WOODLAND TRUST

Nut Wood & Wauldby Scrogs

Management Plan

2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Nut Wood & Wauldby Scrogs
Location:	Cottingham, Humberside
Grid reference:	SE987302, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 106
Area:	13.98 hectares (34.55 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Known locally as the Bluebell Wood, parts of the woodland dates from the 13th century and have a rich ground flora. More than 36 bird species, 80 types of plant, 20 insect and 10 fungus species thrive here. A good variety of walks through the site.

2.2 Extended Description

The Woodland Trust in October 1991 acquired Nut Wood and Wauldby Scrogs with contributions to its purchase by the former Humberside County Council and Beverley Borough Council. Compartment 3a, called Constantine Wood is situated at the north-eastern corner of Nut Wood was formerly an arable field, planted in 1999 as part of the Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project which aimed to create 200 new woods for the millennium and supported by the Millennium Commission. Additional funding for Constantine Woods was also received from local people, trusts, and companies, The Forestry Commission, The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, Carphone Warehouse and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Local people also contributed at an event where volunteers planted nearly all the trees. In addition to extending the site area of Nut Wood and Wauldby Scrogs it also serves to buffer the ancient woodland site of Nut Wood from the adjacent arable land, and forms a direct link with the highway at Riplingham Road. Trees' planting was with native species of local provenance included oak, ash, small leaved lime, cherry, field maple, and rowan with shrubs accounting for 10% of the area of the

following species hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, and hazel. The open spaces were planted with a mixture of grasses and wildflowers to enhance the visual appearance and benefits wildlife. As part of the community participation in the creation of this wood. Members of the local community chose its name and also a millennium feature. The name Constantine Wood was chosen after the Emperor Constantine who would have probably travelled close by this wood between York and Rome in the fourth century. A large sandstone millstone with compass point has also been positioned at the south eastern corner as the millennium feature.

Nut Wood, Wauldby Scrogs and Constatine Wood occupy a gentle north-facing slope of small dry valley, in a predominately agricultural landscape. The surrounding area is fairly typical of the Yorkshire Wold's chalkland landscape, which has been designated by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council as; an Area of High Landscape Value.

Bridleways, (B16 and B14) together with and a footpath (F16) completely surround the wood, with the northern track being indicated on the enclosure map of 1653. The woods are exceptionally well used by local people, including school parties and the scouts, with the local scout camp only a short distance away. The Wolds Way long distance footpath runs adjacent to the wood. Nut Wood is referred by some locals as Bluebell Wood.

Part of the site has been wooded since at least the 13th century with documentary evidence given in 1241. However, it is the documentary evidence, in the form of historical maps, which provides us with some indication of the development of the woodland since 1653.

The 1653 enclosure map of the parish of Wauldby shows the eastern end of the wood now called Nut Wood as an enclosed, slightly smaller wood called ‘The Wood’. To the west was an area indicated as wood pasture. This extended to the area now called Wauldby Scrogs.

Henry Teesdale’s map of 1828 and Bryant’s map of 1829 both still indicates the area of ‘The Wood’s being unchanged, but to the west the area appears to have been open with only woodland cover indicated at the western end, the area now called Wauldby Scrogs.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1855 gives a very clear indication of the woods development, with ‘The Wood’ now called Wauldby Wood and slightly extended to east. Wauldby Scrogs is indicated but still separated from Wauldby Wood by a large field, which contains the slightly sunken lane seen to day running across the site. The ordnance survey map of 1927 reflects the same picture, but the Wauldby Wood is now referred to as Nut Wood.

It appears likely that this open section was first planted in the 1950’s when Nut Wood was replanted. The only odd factor is that this section contains a fairly rich flora, with the odd mature stump present. It may be that this section has retained its flora from a more open wood pasture as indicated on the 1653 map. The area may have gradually lost its density of trees over subsequent year as the 1855 Ordnance Survey map seems to indicate some trees on the area.

Wauldby Scrogs is a smaller area of approximately 3.6 acres. The unusual name has evidently originated from the Norse ancient village name of Wautby or Waldby, with the origin of ‘Scrogs’ almost certainly coming from the Norse word for Wood, ‘Skogr’. The area is mainly mature hazel coppice, with occasional mature Oak, Ash and Spruce. A thick scrub cover of blackthorn exists along the boundaries, with elderberry in the interior.

No doubt as a result of the high visitor numbers mammal activity within the mature woodland is limited to common species. Over 36 species of birds have evidently been spotted within the woodland together with 20 species of insects and arthropods (N Swankie 1997). The mature sections of the site has a very large flora diversity, with some 80 different species of flowering plants, trees, shrubs, grasses, ferns, rushes, sedges and 10 species of fungi (N Swankie 1997). Much of the ground flora in the mature woodland is representative of ancient and semi natural woodland with dense carpets of Dogs Mercury, Wild garlic and bluebells throughout.

Nut Wood (Compartment 1)

Nut Wood (including the originally open section) appears to have been planted in 1950's. It is likely that Nut Wood was felled during or shortly after the war to meet timber demands and was planted with 4 different species composition, which has been used to divide into 4 sub compartments. The compartments now consist of a mixture of, ash, beech, sycamore and remnants of the conifer nurse in a few areas of the woodland.

Wauldby Scrogs (Compartment 2)

This area appears to have been wood pasture, which was later planted with hazel coppice at a fairly even spacing and in lines. The coppice is now mature, indicating that it has not been coppiced for a significantly long period of time. (50 years plus).

Constantine Wood (Compartment 3a)

Planted in 1999 this compartment has received routine maintenance and establishment work including beat up, shelter maintenance and spot weeding and control of noxious weeds. In 2005 the shelters were removed.

Open agricultural land surrounds the woodland with the exception of a small area of scrub

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE
Nutwood and Wauldby Scroggs is situated approximately 6 miles to the north west of the Kingston upon Hull, on Riplingham Road, a minor road that links Kirkella and the village of South Cave. Access to Riplingham Road from the south is from the A164 (T) approximately 1 mile to the west of Willerby. Roadside parking is available alongside the entrance to the wood, which is directly opposite Raywell House, a large property set in its own grounds..

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS
The entrance to the site is an open gateway, behind which is an information board. From the entrance bridleways lead off along the northern and eastern boundaries, these connect into bridleways that run along the southern and western boundaries, so the wood is completely surrounded by bridleways. A permissive footpath through the wood, starts from the southwestern corner and runs east-west through the middle of the wood. A north- south track, which links into the bridleways, crosses the wood at about its mid point.

The site contains approximately 2000m of paths which are of grass or earth. The wood is situated on moderately slope and the paths are also uneven in places. Situated on clay soils the paths can become slippy when wet.

PARKING
Roadside parking directly alongside the entrance to the site and also on a wide grass verge directly opposite the entrance.

PUBLIC TOILETS
No public toilets known within 5 miles

BUS STOPS
Skidby village several miles away. Nearest bus stop to be confirmed.

TRAVEL INFORMATION
Further information about public transport contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2 608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to develop and maintain a diverse, predominately (80-100%) broadleaved native high forest, with Wauldby Scrogs being retained as a mature hazel coppice. Constantine Wood will form a secondary predominately broadleaved native high forest.

Public access to be maintained throughout the site, with the perimeter bridleways and paths and central path forming the main access routes with 4 entrance points. The open glade will be maintained within Constantine Wood.

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 Woodland Site

Description

Ancient semi natural woodland site, current designation from NCC inventory of ancient woodland 1987. Overall predominantly ash with beech, sycamore, oak, larch and pine. Limited under storey, but good ground flora of blue bells, wild garlic and dogs mercury.

Significance

Woodland cover in the East Yorkshire area is one of the lowest in the country at about 2.7% (source NCC 1989). Only 6% of this figure is considered to be ancient woodland. The site is therefore especially important for this area of the country.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
1) Potential for economically viable timber production through thinning.
2) Fluctuations in timber prices could affect timing of timber operations.
3) Sloping ground and heavy clay soils making extraction difficult in wet weather.
4) Ground flora, will affect the degree of disturbance to the woodland and extraction routes.
5) Recreational use of the site has an impact on natural regeneration and erosion of ground flora.

Opportunities
1) Improvement in the age class structure of the wood.
2) Improvement in the species structure to revert to increase species diversity.

Factors Causing Change

Increase in public use of the woodland, Increase in horses and mountain bikes, Squirrel Damage, Deer Damage, Ash dieback disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term vision is to maintain a broadleaf high forest with a mixed species and age structure.

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

The short term objective is to develop a more uneven age structure and where possible develop as wide a range of species diversity as possible. This will be achieved through planned thinning operations which will aim to create small areas of open canopy to allow natural regeneration to develop. The date of the thinning operation, its intensity and areas requiring work to be determined following an assessment in 2019. However, as with the 2015 operation, it is likely to cover the whole of Nut Wood. Intermediate assessments will be undertaken in the wood for ash dieback as part of regular monitoring of the spread of the disease.

The thinning operation will focus on the thinning of ash in favour of other species present, such as oak, sycamore, beech, pine and larch.

Deer and squirrel impact assessment to be undertaken once canopy openings have been created to assess impact on the development of natural regeneration. Current canopy suppressing growth of natural regeneration in most places.

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Current designation from NCC inventory of semi natural ancient woodland (1987)
A large area of predominantly mature hazel coppice within compartment 2a which extends to 1.7ha. Approximately 1.5ha is hazel which is now fully mature.

Significance

Such a large area of hazel coppice is rare for this area of northern England

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
1) Care needed with any operations to protect the attractive ground flora of bluebells, wild garlic etc.
2) The size and maturity of the coppice stools may prevent re-coppicing .
3) Coppicing may also destroy the historical significance of the site.

Opportunities
1) Potential for enhancement of the visual appearance and health of the hazel coppice by removal of invasive elderberry, some of which are beginning to suppress the hazel.
2) Opportunity to enlarge the area slightly with a virtually open area of approximately 0.5ha on the eastern side of the compartment.

Factors Causing Change

Over maturity of hazel leading to the loss of stools, through decay and dieback., Encroachment of scrub which might also suppress the hazel

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Retention as mature hazel coppice with minimal intervention. Control of the scrub(blackthorn and elderberry) may be undertaken where necessary. Introduction of new hazel and individual trees within the open section of the compartment to aid continuity.

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

The health and condition of the coppice stools will be monitored and where necessary the surrounding scrub of elderberry and blackthorn will be controlled to maintain the health of the coppice. Undertaken through the woodland condition assessment once per plan period

Eastern area of the compartment extending to approximately 0.5ha to be planted with hazel, oak and Field maple . The tree planting to reflect the traditional coppice with standard trees. Work planned for 2016.

Deer, Squirrel and rabbit damage and impact to be monitored on the new planting.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

A bridleway exists round the whole perimeter of the site, approximately 1.5 miles (2km).

An extensive network of permissive un-surfaced footpaths has developed within the wood, one through the centre of the wood and another which follows the southern and northern boundaries, just within the boundary of the wood. These paths extend to approximately 1.5Km. The wood has 4 main entrances, at each of its corners, the north eastern one linking to the highway, where roadside parking is available.

The site is exceptionally well used with a multitude of new paths opening up within the woodland area due to its popularity.

Significance

The locality of the woodland, close to a major area of population such as Hull and the surrounding suburbs makes this one of the few accessible woodlands in the area. The attractive ground flora, add to and make it one of the most notable and well visited woodland in the East Yorkshire.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints.
1) The soil type, and extensive public use results in footpaths being very mud when wet, especially the bridle paths which surround the woodland.
2) Use of the wood by horses and mountain bikes will no doubt always be a problem, given that they have unlimited access to the bridleways which surround the wood.

Opportunities
1) Site information and plan could enhance visitor enjoyment.
2) Improvement to the centre footpath could undertaken by scalloping the edges to create some more open areas and develop natural regeneration of understory shrubs etc.

Factors Causing Change

Further increases in public usage and disturbance by horses, mountain bikes , den building etc could further reduce the extent of ground flora and reduce levels of fauna.

If ash dieback affects the wood in the future this could have an implication on public access. The management of dead and dying trees may be necessary together with closure of some of the permissive paths.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the permissive paths and bridleways which extend to approximately 3.5km by cutting back vegetation and maintaining trimmed hedges. Where possible discouraging access in the wood by horses and mountain bikes.

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

Maintain the permissive paths and bridleways which extend to approximately 3.5km by cutting back vegetation and maintaining trimmed hedges on an annual basis.
Where possible discouraging access in the wood by horses and mountain bikes, this could involve the erection of signs and removal of mountain bike jumps etc.
Maintain the entrance signs at the 4 main entrances to the wood on at least one occasion annually.

5.4 Secondary Woodland

Description

Constantine Wood is an area of secondary woodland of native species planted in 1999 including oak, ash, rowan, field maple, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and dog rose

Significance

Constantine Wood increases the area of this very popular woodland and therefore helps to spread the people pressure on the wood. Stretching from Nut Wood to the highway it provides a woodland feel for visitors immediately from leaving the car parking area adjacent to the highway. The wood therefore helps to buffer and extend the ancient woodland site of Nut Wood from the adjacent arable land and increases species and age diversity for the woodland as a whole.

Opportunities & Constraints

As the wood mature their will be the opportunity to thin the trees to favour best stems and provide a more natural appearance with more variable spacing between trees, than the current fairly regular spacing.

Factors Causing Change

Squirrel Damage, Deer Damage, Natural Regeneration Of mixed species, ash dieback disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long-term intention is to develop and maintain a diverse, secondary predominately broadleaved native high forest. This will be achieved by management of the woodland and through any natural regeneration thus encouraging self-sustainability of the woodland and a more diverse age structure in future years. The wood to be dominated (80-100%) by native broadleaved species with a mixed shrub layer.

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

To monitor the development of the wood, including the development of any natural regeneration and potential impact of diseases such as ash dieback. Assessment to include squirrel, rabbit and deer damage. Undertaken as part of the woodland condition assessment once per plan period.

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	0.46	Sycamore	1950	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value
Broadleaved high forest, predominantly sycamore 90%, ash 10% P1950 approx. The compartment is virtually flat with a very slight slope to the north. The compartment has limited understory of elderberry and ground flora dominated by wild garlic.							
1b	2.99	Ash	1950	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value
Broadleaved high forest, predominantly ash 90% . Sycamore, beech and an odd oak accounting for 10%. Planting year, 1950's approx. The compartment is virtually flat with a very slight slope to the north. The compartment has good understory of mainly hazel which is throughout the compartment. Occasional elderberry also present with bramble in places. The ground flora dominated by wild garlic with some bluebell.							
1c	4.96	Ash	1950	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value
Broadleaved high forest, ash 50%, beech 40%, larch 5%, pine 5% Planted approximately 1950's, The compartment slopes to the north and has limited understory of occasional hazel and elderberry. The compartment has a dense carpet of wild garlic throughout with patches of bluebells. A multitude of paths has established over the last 10 years.							

1d	1.76	Sycamore	1950	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value
Broadleaved high forest, 55% sycamore, 25% beech, 5% ash. 5% oak 5% larch, 5% pine. Planted 1950's approx. The compartment is virtually flat for the southern half of the compartment but then slopes steeply to the north. The compartment has no understory and virtually devoid of bluebell and wild garlic which dominates the rest of the wood.							
2a	1.71	Hazel	1850	Coppice	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Mature hazel coppice area with elderberry. Along the southern boundary is a small number of mature oak and ash trees. The northern boundary is formed by a thick blackthorn scrub area. Part of the area was an old chalk bit with a small area devoid of trees and dominated by willow herb and nettles. The site slopes to the north.							
3a	1.65	Mixed native broadleaves	1999	High forest		Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value
The compartment, situated at the northeastern corner of Nut Wood, was formerly an arable field, which was planted in 1999 with native broadleaves at 3m spacing to achieve 1100 plants per hectare. The lands slopes gently to the north and was at one time used as sledging slope. Species included oak, ash, small leaved lime, cherry, field maple, and rowan with shrubs accounting for 10% of the area of the following species hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, and hazel. The 20% open ground element of the planting scheme encompassed a ride area in the middle of the site and a footpath and 2 bridleways, which run along the boundaries of the compartment. The compartment is known as Constantine Wood.							
4a	0.42	NULL		Non-wood habitat		Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value
Arable land to the east of the public bridleway which is managed by the adjacent land owner. This slither of arable land appears as a result of a discrepancy in the legal boundary of the Trust property and that of its neighbour and is currently under investigation.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2015	1a	Thin	0.46	23	10.58
2015	1b	Thin	1.00	23	23
2015	1b	Thin	2.99	23	68.77
2015	1c	Thin	4.96	23	114.08
2015	1d	Thin	1.76	23	40.48

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.