



Masons Wood

Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Masons Wood
Location:	Preston
Grid reference:	SD542328, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 102
Area:	6.07 hectares (15.00 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Comprising mainly mature mixed broadleaf woodland and boasting a rich ground flora. Eight main entrances and a network of linear surfaced footpaths link this site to the surrounding open space and public footpath network. Well used by local people. Masons Wood is one of our Top Ten bluebell woods. If you'd like to visit and see a superb bluebell display, check our live map for bluebells at naturescalendar.org.uk as flowering times do vary around the UK. However, mid-April to early-June is usually an ideal time for most woods.

2.2 Extended Description

Masons Wood is 5.7 hectares in size and is situated in the town of Fulwood which in turn forms the Northern section of the City Of Preston in Lancashire. It is located in a small steep sided valley that follows a tributary of Savick Brook and much of the surrounding land use is intensively urban. The site is bounded by a housing estate to the west and a golf course to the east

Masons wood comprises mainly of mature mixed broadleaf woodland, mature tree species include English oak, ash, beech, sycamore, wild cherry, alder, silver birch and willow. Some additional structural edge planting of field maple, alder, ash, English oak, willow, white poplar and larch has been carried out along the boundaries. Shrub species include hazel, elder, blackthorn and hawthorn. A rich ground flora exists, comprising of species such as bluebells, ramsons and wood anemones, these species are particularly prominent under the oak dominated part of the canopy. Non-native Himalayan Balsam is also present in the southern half of the wood close to the brook. Part of the woodland is designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, a Biological Heritage Site and it is also covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Ancient Semi Natural Woodland is a Key Feature at Masons Wood.

Masons wood is ancient woodland and its believed the whole of Fulwood was once part of a Royal Forest. Aside from the Eastway end, the rest remains some distance from the roads; it is off the beaten track. That has always been the case, which means heritage in the form of events lie some distance from it. However this woodland is a good example of demonstrating the nature of Fulwood over a millennium ago; it is a good example of the wild woody expanse that would have covered a great deal of this little township. Its unclear where the name Masons Wood derives from however the following may provide an answer. It is often thought that 'Fulwood' means 'foul wood', from Old English 'ful' and 'wudu'. However, the first part could also be derived from 'fugol' meaning a bird. Given that the area was a known Royal Forest used to hunt deer and game, and that in the east the Squire was reported to have bagged many pheasant and the like, it may have been 'bird wood'.

The site is extremely well used by local people for informal recreation. Public access is good; the site has eight main entrances and a network of approximately 1000 metres of linear surfaced footpaths with bridges and steps. The site provides an excellent informal recreational opportunity for both the many thousands of locally residents who live close by and people who work locally in the light industrial and service sectors. The public footpath links Masons Wood to several other Woodland Trust sites including Moss Leach, Fernyhalgh Wood and Midgery Wood as well as areas of open space owned and managed by Preston City Council. Informal Public Access is a Key Feature of the site.

Masons Wood has a very impressive display of wildflowers in the spring with wild garlic, wood anemone, lesser celandine and bluebell making the wood well worth a visit. Grey squirrels are a common site but early risers may also get a fleeting glimpse of a roe deer if they are lucky.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Masons Wood is located in the suburb of Fulwood which is around six miles from Preston city centre. The site has a total of 8 pedestrian entrances. The easiest to find is the most northerly which can be found close to B6241 Eastway which is a well-known road locally. Six other entrances can be found to the rear of the housing estate on the western boundary close to The Pennines, Masonwood, Fairways and the Paddock. The final pedestrian entrance can be found on the sites southern boundary neighbouring the golf course. All the pedestrian entrances are squeeze gaps. On site there is approximately 1000 metres of level surfaced footpaths.

Parking is available on nearby local roads such as The Pennines, Masonswood, Fairways and the Paddock but may be limited.

Nearest public toilet: Is located at Asda Superstore, Eastway, Fulwood which is around half a mile away from the wood.

Nearest bus stop: Is located on St Vincent's Road (outside Preston College), which is only around 50 metres from the wood. St Vincent's Road is a suburban road with a pavement. Information from Traveline website.

Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Masons Wood will be managed as a mixed broadleaved, predominantly native high forest. The wood will continue to be composed of largely native broadleaved species such as oak, ash, beech, sycamore & birch however it is likely that the percentage of ash will decrease substantially over the next decade due to ash dieback. Despite this ash will continue to be encouraged within the species mix as some of the native stock may exhibit a degree of natural resilience. The wood will be managed so that it is as diverse as possible in terms of structure and species which will ensure that it is as resilient as possible to future changes imposed upon it such as climate change and tree diseases. Both native and non native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. Gaps created by trees gradually reaching senescence, or by trees been felled for safety reasons will be filled by natural regeneration non native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. Active thinning work will take place to promote long term stand stability and this work will be focussed where the woodland borders housing along the woods south western boundary. We will retain older trees of any species across the whole site as long as safety allows.

Threats to the woodland habitat will be monitored and managed if possible, the woodland will be assessed for tree diseases particularly ash die back and species composition and levels of regeneration will also be monitored via regular Woodland Condition Assessments.

Open access will be retained at the wood in perpetuity and there will be a well managed network of approximately 1000 metres of surfaced paths and 8 high quality entrances. The wood will be made as safe as possible via regular safety inspection and any necessary corresponding remedial works. Good information will be made available on site to help enable visitors to explore and navigate around the woodland and to enjoy its inherent qualities. Well defined routes will discourage the creation and use of desire lines thus helping to minimise any negative effect on the ancient woodland.

Local people will be informed of and involved with the site management where appropriate, especially to help understand the management needs of the wood, and the negative effect of some activities such as dumping garden rubbish, which have had a detrimental impact in some parts of the woodland.

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 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

This site is part of the Welcoming Sites Programme, which aims to improve the visitor experience to this site. The Welcoming Site Programme will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that will improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to the wood. An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths will further encourage the appreciation of the woodland both on the site and in the locality. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme and will provide a clear welcome: well-maintained entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors. An engagement plan will set out a developed programme of engagement activities and events further enhancing public visits to the site. The site will be a truly valued resource in the local community and well respected.

Masons Wood is located in the suburb of Fulwood which is around six miles from Preston city centre. Masons wood is a long, narrow woodland of even-aged mixed, mature broadleaved trees and shrubs on both sides of the valley of a small stream, the Savick Brook. Masons Wood is varied and attractive, especially in spring, with a good display of wild flowers including bluebells, lesser celandine and wild garlic. There is a network of just over 1km of permissive paths, most of which are surfaced creating a variety of short walks, 11 bridges criss-cross the brook along the length of the route. The paths also link into the new town recreational areas and other Woodland Trust sites. Masons Wood can be argued is the most attractive woodland out of the 9 within the Preston Woods Cluster. The Woodland is a popular amenity woodland on the edge of the urban areas.

Its position in the landscape

Masons Wood is a long, narrow woodland in a busy, suburban area, around 2 miles north of the city of Preston. The wood is directly adjacent to the large new town area of Fulwood with a population of 28,000 and is easily accessible. Preston which is only two miles away has a population of 140,000. Given it's geography and it's linear nature adjacent to housing the woodland is used as an attractive through route to other amenities and also for local recreation. There is a primary school close to the woodland and Preston Golf Club on the opposite side to the east.

General description of the access

The site has a total of 8 pedestrian entrances. The easiest to find is the most northerly which can be found close to B6241 Eastway which is a well-known road locally. Six other entrances can be found to the rear of the housing estate on the western boundary close to The Pennines, Masonwood, Fairways and the Paddock. The final pedestrian entrance can be found on the sites southern boundary neighbouring the golf course. All the pedestrian entrances are squeeze gaps. On site there is approximately 1km of level surfaced footpaths. Parking is available on nearby local roads.

The nearest public toilet is at the Asda superstore which is about half a mile from the wood. The nearest bus stop: is on St Vincent's Road, outside Preston College, which is only around 50 metres from the wood.

Specific furniture/ access point description

At present some of the entrances and signage need updating, the paths are in need of resurfacing and a number of the bridges which cross the stream within the woodland need replacing. The woodland has a number of linear paths which run adjacent to the streamside and as such are well used as local pedestrian trails. However they can get wet and muddy in the wetter periods making walking through the woods a less attractive option. There isn't any seating currently within the woodland of other specific furniture including information or orientation panels and interpretation.

The visitor profile

There are 33310 households in the PR2 postal district which covers the Fulwood area. A recent Woodland Trust survey on site also concluded that the most popular days for visiting the woods are weekdays. A great number of visitors went to the woods with family members or on their own / with their dog. 24% of visitor parties confirmed they had brought a dog with them when visiting Preston Woods. The majority of visitors are locals and regular to the sites, 77% of visitors have been visiting Preston Woods for over 3 years. An overwhelming majority of visitors walk to the site which takes most of them less than 15 minutes. If the visitors use nearby facilities, they usually visit the shops or the nearby pub for example. No visitors were visiting Preston Woods as part of a holiday, the primary reasons for visiting the site were leisure walks, enjoying scenery and landscape, getting some fresh air, tranquillity and peace & quiet, and looking at wild flowers and trees.

Nearby Woodland Trust sites

Masons Wood sits within the Preston Woods Cluster. The main woods are, Moss Leach, Midgery Wood, Fernyhalgh and Sandybrook. Overall there are there are 10 woods in the Preston area which are all to the west of the M6.

Volunteering

We have one volunteer warden at present that covers the woods. There could be scope for more to do patrols of the woods etc and add to the on-site presence. See Short Term Management Objectives for the Plan Period (5 years) for more details.

Significance

Located in a small steep sided valley that follows a tributary of Savick Brook. Much of the surrounding land use is intensively urban. The site is bounded by a new housing estate to the west and a golf course to the east. The site is extremely well used by local people for informal recreation. Public access is good; the site has eight main entrances and a network of linear surfaced footpaths with bridges and steps which link the site to the surrounding open space and public footpath network. Masons wood comprises mainly of mature mixed broadleaf woodland, tree species include English oak, ash, beech, sycamore, wild cherry, alder, silver birch and willow. Some additional structural edge planting of field maple, alder, ash, English oak, willow, white poplar and larch has been carried out along the boundaries. Shrub species include hazel, elder, blackthorn and hawthorn. A rich ground flora exists, comprising of species such as bluebells, ramsons and wood anemones, these species are particularly prominent under the oak dominated part of the canopy. Non-native Himalayan Balsam is also present in the southern half of the wood close to the brook. Part of the woodland is designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, a Biological Heritage Site and it is also covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Masons Wood can be argued is the most attractive woodland out of the 9 within the Preston Woods Cluster. At Moss Leach Cromwell's Mound is an earthwork constructed to divert water to the moat of Broughton Tower, the mound is a Scheduled Ancient Monument from the 1600's. Increasing enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes and given the footfall at this wood and it's location it should be possible achieve the trusts overarching aims here.

Opportunities & Constraints

There are many opportunities for improvements at Masons Wood. Physical enhancements suggested include updating welcome signage and information about the woodland; waymarking within the woodland and the wider Preston Woods Cluster; Replace some of the older bridges which cross Savick Brook (with interpretation); Improve the footpaths with suitable stone surface so they are accessible year round; Install some bespoke seating within the woodland; Possible geocaching or orienteering within the woodland and the wider cluster; Possible trim trail linked to the wider Preston woods cluster. There is opportunity to work closely with the local community through a variety of engagement activity. This can include consultation on any improvements required. Also events linked to our national activity, programmes and campaigns.

Some areas of the Woodland are ancient so we wouldn't allow any infrastructure above what we already have in these locations. The woodland is narrow and in a stream valley with some steep sides as such there isn't much space to install features apart from at the entrances and along the linear pathways. The woodland is in an urban setting so any installations would need to be durable and relatively maintenance free. Augmented reality could be one option we explore.

There is a lack of information on site, signage is old and needs replacing and whilst walking around it is difficult to know where you are and which are the best routes to take especially if you are a first time visitor. However the majority of the visitors at the moment are local residents who know where they are going. If we are looking at creating a waymarked route or similar within the wider Preston Cluster this would need addressing. Some of the path surfaces can be challenging in wet weather. There isn't a leaflet about the woodland on site or information online for people to download. Some of the infrastructure is old and needs upgrading, this includes bridges, steps and footpaths. On grey summer days the woodland can feel quite imposing as it gets quite dark in the wooded valley, this could be challenging for some potential visitors. Options will be explored for some selective thinning to let in more light to the woodland floor. Access to this and other woodlands in the Preston cluster is often via land that is outside Woodland Trust ownership (eg local authority) in these instances it will be necessary to engage with those landowners and work up practical solutions to signage and management (eg vegetation cutting/ tree safety etc)

Factors Causing Change

As part of the welcoming Sites Programme the woodland will require a greater level of annual maintenance, with a periodic (10 year) refurbishment of the entire welcome facilities as well as a higher expectation of the quality of the infrastructure and interpretation provided. The site is currently well used but the paths do get very muddy after heavy downpours especially as it's situated in a stream valley. Erosion to the banks is occurring and revetments have to be installed to stop the streamside paths falling away. With climate change more intense heavy downpours this situation could be exacerbated. The woodland is surrounded by housing, the golf course and a busy road, unless the golf course were to be sold off for housing we don't anticipate further changes. Antisocial behaviour/ vandalism may be an isolated, but not a major issue.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site will be well maintained and signposted from all entrances with WT welcome signage. Downloadable information on the website will enable people to find and access the woodland easily. Steps and paths into the woodland are well maintained and regularly maintained bridges over the brook give added interest to the visitor. The footpaths are accessible all year round and are topped up with stone where and when necessary, this will encourage more people to use the woodland even in poor weather. A range of woodland users will be at the site from regular dog walkers, local residents, through to special interest groups such as geocachers, people out for health walks and occasional runners and orienteers. Possible geocaching and orienteering are regularly undertaken in the woodland and the trails have been adopted by local clubs who hold taster sessions at the woodlands in Fulwood.

Overall people will cherish the woodland and feel it is a well maintained asset on their doorstep which is a pleasure to visit at any time of year.

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

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines. Achieved by ensuring that entrances & signage are welcoming to visitors and well cared for annually. All managed paths are kept reasonably well-drained and free from encroaching vegetation, and that access infrastructure (e.g. bridges, steps, entrances, signage) commemorative products (e.g. seats, grove posts and dedications) boundaries etc. are kept in good order annually. The site is kept safe and welcoming by repair of vandalism when needed and the clearing of fallen trees where access is obstructed with regular site safety surveys as documented in the site risk assessment.

All features and installations will be maintained to a high standard. Visitors will have a quality experience on site and want to return again and pass on the good experience to friends, family and other local residents.

Events will be undertaken as required these include links with national campaigns such as bluebells; Nature Detectives live; Nature Recorders etc. Membership Development Officers will use the woodland for membership recruitment and to promote the wider work of the organisation and trust membership.

The Green Tree Schools Award and native tree packs will be promoted to local schools can be achieved via the volunteer speakers and any volunteers working on wider trust initiatives. Forest schools and other local user groups aligned to the aims and objectives of the Woodland Trust will be encouraged wherever possible and to encourage them to see the woodland as a resource for them to use.

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

A section of the northern half of the site is Ancient Semi- Natural Woodland, probably NVC 8/10 oak/ash. This section of the site is also designated as a County Biological Heritage Site and a Tree Preservation Order. This linear section of ASNW follows along a steep sided valley and the course of a tributary to the Savick brook. To the west of the ASNW a large housing estate can be found, to the east there is Fulwood golf course. The woodland narrows to the north where it meets the B6241 Eastway, to the south can be found secondary woodland which was densely planted with broadleaf and coniferous species by Central Lancashire Development corporation. The canopy is dominated by sycamore, other species which can be found include oak, ash, beech and elm. The understorey includes hazel, elder and hawthorn. Ground flora is indicative of ASNW and species include wood brome, bluebell, lady-fern, wood sorrel, wood anemone and moschatel.

At the northern end of the wood are a group of six former ponds, now heavily shaded and silted forming marshy, seasonally wet depressions. Species include dog's mercury, lord's and ladies, ramsons, marsh marigold, soft rush and lesser celandine.

Significance

ASNW is very rare, locally, nationally and regionally. It is estimated that ASNW cover only 2% of the land surface of Great Britain. Within Lancashire itself this figure drops to just 1% , and again Preston's total of ASNW is estimated to be around 1% of total land use.

Therefore this area of ASNW provides local people a unique opportunity to interact with a very rare environment, it also provides a uniquely ecologically rich habitat in a very urban area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The small size of this site, and the fact that it is surrounded by housing limits its value as a wildlife habitat. Unfortunately the woodland does not link with any other habitats, and there is no opportunity to extend it. However it is a mature and stable woodland which provides a refuge for urban wildlife.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Mature, stable broadleaved high forest, with a continuous canopy and diverse age and species range and succession by natural regeneration. As trees gradually reach senescence or are removed for tree safety purposes the gaps left in the canopy will be colonised by natural regeneration of sycamore, oak, ash and birch etc.

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

Active thinning work will be undertaken in 2020 to ensure long term stand stability, this work will be focussed on areas where the site borders housing on the south western boundary.

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out in the final year of the current plan period. This will make recommendations as to the management of the site.

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	5.87	Sycamore	1960	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Tree Preservation Order

5.87 hectares (14.5 acres) of ancient semi natural woodland composed mainly of native broadleaved trees located in an urban area of Fulwood, near Preston in Lancashire. The compartment is situated in a deeply incised glacial valley, a Clough wood typical of many in this area. A small stream the Savick Brook flows along the valley floor. The canopy is dominated by sycamore, oak, beech and ash. Under storey species include blackthorn, elder and hazel. The ground flora is indicative of ancient woodland species such as bluebell, ramsons, lesser celandine and wood anemone. Non-native invasive Himalayan Balsam is also present in the southern section of the wood close to the brook. The compartment is bounded to the west by housing and to the east by a golf course.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2021	1a	Thin	2.00	10	20

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.