluebells in spring, Little Earls Wood to the north-west also has an area of old hornbeam coppice.

2.2 Extended Description

Located in eastern Surrey just south of the village of Merle Common, Great & Little Earls Woods extending to 9.9 hectares are integral to the local mixed landscape of woodlands, livestock agriculture and prominent hedgerows in undulating rural countryside. Great & Little Earls Woods form the western extremity of a much larger contiguous block of woodland owned jointly by Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council and The Woodland Trust.

The entire site is designated Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and comprises an interesting variety of stands. Actively managed sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards in the south give way to a high forest of oak and sweet chestnut in the north of Great Earls Wood which is continuous with stands in Little Earls Wood to the north-west. Little Earls Wood itself contains 2 distinct compartments: mixed woodland of formerly managed sweet chestnut coppice to the west & overstood hornbeam coppice to the east

In Gt & Lt Earls there is also a small component of ash, sycamore and birch is locally frequent primarily as sub-canopy recruitment in natural gaps created by windblown sweet chestnut. The most common shrub species are holly, hawthorn, elder and blackthorn. Natural regeneration on the whole is limited but recent coppicing in Gt Earls has produced patches of young oak, birch, sweet chestnut and hawthorn.

The field layer of these woodland stands is comprised mainly of a bramble and bluebell community. Great & Little Earl's Woods are locally known for their display of bluebells in spring. Bracken, honeysuckle and creeping soft grass are all locally abundant. A number of ancient woodland indicator species are also present, including dogs mercury and wood anenome.

A small pond is located in the north-west of compartment 1a which is fed and drained by a seasonal stream. Ride widening has taken place to create an open ground habitat along the stream side. There is a prominent wood bank in compartment 5a and along the eastern boundary, and also a woodbank around 1/2 the perimeter of compartment 7a.

The woodlands have a good network of well maintained permissive paths and are popular with many locals and visitors from further a field during the display of bluebells in the spring. Public and management access is excellent with direct access from Caterfield Lane in the south and from the adjoining Merle Common which is also open to the public. There are three information boards on site providing visitors with a description of features of interest and future management intentions.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Great & Little Earls Woods are located on the edge of the village of Merle Common, near to Oxted in East Surrey.
There are a number entrances to the woods off Merle Common Road and Caterfield Lane. The entrances off Caterham Road are through wooden kissing gates, unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. All other entrances are open.
The entrances are:
- via the public footpath off Merle Common Road which runs along the NW boundary of Little Earls.
- 3 kissing gates off Caterham Road giving direct access to Great Earls.
- 3 points of entry from Merle Common which lead directly into the northern side of Great Earls.

From these entrances there is a network of paths around the woods. All paths are unsurfaced.
Public footpath no. 524 dissects Great Earls Wood, from Merle Common to the north to Caterham Road in the south.
The best place to park is the public car-park at Staffhurst Wood, managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust. The car-park is located at the west end of Staffhurst Wood Road. From here it is a very short walk over the crossroads into Great Earls Wood.
The nearest railway station is at Hurst Green, approximately 2 miles away. The nearest bus-stop is not close by (1.5 miles away), but at Holland (near Hurst Green) on Coldshott, off Holland Road.
The nearest public toilet is at Ellice Road car-park in Oxted, which has disabled access (via RADAR key) and baby changing facilities. For further information about public transport please contact Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk Tel: 0870 6082608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Woodland Trust's corporate objectives of no further loss of ancient woodland, improving biodiversity and enhancing the public's enjoyment of the woodland can all be met in Great & Little Earls Woods. The long-term intentions which help to achieve these objectives are:

No further loss of ancient woodland
- To maintain the present diverse woodland structure and species composition rich in ground flora (particularly bluebells), including high forest, sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards and redundant coppice developing to high forest.
- To remove sycamore and laurel from the site in the short term
- To co-operate and work with adjoining public body owners on public access provision and sharing best practice management

Improving biodiversity
- To continue the sweet chestnut coppice regime over four compartments in the south to supply local markets and provide habitats for song-birds, invertebrates, woodland flora and dormice.
- To maintain the recently created wide ride along the seasonal stream in Great Earls Wood. This is so that a buffer zone of open ground with low shrubs exists on the south side of the stream for fauna and invertebrates. This zone not to extend more than 30 metres in width.
- To maintain the dormouse boxes with the aim of helping to support a sustainable population in the long term. Annual surveys will be conducted to ensure that management work is creating the right habitat.

Enhancing the public's enjoyment of woodland
- To maintain the excellent network of permissive paths, signage and interpretation boards to a high standard for the benefit of pedestrian visitors to the site and to have safe crossing points in place where paths cross watercourses.

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

The site comprises a variety of stands but is dominated in the south by managed sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards. North of the seasonal stream, high forest of oak, and sweet chestnut dominates with a significant area of overstood hornbeam coppice in Little Earls Wood. These woodlands are noted for their spectacular spring flowers, particularly the extensive bluebell carpets.

Significance

ASNW is declining both nationally and regionally. The importance and irreplaceable nature of which is well documented in relevant literature. It is estimated that approximately 9,500 hectares of ASNW remain in Surrey (SCC, 1999). Great & Little Earls Wood comprise part of a much greater area of more or less continuous woodland including the adjacent Merle Common and the nearby Staffhurst Wood SSSI, (also part Woodland Trust).

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
To allow the natural development of high forest with minimal intervention.
To continue the coppice rotation of sweet chestnut where it is most appropriate for wildlife and quality of coppice is good

Constraints:
Browsing by deer and rabbits limiting the use of natural regeneration.
The potential spread of sycamore & laurel in the north and non-native ivy in the south.

Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage, Rabbit Damage, Other - Invasive exotic ground ivy

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The intention is for all the area south of the seasonal stream and main conservation ride to be managed on a rotational coppice cycle with oak standards in four more or less equally sized coupes to allow species to migrate as the coppice develops. There will be a wide buffer zone of open ground and shrubs along the seasonal stream. The northern half of Great Earls Wood and all of Little Earls Wood will be managed on a lower intensity high forest silvicultural system.

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

The conservation ride/buffer zone along the stream will be managed by coppicing on short rotation (7 year). This is to create a warm and sheltered habitat for invertebrates and flora. The sweet chestnut will be coppiced on a 15-20 year cycle with approximately one cant cut each 4 or 5 years. Formerly coppiced areas to the north of the stream will be allowed to revert naturally to high forest with no intervention planned in this plan period. Existing high forest in 5a & 6a will receive minimal intervention in this plan period with the aim of preserving a natural mix of native species and habitats. Eradicate laurel from Little Earls by 2007.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

An excellent and well maintained path network exists within the site with links to adjacent woodland owned by Tandridge District Council at Merle Common, also open to the general public.

Significance

Great & Little Earls Woods were bought with the help of generous contributions from local people as well as donations from all levels of local government. These woodlands are well used by local people througout the year and attract visitors from further afield in the spring due to the display of bluebells.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
There are opportunities to improve the two crossing points across the seasonal stream and provide a formal crossing across the main ditch in Little Earls Wood all of which can get very muddy in winter.
Potential to discourage public use of loop path through compt. 3a by not mowing to limit disturbance to dormice.

Constraints:
Potentially too much public access, especially during spring flowering times causing inadvertant disturbance to nesting dormice & trampling of wildlflowers.
Limited car parking available for visitors, especially during spring.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the existing network of permissive footpaths, infrastructure, signage and interprative information to high standard in line with a Category B access site.

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

Take a decision on whether to discourage use of the permissive footpath through cpt. 3a by 2006 to prevent possible disturbance to dormice. Ensure that the sytsem of path and entrance management is maintained via the voluntary warden by reviewing this arrangement in 2008.

5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Approximately half of Great & Little Earls Wood by area shows evidence of past traditional coppice management. This includes small areas of former hazel coppice and overstood hornbeam in Little Earls Wood. The only area presently in rotation is all the area south of the seasonal stream in Great Earls Wood. These coupes have been cut by a local merchant within the past 10 years and together form the largest area of sweet chestnut coppice in Woodland Trust ownership in Surrey.

Significance

The coppice structure provides a varied and (in the case of sweet chestnut) rapidly changing woodland structure for a wide variety of flora and fauna which benefit from the constantly changing levels of shade and shelter. Sweet chestnut coppice has a long history of being worked in eastern Surrey and nearby Sussex. This continuity of management will continue in the south of Great Earls Wood.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
The chestnut coppice south of the seasonal stream in Great Earls has been rationalised in area and divided into four equally sized areas, all of which are easily accessible and stool density is sufficient and vigorous enough to allow long-term working on a regular cycle.
The overstood hornbeam is of a large age and dimension. The former coppice habitat has reverted to a high forest canopy and this negates any reason to re-coppice. The opportunity exists to allow this area to naturally diversify in structure over time and become a more mixed high forest. This same opportunity also exists for compartment 7b which is already quite mixed in structure and species and contains comparitively unproductice sweet chestnut coppice.

Constraints:
The presence of dormice within the coppice areas may preclude working at certain times of the year.
The age of the hornbeam stools is deemed too great to justify re-coppicing these after up to 50 years of continuous growth.

Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage, Rabbit Damage, Other - Dormice may interfere with working cycles, Wet weather - may interfere with management work

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To have established a series of four high quality sweet chestnut coppice cants, worked in rotation in southern Great Earls Wood.

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

Approximately one of the 4 compartments should be cut every 5 years to maintain a rotation length of 15-20 years. In this plan the coppice rotation will be continued by coppicing 2 cants which are now coming to the end of their rotation.

Work programme:
Coppice 2a by 2006, and coppice 3a by 2008
Obtain/discuss dormouse survey records with volunteer warden in 2007 and 2009 to check on population levels

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.84	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Other, Tree Preservation Order
A stand of well stocked sweet chestnut coppice, last cut in 2002. Scattered overstorey of oak maidens dating from around 1880 which increase in density towards the roadside edge to form a narrow screen with ash and holly. The occasional birch, hornbeam and beech are also present. The ground flora is dominated by a dense bluebell carpet and mosses along the western path boundary. The area is bounded by a permissive footpath in the west and a seasonal stream in the north which flows into a small seasonal pond in the north-western corner.							
2a	1.06	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Other, Tree Preservation Order
A stand of well stocked sweet chestnut coppice, last cut in approximately 1987, with a scattered overstorey of oak and ash maidens dating from around 1880. The understorey contains occasional young oak, sweet chestnut, birch, hornbeam, beech & hawthorn. The field layer is sparse and ground flora is dominated by a dense bluebell carpet, large-leaved (non-native) ivy in the south-east, bramble, honeysuckle and (probably introduced) daffodils. The area is bounded by permissive footpaths in the south and east, public footpath no. 524 in the west and a seasonal stream in the north.							
3a	1.08	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Other, Tree Preservation Order

A vigorous and well stocked stand of sweet chestnut coppice last cut in 1991 with scattered overstorey of oak maidens dating from 1880 which increase in density towards the management access in the south. There is a pocket of hazel coppice in the northern slopes leading towards the small boundary stream. Here, holly, elder, birch and hawthorn form a thicket with honesuckle and bramble. Otherwise the field layer is sparse under the dense chestnut stools with a carpet of bluebells dominating the ground flora and occasional bracken and daffodils in the west where rabbit activity is evident. There is evidence of windblown trees with remnant rootplates probably dating from the 1987 storm. Public footpath no. 524 forms the eastern boundary.

4a	0.43	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Other, Tree Preservation Order

Sweet chestnut coppice last cut in 1997/98. An overstorey is only present along the south-eastern roadside boundary where oak, and ash dating from approximately 1880 form a useful screen with mature holly, elder and hawthorn. Bluebell is the main ground flora. Public footpath no. 524 forms the western boundary.

5a	1.92	Oak (pedunculate)	1920	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Other, Tree Preservation Order

Ancient semi-natural high forest principally of oak (80%) dating from around 1920. Other canopy trees include a progression to more sweet chestnut in the east and an increase in the birch towards the west. The occasional hornbeam is present as is a small group (50 stems) of Japanese larch last thinned in 1995. Holly is scattered throughout increasing in density towards the south and east and particularly along the prominent L-shaped wood bank which is a feature of this compartment. Sparse hawthorn and hazel complete the understorey. The field layer is sparse except where bramble, bracken and honeysuckle have colonised natural gaps caused by blown chestnut. The deadwood habitat is good and there are large patches of bluebells present in the Spring. A seasonal stream forms the southern boundary and public footpath no. 524 disects the area. A continuation of the prominent woodbank forms the northern boundary adjoining part of Little Earls Wood (compartment 7a).

6a	1.95	Oak (pedunculate)	1920	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Other, Tree Preservation Order
Ancient semi-natural high forest of oak and sweet chestnut dating from circa 1920. There are significant amounts of (principally chestnut) blown trees, which have given rise to a good deadwood habitat. The canopy is thus more open here than in adjoinng compartment 5 to the west. This has allowed more holly to thrive and much of the blown chestnut is suckering from the trunks. There is occasional hornbeam, beech, hawthorn and a belt of overstood hazel coppice along the stream in the south. Unlike almost anywhere else in the wood, bluebells only occur in small pockets.							
7a	1.85	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Other, Tree Preservation Order
Part of Little Earls Wood. Overstood hornbeam coppice dating from the 1950s in the centre of the compartment merges with oak and sweet chestnut (some of which are also of coppice origin) high forest in the south-west and a scattering of Japanese larch in the south. Other species include ash and occasional beech with some exceptionally large stools on the south-eastern wood bank. There is little understorey other than an impressive bluebell carpet under the dense hornbeam canopy. Under the oak, elder, hawthorn, holly, bramble, ferns and nettles are present together with younger sweet chestnut. There are a few sycamore scattered amongst the hornbeam and a small area of laurel along the northern boundary. A public footpath runs along the north-western boundary. The eastern and south-eastern boundary consists of an impressive earth bank.							
7b	0.73	Oak (pedunculate)	1880	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Other, Tree Preservation Order

Part of Little Earls Wood. 75% sweet chestnut coppice last cut over 15 years ago and less vigorous than the stands in Great Earls Wood. There is the occasional oak standard dating from around 1880 increasing in numbers further east and a few stems of Japanese larch in the west. Other species include ash, holly, hornbeam, beech, hawthorn, hazel, elder, honeysuckle and bramble. The structure of the woodland is generally quite mixed with a good understorey. The ground flora is dominated by a blubell carpet but there are also wood anenomes and dogs mercury together with nettles. The area is bordered by fields to the north and south and a larch woodland to the west along which there is no physical boundary.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2024	2a	Ride edge Coppice	0.15	0	0

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.