Old Copse (Plan period - 2024 to 2029)



Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate Management of the Woodland Trust Estate The Public Management Plan Location and Access

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

"A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife."

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

• **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK's native woodland and trees.

• **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland

• **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.

2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, 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. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.

4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and seminatural 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 natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.

7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities 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 encourage our woods to be used for 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. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.

10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

- 1. Site Details
- 2. Site Description
- 3. Long Term Policy
- 4. Key Features
 - 4.1 F1 Ancient Woodland Site
 - 4.2 F2 Connecting People with woods & trees
- 5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1.	SIT	Έ	DET	- All	S

Old CopseLocation:Sonning Common Grid reference: SU702809 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 175Area:12.43 hectares (30.72 acres)External Designations:Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural BeautyInternal Designations:N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Old Copse is a 12.43 hectare / 30.7 acre ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) on the edge of Sonning Common in Oxfordshire, situated within the Chilterns National Landscape Area and was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1995.

The woodland is currently characterised by mature beech trees which were originally planted for the local furniture industry and to supply the handles for a brush factory nearby at Stoke Row. The understorey is made up mostly of holly which can tolerate the high amounts of shade under the beech trees when in leaf. Where mature trees have fallen, light reaches the woodland floor and has created glades which are colonised by flushes of regenerating beech and rowan plus opportunistic ground flora. Where the ground remains wet, rushes and sedges predominate. A small 0.5 hectare section of woodland to the west of the site separated by an old wood bank is different in character and younger in age with oak, ash, cherry, Scots pine and scrub species are present. This area is not designated ancient woodland.

The national vegetation category for the woodland type is W14 Beech-oak woodland with bramble. The underlying geology is slightly acid, loamy, clayey soils with lenses of silt and clay impeding drainage in some areas. Generally moderate to high fertility suitable to a wide range of woodland types.

The has been managed as high forest and has had successive periods of felling and replanting and was last thinned in the late 1980's. Currently managed as continuous cover woodland with minimal intervention, with the only work to break up the even age canopy and promote the establishment of natural regeneration. A strip of contiguous woodland of the same type to the south, is owned and managed by the Sonning Common Parish Council and to the north is a privately owned 2.5 hectare conifer compartment.

The woodland archaeology present in Old Copse is of interest and includes a very prominent old wood bank on parts of the boundary and a small enclosure (thought to date back to the Romano-British period). A four-sided enclosure was found in the south of the wood in 2001 measuring 84 metres by 100 metres. Formed by a large ditch 8-10 metres wide and about a metre deep, and with internal and external bank in places, the nature of which is unknown.

The woodland is regularly frequented and enjoyed by the local community and easily accessible on foot from Sonning Common along Woodlands Road and Shiplake Bottom. There are further entrances to the west that link to public rights of way. Some entrances have been narrowed to dissuade vehicles entering. The terrain is reasonably level and both unimproved (can be muddy in winter) permissive and public footpaths allow visitors to navigate and explore the woodland. The Woodland Trust's New Copse site is 200 meters to the west across Gallowstree Road and can be accessed along the public footpath.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term policy for Old Copse is focused on one of the Woodland Trusts key aims; - to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife

Management focus will be on retaining and improving woodland biodiversity and resilience, with all major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features and a diverse deadwood component. Management will also focus on increasing peoples understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

The woodland is a prominent feature in the landscape and has therefore been an important component of the local area for many decades, and as such any required silvicultural intervention must ensure the mature woodland appearance is largely unchanged through a considered continuous cover management approach.

Natural regeneration where openings have occurred has brought in many 'new' tree species and the wood is becoming more diverse. This process will continue through natural processes including storms and trees succumbing to old age. Any human intervention will aim to assist this natural process and diversify the overall age and stand species structure. Temporary openings in the canopy will help increase light levels and improve overall health of retained trees, encouraging natural regeneration of species such as beech, birch, cherry and rowan, facilitating a more varied structure and composition. Dense stands of holly that grow quickly and produce year round dense shade, will be periodically cut.

Beech is likely to remain the dominant tree species in the wood in the long term. Certain trees will be identified as future old growth trees and left to reach old age and decline naturally. Deadwood volume will increase as trees mature and senesce contributing to important deadwood habitat both standing and fallen, both particularly important for invertebrate and fungal communities (apart from where a tree poses a significant tree safety risk by falling onto visitors or property). Annual tree safety surveys will continue with trees made safe or felled to the ground where best practice dictates.

Observations will be carried out to record any factors causing change to the overall woodland that may be detrimental to the structure and long term biodiversity. These include tree diseases, invasive or dominating plant species and herbivore impacts.

Public access will continue to be allowed using the current entrance points and the network of permissive and public rights of way. Path surfaces will be natural and unimproved with entrances as accessible as possible in line with the Woodland Trust's guidance on accessibility, but also considering where necessary the need to prevent unauthorised access by vehicles. The woodlands access infrastructure will be maintained in a safe and usable condition with regular observations by Woodland Trust staff.

Archaeological features such as the wood banks will be mapped and protected from damage.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 F1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Old Copse measures 12.43ha / 30.7acres, of which 11.93 is designated as ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW). Overall the wood approximates to a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) of W14: beech-bramble woodland. The main tree species is beech which dominates the canopy within the ASNW area. The age of the beech is likely to originate from around 1920 with some older trees on or around the line of the southern wood bank and south-western boundaries.

The remaining 0.5 hectares on the western border contains beech, ash, oak and wild cherry as the main species, some which were likely to have been planted and some that have naturally regenerated. The site borders a young (Planted 1983) mixed species plantation in private ownership to the north-east containing larch, Scot's pine, western hemlock, beech and wild cherry. Adjoining the south-western site boundary and wood bank is a very similar beech high forest owned by Sonning Common Parish Council and is indistinguishable from the rest of the wood. To the south-east is residential housing with gardens abutting the site boundary.

The wood is situated on the clay topped plateau of the Chilterns and its soils are therefore mildly acidic. The geology is described as an ancient river terrace deposit, with sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt and clay. There are areas that stay wet for extended periods due to the underlying geology which prevents water seeping through.

The wood has mainly been managed as high forest and there have been successive periods of felling and replanting. Some larger multi-stemmed beech trees exist on the wood boundary banks and this may indicate coppice management in the past. For a time planting or favouring beech regeneration to provide timber products would have been the main management driver but now the semi-natural characteristics are becoming more prevalent as natural processes such as wind-throw, beech trees dying of natural causes and small silvicultural interventions occur.

Other minor tree species including oak, rowan, field maple, hazel, ash (<5%) and wild cherry are present in low numbers through the woodland. The understorey is dominated by holly and some bramble is present in the canopy openings. The herb layer where light penetrates contains dog's mercury, foxglove and various sedges and ferns.

There is some interesting woodland archaeology present with a very prominent wood bank on three sides of the site and there is a small rectangular enclosure visible clearly on LIDAR surveys (thought to date back to the Romano-British period) in the south-western quadrant of the wood. There are also several small pits originating from quarrying and timber sawing.

Significance

The amount of ASNW left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century and ancient woodland is irreplaceable. Approximately 40% of England's ASNW is found in the south east of the UK. The Chilterns Landscape Area

is one of most heavily wooded areas of the UK (24%) with a very high concentration of ancient woodland at over 13% of the land area.

ASNW is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites. A key aim of the Woodland Trust is to prevent any further loss of ancient woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Archaeology is present and damage must be avoided during any management operations or wear and tear through public use.

- The woodland has limited infrastructure for timber harvesting – no surfaced tracks or timber stacking areas. The terrain can become soft in wetter weather. Any management work using machinery should be carefully timed with drier site conditions.

- Success of natural regeneration is likely to be hampered by herbivores. There is evidence of deer on site and the area as a whole has high deer numbers. The impact is being monitored through surveying, but it is unlikely control can occur due to the woodland size, number of visitors and paths and closeness of nearby residential area. Squirrel numbers are very high which can bark strip new trees, consume new vegetation growth in the canopy and consume vast amount of seed.

Opportunities:

- The site already has +100 year old beech trees so there is potential to select some of these to become future old growth trees and enable them to become veteran and ancient trees. This will require some silvicultural intervention of competing trees by ring-barking or felling and leaving on site as future dead-wood habitat.

- Improvement of tree age range, structure and species diversity through silvicultural management and natural processes such as wind-throw, which will serve to increase the semi-natural characteristics over time.

Factors Causing Change

- Mammal damage (deer, squirrel) - potentially high impact. Schedule herbivore impact surveys and consider protecting natural regeneration.

- Increasing shade and loss of structure in minimum intervention stands. The spread and development of holly in the understorey if unchecked - schedule monitoring and management.

- Sudden changes in overall structure in the canopy due to natural disasters - storm damage - High risk given the stand type (tall with top heavy canopy).

- Anti-social behaviour problems including vandalism to the trees and lighting of fires.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In Fifty years' time, Old Copse will have continued to develop largely through natural processes, where the deadwood habitat is likely to have increased over time through trees being left to age and collapse, and subsequent natural regeneration succeeded within the canopy gaps. Intervention to assist this process will have taken place using proven woodland management techniques during the previous decades.

Beyond fifty years ' the composition will remain broadleaved, with all major ancient woodland components present in a

secure and improving condition including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, and a diverse deadwood component. The mixed stands where beech, cherry, rowan, birch, and oak are likely to be the most common species present within the high forest structure will be self-regenerating and of high conservation and amenity value. Holly will still be present due to climatic changes favouring its growth but will not dominate the understorey across the woodland.

Threats to the long term objectives will be recorded through regular monitoring and management undertaken to minimise impact.

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

Objectives in the short term will attend to current threats to the long term plan and assist natural processes as a means of delivering objectives.

Management intervention to reduce threat from holly and remnant cherry laurel to natural regeneration: - Cutting back of dense/leggy stands of holly where presence is suppressing naturally regenerating tree species and ground flora - approx. 0.5 hectares in beech stands, along path edges and site boundaries - annual - Cutting to ground level all remaining cherry laurel to reduce vigour and prevent rooting and suckering - annual

Inspections and informal site visits will monitor the development of the wood within the plan period, specifically:
Deer impact surveys (Abbreviated Herbivore Impact Assessments) and squirrel surveys will be carried out by
Woodland Trust staff every 2 years to assess levels of damage - Surveys due 2025 / 2027
A woodland condition assessment will inform the next management plan - 2028

Damage to archaeological features;

- Staff and/or volunteer woodland warden will check for the construction of bicycle jumps and reinstate natural terrain when necessary - minimum quarterly

Fly-tipping green waste;

- Historically green waste from neighbouring gardens and roadside has been a problem. Volunteer warden to check regularly during growing season and a formal check once a year in July.

Selective Felling: Breaking up of the uniform/even age high forest canopy to encourage natural regeneration of tree species and temporary open space encouraging a flush of ground flora;

- Where dense beech canopy persists, identify approx. 4 - 6 trees to fell or ring bark (only away from paths or boundaries), retaining trees that will become the old growth veterans - 2025 / 2027

4.2 F2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Old Copse is located north of Reading and shares some of its boundary with the residential area of Sonning Common (population 3784). Rotherfield Peppard, Peppard Hill and Kingswood Common are all within 0.8 kilometers.

Placed within the Chilterns National Landscape Area, Old Copse is part of a much larger area of woodland cover, some

of which is publicly accessible such as open access and Forestry Commission managed land. Nearby Woodland Trust owned sites Peppard Wood (800 m) and New Copse (200 m), offer further exploration opportunities.

The Woodland Trust has classified Old Copse using our internal guidance as an access category 'B', or "regular usage, 5 – 15 people using one entrance per day". The wood has 5 signed main entrances, four public footpaths and several permissive paths crossing the wood, totaling approximately 2 kilometres (1.2 miles) in length.

The site is flat with unimproved paths that can be waterlogged/muddy in places during periods of prolonged wet weather. There is no formal car parking at the wood, but nearby roadside parking without restrictions is possible.

Significance

Old Copse is located on the doorstep of Sonning Common and surrounding villages and this ancient semi-natural woodland provides an accessible, informal, natural recreational resource for these local communities The historical features at Old Copse with its wood banks, saw/quarry pits and additional internal man-made banks of unknown age, add to the importance of this site and potential further investigations.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Paths are unimproved and can be muddy and waterlogged during periods of prolonged wet weather.

Opportunities:

- Due to the close proximity to Sonning Common, there is an opportunity for increased community involvement in management of the wood through volunteering activities

- Old Copse is within 1km of two primary schools - Peppard C of E Primary School, and Sonning Common Primary School, and could provide a location for 'one-off' educational visits or forest school activities.

Factors Causing Change

- Antisocial activities - vandalism of infrastructure, motor bikes, cycling and building jumps, litter and camp fires.

- Holly thickets and vegetation encroaching on paths and reducing accessibility.

- Potential development of a site alongside the south-west boundary.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access for informal and quiet recreation will be maintained in perpetuity.

- The woodland will be kept as safe as practical for visitors and there will be a managed network of paths, together with visible and clearly signed entrances.

- An on-going programme of maintenance will ensure as much as possible safe and uninhibited access along clearly defined routes on foot.

- Provision of infrastructure will be kept low key as appropriate for the Woodland Trust grading of this site and

woodland designations.

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

A programme of maintenance and tree inspections will ensure the wood remain accessible and safe as can be reasonably expected of a natural location.

- Routine safety inspections of the trees;

- higher risk zones (Zone A) such as alongside roads and boundaries with buildings -yearly alternating between summer and autumn.

- lower risk zones (Zone B) along the internal path network - summer inspection once every two years

- Vegetation along the well used paths and public rights of way will be cut back once a year - August

- Litter along paths, entrances and road verges will be collected and removed from site every year in August

- A new free standing large welcome sign (wooden) will be reinstated at the Shiplake Bottom entrance and remaining posts removed to allow better access - August 2025

- Formal recorded inspections of internal footpaths and entrance infrastructure will be carried out and work undertaken to rectify issues where appropriate - Annually

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	WMM - General Site Management	VMM - General SiteWorks associated with maintaining conservation and physical featuresNanagementwithin the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	August
2025	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	November
2025	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment— such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	December
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2026	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	November
2027	WMI - General Site Restoration WorkWorks associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees		November
2027	WMM - Secondary Silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment— such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	December
2028	WMI - General Site Restoration Work	Works associated with initial or restoration phases to conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges, infield and boundary trees	November

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations			
1a	12.43	Beech	1920	High forest	Archaeological features, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty			
 High forest dominated by beech, which occupies over 90% of the canopy. Other minor species include oak, cherry and rowan (especially towards the western boundaries). The understorey contains abundant holly which can dominate through shading our any competition. Where trees have failed bramble, beech, birch and rowan natural regeneration present. There are good examples of wood banks on three sides with the fourth side to the north-east bounded by a young mixed species plantation (1984) containing larch, Scots pine, beech and wild cherry. Ground flora is rare under the dense beech canopy - occasional Carex spp. dog's mercury & foxglove. 									

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.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

Registered Office:

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