



Seeds Plantation

Management Plan 2018-2023

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

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

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

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

SUMMARY

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

1.0 SITE DETAILS

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Site name: | Seeds Plantation |
| Location: | Warrington |
| Grid reference: | SJ587909, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 108 |
| Area: | 6.38 hectares (15.77 acres) |
| Designations: | Community Forest, Local Wildlife Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance |

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

With its veteran beeches and oaks, Seeds Plantation is a tranquil haven in a busy, urban suburb of Warrington that is a designated nature conservation site. Popular with local people, it is a series of linked woods that have a good network of level, surfaced paths suitable for pushchairs and buggies.

2.2 Extended Description

Seeds Plantation is an urban woodland located in the Callands district of Warrington, approximately 3 miles to the north-west of the town centre. It consists of four distinctive, but linked woodland compartments (Seeds Plantation, Big Moss Wood, Little Moss Wood and Little Moss Copse) which together total 6.4ha. The woods stretch in a north westerly direction between Callands Road and Cromwell Road (A574) and are bordered by housing estates, roads and footpaths and a primary school.

The area is low lying on flat ground with slow drainage and gleyed, sandy/silt soils. An old network of shallow drainage ditches run through Seeds Plantation and Little Moss Wood and there is a small silted up pond in Seeds Plantation compartment. The wood is an intrinsic part of a wider mosaic of semi-natural habitats in the local area including open ground, ditches, ponds, grassland areas and other young and old woodlands.

Seeds Plantation and Little Moss Wood were formerly farm woodlands, and Little Moss Copse/Big Moss Wood was open ground.

The wood was acquired by the Commission for New Towns in the late 1970's and was given to the Woodland Trust in 1992/93 along with another nine woodlands within a 2 mile radius which together make a local woodland estate of approximately 26ha.

Secondary broadleaved woodland is a key feature of the site. Seeds Plantation compartment has a central core of mature beech, oak and horse chestnut, sandwiched between more recent plantings (+/-20 years old) of ash, wild cherry, field maple and rowan. Little Moss Wood is a mixed plantation of mainly oak, beech and Scots pine. The northern two thirds after felling operations have reverted to naturalised secondary birch woodland with some pines retained. The central and southern sections of the compartment have a mixed shrub layer. Big Moss Wood is a naturally occurring almost pure stand of birch approximately 20 years old. It has a single aged canopy with natural regeneration of birch, oak, cherry and rowan developing. Little Moss Copse is a community woodland designed and planted in 2000 as part of the Woodland Trusts millennium project "Woods On Your Doorstep" (WOYD) The planting mix comprised of oak, birch, common alder, Scots pine, hazel, blackthorn and dog rose. The site has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site by Warrington Borough Council which recognises the local importance of the site for wildlife.

Informal Public Access is a second key feature of the site with a network of permissive surfaced footpaths within all the compartments. The woods are well used by local people, but due to the urban location also suffer from misuse including littering, fly tipping, vandalism and fire damage to trees.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The woodland has approximately 1350m of stone surfaced footpaths with no gradients making it is accessible to pushchairs and buggies with a number of access points from the adjoining roads and housing estates.

There is no official parking at the wood, although limited on street parking is available on nearby roads or at the Westbrook Shopping Centre on Cromwell Avenue, a 5-10 minute walk away along Callands Road.

The nearest bus stop is on Callands Road across from an entrance to the wood. For more information on bus routes and locations of bus stops visit the Traveline website www.traveline.org.uk

The nearest public toilets can be found at the Westbrook Centre on Cromwell Avenue, about 5-10 minute walk away.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Seeds Plantation is to maintain a mixed broadleaved high forest as an integral part of the wider ecological landscape. It will be managed predominantly as a landscape and conservation feature to ensure the continuity of woodland habit and will continue to provide an amenity to the local population. Guided by the Woodland Trust's woodland management approach, the long term management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public enjoyment. The woodland will be left to develop largely through natural processes, with mature and veteran trees retained and standing deadwood left on site where safe to do so.

Public safety and access will be the key drivers for woodland management operations with tree safety being a high priority in areas near to houses, roads and footpaths. Tree safety and other silvicultural operations will aim to reduce long term tree safety liability and create gaps in the canopy to promote natural regeneration and improve the woodland structure. Regeneration of both natives and non-native species will be accepted. Coppicing along paths and boundaries will be undertaken periodically to maintain path sight lines and create a more graduated woodland edge.

The woodland will be regularly monitored for threats from tree diseases, pests, invasive non-native species and human impacts (such as fly tipping and vandalism), and where appropriate action will be taken to tackle any threats to ensure the long term sustainability of the woodland.

Open public access will be retained at the existing level with twelve public access points and footpath network maintained annually. The Trust's duty of care to neighbours and visitors will continue to be addressed through on-going tree safety and site risk assessment inspections.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

The wood has approximately 1350m of permissive stone surfaced footpath with 10 entrances from the neighbouring housing estates and roads. All the entrances have open access with no barriers apart from a wooden management access gate on the southern boundary next to Callands Road. Within the wood there is also network of open ditches in the wood with culverts/ bridges at crossing points. The paths are well used by local people for dog walking and as a cut through from the housing estates to nearby shops and facilities.

Significance

Increasing access to and enjoyment of woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes and Seeds Plantation provides local people with easy access to woodland and nature in an urban environment. The wood is a prominent landscape feature in the local area and is visible from the A574 Cromwell Avenue and other local roads. It also provides a range of amenity benefits including helping to "soften" the surrounding urban landscape, absorption of pollution and acts as a noise barrier for traffic from nearby roads. The footpaths, which are flat throughout the wood, provide important pedestrian links for local residents to nearby facilities and to the wider network of footpaths and green spaces in the local area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The location of the wood means that the site is subject to fairly intense use during the summer months, with the usual urban problems of fly tipping, litter, vandalism and occasional fires. Approximately 400m of the woodland boundary backs onto domestic properties, and a further 530m has road frontage, these factors coupled with the well used path network give rise to a range of boundary, neighbour and safety related issues often needing to be resolved at cost to the Trust. The site is flat with a good surfaced footpath network making it accessible all year round for local people to use.

Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping, vandalism of bridges & signage, fires, increased recreational usage of the site. Surfaced woodland paths become muddy over time due to accumulations of leaf litter.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long-term objective is to maintain the current level of public access to the site to ensure it is welcoming and accessible for visitors all year round. Access infrastructure including 1350m of surfaced footpath, 10 entrances, signs, fences, gates, bridges and culverts will be maintained in good condition. The site will be made as safe as practicable for visitors and neighbours through regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones, site hazards and access infrastructure. Any threats to the wood arising from public recreation or misuse will be monitored and appropriate measures taken if necessary.

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

Maintain entrances and footpaths by cutting back encroaching vegetation and trees; inspect signs, gates, fences and bridges, inspect the ditches/ culverts and ensure they are kept clear of obstructions; remove accumulations of litter & fly tipping as necessary - to be done annually via the EMC.

Undertake regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones and site hazards as per the Trust's safety inspection regime, undertaking any remedial safety work identified.

Carry out coppicing along path edges and entrances to improve sight lines by the end of the current plan period.

Monitor public use of the site during the current plan period to review the standard of access provision and identify if there are any issues/ threats to the wood from public usage, taking appropriate action to address them if necessary.

5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

The site consists of four distinctive woodland compartments, each having particular characteristics or features that serve to enrich the areas biodiversity: Seeds Plantation (comp 3A) has a mature high forest canopy (oak, beech, alder, ash and pines) including many trees with veteran characteristics. The compartment also has a seasonally wet drainage system and a small pond. Little Moss Wood (comp 2A) has a naturalised mixture of mature birch woodland in transition to oak wood with areas of mature beech/ oak plantation, mature alder, scattered Scots pine and dense shrub/hedge boundary zones. Big Moss Wood (comp 1A) is young mature, natural, secondary woodland, comprising of birch with goat willow in transition to lowland oak wood. Little Moss Copse (comp 4A) is a new plantation of mixed broadleaves and thorn scrub incorporating existing stands of goat willow. This was planted as part of the Woods on Your Doorstep (WOYD) project in 2000.

Significance

The wood is a significant landscape and conservation feature within a very urban environment and is part of the wider ecological landscape in the area which includes a mosaic of semi-natural habitats including managed and unmanaged grassland, ponds, drainage ditches, hedges, mature woodland and new plantations. The importance of the site has been acknowledged by the local authority who have given it the status of Local Wildlife Site (Site of Importance to Nature Conservation). The variety of woodland types and structure on the site increases the variety of habitats to support a range of woodland flora and fauna. The site also provides an important green corridor linking other wildlife habitats in the local area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The close proximity of the woodland to housing and roads and high recreational use of the site brings with it greater tree safety risk which needs to be managed and has significant cost implications. This will require tree safety work, stand stability thinning and boundary coppicing periodically which will provide opportunities for natural regeneration and to diversify the woodland structure.

Intense use during the summer months can lead to issues with litter, dumping of rubbish (domestic and garden); fires; den building; vandalism; and fly-tipping; and are factors that have to be considered in relation to habitat management.

Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping, fires and vandalism to mature trees and natural regeneration.

Tree safety works will result in removal of mature trees.

Tree disease, particularly ash dieback disease will impact on the canopy/ structure/ species mix in some areas.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Seeds Plantation will continue to form an intrinsic part of the local landscape. The woodland will continue to be managed as High Forest of predominately Birch, Beech, Oak, Horse Chestnut, and Rowan with a diverse understorey. Rhododendron will be removed from the woodland. The long term objective is to maintain the continuity of mixed broadleaved high forest with a diverse mix of age classes/ species and woodland structure. The wood will be left to develop largely through natural process with succession promoted through natural regeneration, mature trees retained into senescence and standing dead trees retained for deadwood habitat where it does not compromise public safety. Woodland management will focus on maintaining stand stability and tree safety to reduce long term risks along boundaries next to houses and roads and footpaths for public safety. This will create opportunistic gaps in the canopy promoting natural regeneration and structural diversification. Boundary coppicing will be undertaken periodically to maintain a graduated woodland edge structure and to reduce the tree safety/ encroachment liability at the same time as enhancing the biodiversity value of the woodland. Threats to the wood from pests, tree disease and invasive species will be monitored and appropriate action taken to control them where it is practical and achievable.

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

Undertake tree safety inspections as part of the site risk assessment regime for public safety in high risk zones (i.e. next to buildings, footpaths and roads) and carry out any remedial tree work identified.

A Woodland Condition Assessment will be carried out towards the end of the current plan period to assess the health and resilience of the woodland including the mix of species and natural regeneration, to monitor threats from tree disease, pests, non-native invasive species and to take appropriate action where necessary.

Thinning operations will be carried out for long term stand stability and tree safety, focusing on boundaries next to housing and along footpaths, by the end of the current 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 | 1.51 | Birch (downy/silver) | 1980 | High forest | | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | Community Forest |

Big Moss Wood - small, flat compartment of young secondary birch woodland. The compartment has full canopy closure formed primarily of birch with occasional oak, rowan and ash with small areas of goat willow. Density of trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) over 7cm is approximately 2749 trees/ha. Three 2m by 20m transects to assess density of natural regeneration suggest that understorey and emergent natural regeneration is at a stem density of 25333 trees/ha - oak 41%, birch 28%, rowan 23%, wild cherry 5%, ash, willow and hazel 1% each. Ground and shrub flora includes brambles, rose, rhododendron on the north boundary, bracken ferns and remnant moss plants such as sphagnum moss and liverworts.

The compartment is bounded to the north by the A574 (Cromwell Avenue). To the southwest by domestic properties in Peterstone and Newbridge Closes. The eastern side abuts managed highway verge and a public footpath. The 20m south east boundary abuts the verge and footpath alongside Goldcliffe Close.

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|----------------------|------|-------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| 2a | 2.77 | Birch (downy/silver) | 1950 | High forest | Legal issues | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | Community Forest |
|----|------|----------------------|------|-------------|--------------|--|------------------|

Little Moss Wood - a flat and roughly triangular compartment which is secondary woodland with approximately 440m of informal paths and has full canopy coverage. The site abuts properties in Welshpool Close at its extreme north east boundary then follows the verge of the Close eastwards. With the exception of the extreme SW corner, the boundary is defined by wooden marker posts (see legal map). Silted drainage ditches run the length of the west and north east boundaries. These have been blocked by recent housing and road development but are currently dry.

The canopy is formed by mixed broadleaves (birch, oak, beech, alder) with a small number of Scots pine scattered throughout. The northern two thirds of the canopy are dominated by birch with lodge pole pine and the occasional black pine. The southern third has a greater proportion of mature oak, alder and beech. The northern and western boundaries have a mixed species overgrown hedge with hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, holly, guelder rose, alder, hazel and bramble, the same species can be found throughout the wood as understory with natural regeneration of rowan, oak, and beech. Dense patches of rhododendron have become established in the southern third of the compartment. The ground flora is mixed depending on the understorey and canopy density with remnant mossland species occurring on damper ground.

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|-------|------|-------------|---|--|--|
| 3a | 1.35 | Beech | 1900 | High forest | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Legal issues, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | Community Forest, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance |
|----|------|-------|------|-------------|---|--|--|

Seeds Plantation is a secondary woodland plantation with full canopy cover. The site abuts housing on its north west and south east boundaries. The southern two thirds of the western boundary lies adjacent to the Ridgebourne Close highway verge, the southern boundary abuts the woodland edge of the drainage ditch and verge of Callands Road.

It is approximately 300m long and 50m wide. The central belt and north west corner of the site are dominated by large mature trees, beech, oak, horse chestnut, alder and pines (Corsican and Scots).

The east and west facing have a dense canopy and understorey of mixed aged ash, wild cherry, field maple, alder, holly, and thorn, with an understorey of elder, hazel, bramble, and regeneration from the canopy species. Due to the dense canopy the ground flora is sparse. There is a small roughly kidney shaped pond (approximately 12m across) which is heavily silted and most of the year has very little water or is totally dry. The pond margins vary between areas of trampled bare ground and woody shrubs, with mature woodland overhanging the pond edge causing extensive shading. A mostly dry drainage ditch runs through the centre of the site north to south.

There is approximately 430m of footpaths with a main central surfaced footpath/ access track running parallel to the drainage ditch. The ditch is crossed by two 3m wide wooden vehicle bridges (2 tonne carrying weight) There is management access over a piped culvert (owned by Warrington Borough Council) off Callands Road. The footpath links the site to the neighbouring housing estate and children's play area. A second path offers access from Ridgebourne Close. This passes the pond and joins the central path via two similar wooden bridges.

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|--------------------------|------|-------------|--|--|------------------|
| 4a | 0.75 | Mixed native broadleaves | 2000 | High forest | | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | Community Forest |
|----|------|--------------------------|------|-------------|--|--|------------------|

Little Moss Copse is a new planting extension to Little Moss Wood (sub-cpt 2a). The western boundary is the grass verge alongside Goldcliffe Close and it merges with Little Moss Wood on the eastern side. Designed and planted in 2000 as part of the Woodland Trusts millennium project "Woods On Your Doorstep" (WOYD) the layout of this community woodland is approximately half open space and half woodland. The planting mix consists of pendunculate oak (28%), silver birch (23%), Scots pine (11%), common alder (17%), blackthorn (3%), hazel (6%) and dog rose (2%). Approximately 670 trees were planted, (60-90cm bare rootstock) at 2.1m centres with no guards or tubes and the trees have grown well and are now established.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

| Forecast Year | Cpt | Operation Type | Work Area (ha) | Estimated vol/ha | Estimated total vol. |
|---------------|-----|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 2018 | 2a | Ride edge Coppice | 0.20 | 15 | 3 |
| 2019 | 2a | Ride edge Coppice | 0.20 | 10 | 2 |
| 2020 | 2a | Ride edge Coppice | 0.20 | 10 | 2 |
| 2023 | 1a | Thin | 5.60 | 2 | 10 |
| 2025 | 2a | Ride edge Coppice | 0.20 | 10 | 2 |

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.