



Birdwell Woods

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Birdwell Woods
Location:	Birdwell, nr Hoyland Nether
Grid reference:	SE341020, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 111
Area:	33.20 hectares (82.04 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A large woodland creation area planted over two seasons. According to local folklore the wood and village take their name from a nearby well that never dried up at which a heron was always present.

2.2 Extended Description

Birdwell Wood is in South Yorkshire and next to the village of Birdwell, approximately 2 miles to the south of Barnsley. It sits alongside the eastern side of the M1, screening the motorway from the surrounding countryside further east.

The majority of the site was purchased by the Woodland Trust on the 03/04/95 with substantial contributions made by the Countryside Commission and local support. The site was extended by almost 5ha on 26/03/03 through a land swap with the Forestry Commission, which gave the Woodland Trust Miller Hill and Wigfield Wood on the western side.

The majority of the site (80%) is young broadleaved plantation which was planted over 2 seasons between 1996 and 1998. The main planted species are oak on the higher free draining soils and ash on the lower wetter calcareous ground. Other common species include birch, cherry, field maple, hawthorn, rowan, hazel and willow. Areas of mature woodland also exist on the site, including an area mature beech and yew woodland in the west, and mature ash woodland to the south. The woodland also incorporates some significant areas of open space (approximately 10% of the area) in the shape of rides and glades which was deliberately built into the original design plan for the site. Local people were consulted on the design plan for the new woodland and also helped to plant some of the trees. Within some of the open areas there are occasional mature and veteran oak trees, which are part of the pre-existing farmed landscape.

Birdwell Wood is within the project area of The South Yorkshire Forest, one of 12 original initiatives across England to create new wooded landscapes. The high points in the wood offer good views over the surrounding countryside in all directions. According to local folklore the wood and village take their name from a nearby well that never dried up at which a heron was always present. The well has since been buried by the M1 motorway and a bench/sculpture commemorating its presence and the area's history has been erected on site. Many of the local towns have grown up around the coal mining and iron and steel making industries, and it is known that much of the site was open cast mined in the years following WWII. The land was subsequently restored to agriculture before the new woodland was created.

The wood has a good network of permissive and public footpaths stretching to over 4.5km and with the a diversity of terrain there is plenty of scope for varied walks. The main access points are on the eastern on the edge of the village, at the 2 public footpath entrances. Worsbrough Country Park lies approximately 0.5km to the north and it is possible to walk there from Birdwell Wood using public rights of way which pass by Rockley lakes and Rockley Old Hall.

Birdwell Wood sits within a cluster of Woodland Trust properties which include Lower Lee, Bagger, and Nabs Woods all of which lie within a 5 miles radius.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

ACCESS TO THE SITE

The site is located against the western edge of Birdwell village in the rural fringe of Barnsley whose centre lies just four kilometres to the north. The wood extends along a band of ex pasture fields between the A61 and M1. From junction 36 of the M1 visitors should follow the A61 (Sheffield Road) north towards Barnsley. Keep going along Sheffield Road until almost the end of the village There are 2 access points into the wood off this road. Parking is possible along residential roads at the northern end of the village, but this is very limited

ENTRANCE AND FOOTPATHS

The paths within the wood are all unsurfaced grass tracks, with some moderate slopes. A number of public footpaths cross the site, numbers 28, 38, 46, 47 and 48. In addition the site contains a number of permissive paths, with an approximate total network of over 4.5km. The 2 main entrances off Sheffield Road consist of one squeeze gap through a stone wall and one kissing gate. Entrances into the wood from the wider countryside are mainly wooden step-over stiles

PARKING

very limited but possible along residential roads with the village of Birdwell

PUBLIC TOILETS

No public toilets known within 5 miles

BUS STOPS

Regular bus services to Barnsley. The nearest bus stop is in the Birdwell village, along the Sheffield Road and very close to the northernmost entrance to the wood off this road.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

For further information about public transport please contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The secondary planted woodland will be allowed to reach maturity and will develop the characteristics of more naturally occurring woodland, as opposed to a plantation of single aged trees. For this reason silvicultural management will take place to ensure the wood is diverse in broadleaved tree species and structure, with a good mixture of both young and mature trees being present. This will enable the wood to be more resilient to change in the future, and will ensure it supports the greatest range of wildlife species. The mature woodland will also be managed so it is diverse in species and structure and any invasive non-native species (eg rhododendron ponticum) will be absent from the wood.

Open habitats will also remain and be managed within the woodland matrix, in the form of glades and rides, but there will be an increase in scrub habitat along the fringes of these habitats where they meet the woodland blocks. The veteran oak trees on the site will be retained for as long as practically possible, provided they do not pose a significant safety risk.

The Woodland Trust has given Birdwell Wood a Category B access designation which equates to a moderately used site where 5-15 people use one entrance per day. In recognition of this a good standard of access provision will be maintained at Birdwell Wood, but overall facilities will be low key and informal. The path network will be kept open for use and entrances will be accessible and clearly signed. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones. Anti-social problems will be monitored and managed so they are not allowed to escalate.

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 Secondary Woodland

Description

Young secondary woodland (with built in open ground habitat) occupies approximately 80% of the site area (27ha). The original planting took place over two seasons between 1996 and 1998. The species mix was chosen to simulate NVC (national vegetation classification) type W10 with variation reflected in slope, drainage and soil type. The dominant species is oak (38%) with sessile and birch planted on the freer draining soils to the south and pendunculate oak with ash in wetter low-lying areas to the north. The plantation was created in blocks separated by rides and glades, and each block is slightly different in composition. A rich array of supplementary species were included throughout the mix, the main ones being cherry and rowan as well as many low growing and shrub species like holly, crab apple, hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose and hazel softening woodland edges. In places the shrub mix becomes dominant in order to avoid future obstruction of key views across the site. A wet woodland mix comprising crack and goat willow, birch, alder and aspen were chosen to lie alongside wet flushes. Two small plots demonstrating a stand of fast growing poplar hybrids and the use of Scots pine as a nurse species were included in the design as temporary features. Occasional veteran oak trees are present in the open areas of the site.

The pre-planting ecological survey identified several areas of species rich grassland scattered across the site, namely the central damp ditch, the stream across the north of the site, a pocket of grassland just south of New Plantation in the north east corner, a patch of ridge and furrow near the sites eastern entrance and a strip of grass extending alongside the retaining wall of the A61. The hedgerow south of Wigfield Wood was noted as being particularly species rich, as were the grassy hedge-side verges throughout the site. These species rich hotspots were left unplanted (as well as overhead and underground service lines), and these have been built in to the wood as glades and rides.

In November 1999, fifty head of cattle gained access to the site via New Plantation causing damage to approximately 25% of the site / 10,000 trees, many of these recovered following remedial works but much of the sites planting, although established, are significantly shorter than might otherwise be expected.

There is also a mature area of secondary woodland at the southern end of the site, called Parkinson's Spring, which is approximately 50 years old. The wood name of spring could infer it was coppiced for the production of spring wood in its past. It is dominated by ash but also contains oak and sycamore. *Rhododendron ponticum* is present in the understorey and there are patches of bluebell present.

Significance

The wood occupies a key location in the South Yorkshire Forest, where woodland creation and restoration of the landscape has been heavily promoted. The new woodland softens the landscape and screens the M1 motorway from the surrounding countryside. The wood also provides an ecological link and buffer between previously fragmented mature woodland blocks, some of which carry ancient woodland status.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is the opportunity to enhance the structural and species diversity over the majority of the plantations by carrying out sensitive silvicultural management.

Timber extraction is possible, but the management access and the opportunity for timber extraction are very restricted on the east side of the wood. The best management access is on the west side, off Rockley Lane, in the position of the old car park. Natural springs and service lines also present constraints to carrying out management works.

Factors Causing Change

An increase in deer populations in the local landscape could become a future threat to the wood. The plantations could become vulnerable to grey squirrel damage in the next 10 years. Sycamore is likely to increase as a component of the wood. Ash is likely to decrease due to ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The young plantation will become mature woodland which is diverse in tree species and in structure, enabling it to be resilient to change. Periodic silvicultural intervention is likely to be required to achieve this.

The older secondary woodland will retain a diverse structure, with a good element of natural regeneration. It will also have good mixture of native broadleaves and not be dominated by a single species. The ash component of the wood is likely to decrease over the next 20 years due to ash dieback, but silvicultural management will nevertheless seek to retain ash as a continuing important component of the wood. There will be no invasive non-native species present, and Rhododendron will be eradicated.

A proportion of open space (rides and glades) will be maintained within the woodland matrix. Approximately 10% of the wood will be open habitat, and scrub will be allowed to develop on the woodland fringes of the rides and glades.

Veteran trees within the site will be retained for as long as is practical, subject to any safety considerations.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to begin the process of making the secondary woodland more diverse in structure and species, to improve its resilience and wildlife value. This will be achieved by carrying out a thinning operation in 2017 where up to 30% of the trees will be felled and extracted over the entire area (just over 20 hectares). The Rhododendron in Parkinson's Spring wood will be eradicated during this plan period, by first cutting it in 2018 and then treating any regrowth with herbicide over successive seasons until all plants are killed off. Monitoring will take place to ensure this operation is effective.

The rides and glades will be mown to maintain public access (see public access key feature), but an uncut fringe of at least 3m width will be retained on the edges with the woodland blocks.

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

An area of mature ancient woodland is present. This consists of Wigfield and Miller Hill woods, which lie in the centre of the site. The ancient woodland is almost 5ha in size and makes up 15% of the site. The woods approximate to a W10 oak-bracken-bramble woodland under the National Vegetation Classification (NVC), although Miller Hill is heavily modified from its natural tree composition and is now a mature and even-aged beech plantation with virtually no understorey and limited ground flora. Wigfield Wood is much more mixed in species and structure, and contains birch, sycamore, oak (pedunculate & sessile), cherry, sweet chestnut, field maple, rowan, goat willow, hawthorn and wych elm. The understorey contains introduced plantings including yew and varieties of rhododendron. Bracken dominates the woodland floor of Wigfield Wood, but there are patches of bluebell. The deadwood habitat in this part of the site is also very good with many fallen trees on the ground. The hedgerows bordering these woods are all notably species-rich. Miller Hill and Wigfield Woods are thought to be remnants of the once extensive woodland of the Wortley Park estate, an area through which the motorway was built.

Wigfield Wood contains some cultural historical remnants, in particular an old hollow way and several large woodbanks dissecting the wood.

Significance

Ancient woodland is a limited, irreplaceable resource of high conservation value, it has provided a continuity of habitat essential to the survival of many plant and animal species. Ancient woodland is the richest habitat in the UK providing a home to the most species of conservation concern.

Opportunities & Constraints

The beech plantation in Miller Hill wood could be made more ecologically diverse through silvicultural management.

Factors Causing Change

An increase in deer populations in the local landscape could become a future threat to the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long-term intention is to maintain largely broadleaved ancient woodland composed of predominantly native tree species. The main tree species are likely to remain as oak, birch, beech and sycamore. It is also expected that the percentage of sycamore will continue to rise, and this will be allowed to occur. However, the composition of the woodland will remain diverse with no one tree species dominating and there will be a mixture of age classes, including the continual promotion of natural regeneration. Periodic silvicultural management may be required to maintain these conditions.

Non-native invasive species such as Rhododendron will not be present in the woodland

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to introduce more diversity of structure into Miller Hill Wood and to create conditions for natural regeneration to occur. This will be achieved by carrying out a thinning operation in 2017 in Miller Hill where approximately 25% of the mature beech trees will be felled and extracted (over an area of 2 hectares).

The Rhododendron in Wigfield Wood will be eradicated during this plan period, by first cutting it in 2018 and then treating any regrowth with herbicide over successive seasons until all plants are killed off. Monitoring will take place to ensure this operation is effective.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

Birdwell wood has an extensive network of footpaths for pedestrian-only use, totalling over 4.5km. The majority of these are permissive paths which were created as part of the design for the new woodland in the late 1990's, and all paths are unsurfaced. The paths follow the line of wide grassy rides through the site, and there are additional small glades, which all create some open sunny conditions for visitors to enjoy the site. There are two public rights of way running from the edge of Birdwell village across the site (from the 2 main entrances) travelling East to West. A further public footpath crosses the north of the site. From here it is possible to reach Worsbrough Country Park which lies approximately 0.5km to the north, by first passing by Rockley lakes and Rockley Old Hall. In addition to the 2 entrances next to the village there are a further 6 entrances into the wood, off the rights of way network.

Visitor facilities at the site are on the whole quite low-key. Welcome signage is present at all entrances, with larger more visible signage at the 2 entrances on the west side, next to the village. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council installed a French drain in 1999 to improve surface conditions along the public footpath leading down from Miller Hill to the management entrance on the west side of the wood. This has since discreetly grassed over.

Significance

Birdwell Wood provides an important and accessible natural amenity for mainly local people living close to the wood. It has short footpath links to another area of public open space, Worsbrough Country Park, to the north.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: There is the opportunity to increase public use of Birdwell Wood through possible joint working and promotion with neighbouring Worsbrough Country Park which receives over 150,000 visitors per year.

Constraints: Anti-social activities have been a barrier to providing visitor facilities at this wood. The management access on the west side of the wood, off Rockley Lane, used to offer a small public car-park. However, this had to be closed following repeated flytipping and other anti-social problems.

Factors Causing Change

Anti-social problems such as flytipping and vandalism.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A good standard of access provision will be maintained at Birdwell Wood, but overall facilities will be low key and informal. The path network will be kept open for use and entrances will be accessible and clearly signed. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors through regular tree safety inspections in high risk zones (eg roadsides). Anti-social problems will be monitored and managed so they are not allowed to escalate.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to provide low key public access which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:

-Annual management of the main paths, a total of approximately 4.5km.

-Improvements to entrances and signage in 2017 to make the wood more welcoming to visitors.

New welcome signage will be installed at all entrances and access structures into the site from the north (eg bridges) will also be improved.

-Conducting an annual tree safety survey along the roadside boundaries, and carrying out at least one tree safety inspection along the path network and electricity wayleaves during this plan period.

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	27.11	Oak (pedunculate)	1998	High forest	Legal issues, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	
<p>This compartment covers the majority of the site and is the young secondary woodland plantation, dating from 1996-1998. The main species planted are oak (at least 30%) and ash (at least 20%), together with birch (10%) and cherry (10%). Other species include field maple, hazel, crab apple and crack willow, common alder, rowan and holly. The plantation was created in blocks separated by woodland rides and small glades with a varying composition in each block. Open ground makes up approximately 10% of the compartment and includes wayleaves for overhead powerlines and underground services.</p>							
2a	0.81	Ash	1960	High forest		Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Parkinsons Springs (southern half). An even aged plantation dominated by ash (60%) with a sub dominant canopy of oak (30%). Sycamore also present. The understorey is very thin but there is scattered regeneration of ash and sycamore. Occasional patches of bluebell present.</p>							
2b	0.40	Oak (pedunculate)	1915	High forest		Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Parkinson's spring (northern half). A stand of mature oak dominated woodland with oak making up 50% of the composition along with birch (25%). Other species include rowan, hazel and occasional ash. Holly dominates the understorey and there are scattered clumps of Rhododendron. Patches of bluebell can be found on the ground.</p>							
3a	2.19	Beech	1900	High forest		Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Miller Hill. The compartment is predominantly a stand of mature beech, some of which appear over 100 years old. There are very few other species and a lack of understorey in the beech dominated woodland, apart from occasional elder and rowan. Patches of bluebell can be seen on the ground and Broad buckler fern is present. The compartment becomes more mixed towards its southern end where oak dominates, aside ash and yew.</p>							

3b	2.79	Birch (downy/silver)	1940	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
<p>Wigfield Wood. A diverse stand dominated by birch (40%) with both silver and downy birch being present. Yew is common and scattered throughout, along with oak, cherry, sycamore, sweet chestnut, field maple, rowan, goat willow, hawthorn and wych elm. Wigfield is also very diverse structurally and has a good deadwood habitat. Bluebell and dogs mercury are present in the ground flora. Clumps of Rhododendron are present in the understorey. Archaeological features are located within the compartment - hollow way and old wood banks.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	1a	Thin	12.00	13	158.7
2017	3a	Thin	2.18	23	50
2018	1a	Thin	7.00	23	157.7
2018	3a	Thin	2.18	30	65.5
2028	1a	Thin	19.00	25	475
2028	3a	Thin	2.18	23	50

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.