



Upton Meadow Millennium Wood

Management Plan

2019-2024

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

SUMMARY

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

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Upton Meadow Millennium Wood
Location:	Wirral, Merseyside
Grid reference:	SJ266874, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 108
Area:	15.05 hectares (37.19 acres)
Designations:	Local Wildlife Site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Nestling in the area of Upton on the Wirral, but close to a large urban area at Birkenhead, the site was leased to the Woodland Trust in 1997 and created part of the Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' initiative. Upton Meadow offers a network of ecologically important habitats and is a well used amenity and recreational resource for local people.

2.2 Extended Description

Upton Meadow Millennium Wood is located within the built-up area of Upton in the northern part of the Wirral Peninsula, about 4 miles to the west of Birkenhead. The site is bordered by houses on the southern and western boundaries (with Arrove Brook forming the western boundary), a retail park borders part of the eastern boundary along with the Upton Bypass and Greasby Road is adjacent to the northern boundary. It is well used by the local community, particularly for dog walking and is connected to nearby Arrove Country Park (managed by Wirral Council) by a public bridle/footpath.

The site is on flat ground and is one of the few remaining semi-natural areas of open space in Upton. It was leased to the Woodland Trust in 1997 from Wirral Borough Council. Approximately 7.5 ha of the site were planted in 1997/8 with a mix of native broadleaf trees (oak, ash, birch, cherry, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn) as part of the Woodland Trusts Woods on Your Doorstep (WoYD) Project.

The site contains a mix of habitats including the new native broadleaf woodland; mature broadleaf woodland (Upton Bridge Wood); a shelter belt of mixed broadleaves adjacent to Arrove Brook, large open ground areas and glades, scrub, a pond and Arrove Brook.

Secondary woodland is a key feature with broadleaf woodland comprising approximately two-thirds of the area. The trees are predominantly native broadleaves including oak, alder, ash, elm, willow, beech, sycamore, rowan, cherry, field maple, holly, hawthorn, hazel with occasional lime, horse chestnut, Scots pine and Norway maple.

Open ground habitat makes up most of the rest of the area and is a second key feature. This habitat includes two large meadow areas and several glades. Grasses are the dominant species, but there is also bramble, thistle and willowherb. The southern meadow area is species rich grassland with meadow and creeping buttercup, common and tufted vetch, white and red clover, goatsbeard, lesser trefoil and yellow rattle. This meadow and the adjoining woodland Upton Bridge Wood is designated an SBI (Local Wildlife Site).

In the north eastern part of the site close to the boundary by the Upton Bypass is a large pond screened on all sides by mature trees. The pond contains a good population of invertebrates and some amphibians, with a significant colony of common toad.

Upton Meadow is part of the Woodland Trust's Welcoming Sites Programme, which aims to better connect people with woods and trees, which is the third key feature of the site. There are four entrance points to Upton Meadow and a network of approximately 1900m of footpaths, of which approximately 600m is surfaced stone footpaths linking the entrances on Greasby Road and Upton bypass with a surfaced bridlepath that runs along the western boundary near to Arrove Brook, and the remainder of the path network is unsurfaced grass paths.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access points to the site are from Greasby Road (next to the Gravesberie Inn and Premier Inn), by the roundabout at the junction of Greasby Road and the Upton bypass, from next to Sainsbury's and from the bridlepath that runs next to Arrowe Brooke.

There is no car parking at the site. The nearest parking is at the Sainbury's/Argos retail park which is next to the site (parking time restrictions apply) or on nearby residential roads.

The nearest toilets are at Sainsbury's or the Gravesberie Inn, both of which are less than 100 metres from the site.

The nearest bus stop is on Greasby Road opposite the Gravesberie Inn, less than 100 metres from the entrance to the site. For more information visit the Traveline website <http://www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm>.

3.2 Access / Walks

There is a metal kissing gate at the entrance from the roundabout on the Upton bypass. The entrance from Greasby Road is open access with no barriers for pedestrians and the entrance from the bypass near to Sainsbury's is also open access, but there are 3 wooden steps up from the pavement. The site is flat throughout, but some paths can get quite wet and muddy in winter and after heavy rain. There is a network of informal grass paths which form a circular route and a surfaced bridleway runs along the western boundary of the site from Greasby Road and continues towards Arrowe Country Park to the south.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Upton Meadow is to create and maintain a rich mosaic of habitats with native broadleaf woodland, open ground habitat and scrub that provides a valuable conservation and amenity feature within the local landscape.

Guided by the Woodland Trust's woodland management principles, conservation and access policies, the long term management will continue to seek a balance between conservation and public access. Woodland management including silvicultural operations such as thinning and coppicing will be undertaken to create a more diverse woodland structure and to promote natural regeneration.

The woodland areas will be managed as a mixed, native species, high forest. The wildflower meadow and amenity open space areas will be maintained annually by cutting at the end of summer. Other open space areas will be managed as transitional habitats and allowed to scrub up and eventually succeed to woodland in the long term.

The current level of public access with 4 entrances and approximately 1900m of paths will be maintained and where possible enhanced in the future. Path and rides will be maintained through an ongoing programme of mowing and coppicing to maintain wide open sunny rides and a varied structure along the woodland edges.

The Trust's duty of care to visitors will continue to be addressed through on-going tree safety and site risk assessment inspections. Monitoring will be undertaken on a regular basis to identify any threats to the woodland from tree disease, pests, invasive species and human impacts, and appropriate action taken where it is practicable to do so.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

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

5.1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

This site is part of the Woodland Trust's Welcoming Sites Programme, which aims to improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to the wood. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme and will provide a clear welcome: entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure and a well managed path network across the site. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors.

Its position in the landscape:

Upton Meadow is located on the northern end of the Wirral peninsula, in the town of Upton. Approximately 4 miles from the centre of Birkenhead, it is bounded to the west by housing, to the north and east by the B5139 and the Upton By-pass and to the south/east by a retail park and housing. The wood forms part of a small green wedge in the southern half of Upton, linking in to the 250 acre Arrowe Country Park and golf club. Public Rights of Way also link to the Royden Park Country Park and Thurstaston Common 1.5 - 2 miles to the south west.

General description of the access:

The site is very well used and has approximately 1.5km of formal maintained paths, most of which are unsurfaced grass paths criss-crossing the site, with some surfaced paths linking the main entrances. There are four public entrance points and the bridleway along the western edge of the wood following the Arrowe Brook, which links directly to Arrowe Country Park to the south. Part of the site was planted in 1997/8 as a community woodland as part of the Woods on Your Doorstep Project, linking mature woodland copses to Upton Wood and Arrowe Brook.

The visitor profile:

The majority of visitors to the woodland are locals from within easy walking distance, offering very easy access for local people to enjoy informal recreation and access to nature very close to where they live. Many of the visitors walk further afield making use of the extensive path and bridleway network through to the Arrowe Country Park and the adjoining mature woodlands.

Events, activities and volunteering:

There are currently a small number of volunteers who help carry out woodland management tasks and litter picking on site.

Nearby Woodland Trust sites:

Upton Meadow is isolated from other Woodland Trust sites and the only other site owned by the Trust on the Wirral is Storeton Woods, approximately 5 miles to the south east.

Significance

In accordance with the Woodland Trusts general aims the site is open to the public for quiet informal pedestrian activities. The location near to Arrowe Country Park and surrounded by the town of Upton means that it extends the opportunities available for informal recreation locally.

Opportunities & Constraints

A lack of car parking provision at the site will always limit the number of visitors to the wood. Visitors are on the whole likely to be local people who have walked from the nearby housing estates or as part of a longer walk from Arrowe Country Park. The site is seasonally wet and the path network which is only part surfaced is likely to limit the visitor experience in some parts of the wood at that time of year. The high usage and close proximity of an urban population also mean that the site is subject to fairly intense use throughout the year, which can manifest itself as mis-use and over-use. Wear and tear on open spaces; disturbance of wildlife by dogs; fires; den building; vandalism; unauthorised motorbike access and fly tipping are perennial problems in urban woodlands that need to be taken into consideration when creating or improving access.

The site offers potential for engagement with volunteers. There could be potential to develop the wood allotment model or similar and there is also possible local business opportunities linked to coppicing, wood fuel and events / training. The sites close proximity to a large population coupled with its habitat value and management requirements will provide excellent opportunities for use by groups. There is an opportunity to improve the access for visitors (subject to funding), with continued upgrades to infrastructure including additional surfaced trails to provide a complete circular surfaced route, as well as providing potential opportunities for volunteering. Given the size of the site and range of habitats and areas there is also potential for engagement with volunteers and community woodland groups, as well as the potential to develop areas dedicated to Forest Schools without having any major impact on the site or other users.

Factors Causing Change

Anti-social problems, such as litter, fly-tipping, vandalism, motorcycle access and illegal camp fires occur occasionally and are difficult to tackle. Increased numbers of visitors are likely from the new housing estate to the south of the site which could require improved infrastructure on the site and greater engagement capacity with visitors and volunteers. The wood does require a greater level of annual maintenance, with a periodic refurbishment of the visitor and welcome infrastructure facilities.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will provide an extensive area of native broadleaved woodland and open space, for quiet informal recreation to a wide range of users mostly from the local community. Entrances and signage will have a welcoming appearance and there will be a network of well-maintained paths providing visitors with access to a range of varied habitat types. Interpretation and/or waymarking should provide visitors with information about the site, fauna and flora of interest.

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

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines which will be achieved by ensuring that:

Entrances & signage are welcoming to visitors and maintained (annually).

All managed paths are kept free from encroaching vegetation by mowing/ strimming, and that access features (e.g. bridges, steps, entrances, boundary features, etc. are kept in good order (annually). Roadside hedges are to be cut (annually) to prevent encroachment on footpaths.

The site is kept safe and welcoming by: repair of vandalism (when needed); clearing of fallen or dangerous trees near paths and boundaries (as needed); and regular site safety inspections (as per site risk assessment schedule).

The visitor welcome & experience will be enhanced by the following infrastructure improvements by the end of the current plan period:

All entrances will have new visible Woodland Trust standard welcome and exit signs.

The surfaced paths will be maintained with resurfacing/ drainage work carried out (if needed) during the current plan period.

Furniture, including benches, will be maintained annually or as required.

Volunteer activity will be encouraged where the opportunities arise, although these are unlikely to be proactively developed.

Identified areas of the woodland will be available for education, with forest schools and other local user groups suited to the aims and objectives of the Woodland Trust will be encouraged wherever possible.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

There is approximately 10 ha of woodland habitat across the site split into three main areas:

1/ Upton Bridge Wood is a block of secondary woodland including many mature canopy species including pedunculate oak, sessile oak, turkey oak, beech, sycamore, horse chestnut, wych elm, ash, willow, hazel, hawthorn and holly, along with a mosaic of habitats that includes damp ditches with bryophytes, mosses and ferns.

2/ Arrowe Brook Plantation belt which runs adjacent to Arrowe Brook (planted around the 1980's) and contains grey alder, willow, horse chestnut, Norway maple, oak, lime, beech, ash, birch, Scots pine, Field maple, wild cherry and rowan.

3/ New native woodland (planted 1997/8) which comprises oak, ash, silver birch, hazel and hawthorn, covering nearly 7.5ha.

Significance

The woodland areas are a significant feature in the local landscape and provide an important habitat for wildlife in the local urban environment.

Upton Bridge Wood is semi-natural lowland woodland and is a rare habitat in the local area. It is designated as part of the Local Wildlife Site (Site of Biological Importance).

The Plantation belt alongside Arrowe Brook provides a green wildlife corridor for wildlife and links the site with adjoining green spaces including Arrowe Country Park.

Opportunities & Constraints

The new young woodland planting provides an opportunity to create a continuous woodland corridor across the site incorporating Upton Bridge Wood and the Arrowe Brook plantation which will promote the spread of flora and fauna between these different areas.

The site is abutted by urban development around all boundaries which is a constraint to enhancing the site's ecological value due to a lack of surrounding semi natural habitats.

Factors Causing Change

Growth of the young trees leading to canopy closure.

Ash dieback will result in the loss of a significant number of trees, but will provide opportunities for other species to benefit through natural regeneration.

Vandalism.

Fires.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term aim is to create a high forest of mixed predominantly native broadleaves to provide a local recreational and landscape feature. The wood will be managed to maintain a diverse mix of species, regeneration, shrub and ground layers.

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

Coppicing will be carried out in 2022 along ride edges to improve sightlines for public access and restructure woodland edges to enhance biodiversity.

Thinning work will be carried out in 2024 to restructure the woodland, promote natural regeneration and for long term stand stability.

WT volunteers will help with ongoing management of the woodland (work includes small scale thinning, coppicing, litter clearance).

The condition of the woodland will be monitored in 2023 to identify any threats from tree disease, pests, non-native invasive species, human impacts, and appropriate action taken where necessary.

5.3 Open Ground Habitat

Description

Approximately 5ha of the site is a mosaic of open ground habitat comprising two areas of wildflower meadows, scrub and several small open glades. In the southern half of the site is a wildflower species rich meadow containing yellow rattle, meadow and creeping buttercup, common vetch, goatsbeard and ragwort. In the northern half of the site is a larger meadow area which is less species rich and dominated by grass species. Scrub is slowly developing in the open ground areas.

Significance

These open ground areas enhance the biodiversity value of the site by the adding to mosaic of habitats. The wildflower species rich meadow in the southern part of the site is particularly valuable for invertebrates including several species of butterflies. This area along with the adjoining Upton Bridge Wood is designated as an Site of Biological Importance/ Local Wildlife Site. Species rich grassland in the UK has declined rapidly in the last century and it is a rare habitat on the Wirral. Wildflower meadows and scrub habitat are particularly in decline in urban areas and the site provides a significant habitat for flora and fauna.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to enhance biodiversity on the site by allowing areas of scrub transitional habitat to develop in parts of the site.

The urban location of the site, high visitor usage including use of the site by dogs compromises the value of the open ground areas for producing a hay crop due to the grass being contaminated with dog waste and litter.

Factors Causing Change

Development of scrub in the long term will lead to the loss of some of the open ground habitat, but this scrub provides a valuable habitat in itself.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long term aim is to maintain around a minimum of 75-80% open ground habitat with the rest of the open ground areas left to develop naturally into scrub transitional habitat.

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

To maintain a mosaic of scrub and wildflower habitat with a minimum of around 75-80% open ground by annual mowing of the wildflower areas at the end of summer, with the arisings cut up finely and left to rot on site.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	7.45	Mixed broadleaves	1997	Wood establishment	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>This sub-compartment is mostly newly planted woodland with two areas of existing woodland copses along with scattered trees. The new woodland was planted in 1997 to link the copses to Upton Bridge Wood and contains mixed broadleaf species such as oak, ash, hazel, birch, blackthorn and hawthorn.</p> <p>The two small copses are a mix of deciduous species including pedunculate oak, turkey oak, sessile oak, sycamore, English elm, hawthorn, hazel and holly.</p> <p>Copse 1 is near to the main entrance and encompasses a pond and surrounding marshy area with grey willow and crack willow. Aquatic surveys have shown the pond to contain good numbers of invertebrates and some amphibians (including a significant colony of common toad).</p> <p>Copse 2 is very similar to copse 1 with a similar mix of deciduous species. This copse has a diversely structured under storey and a reasonably diverse ground flora including species such as lords and ladies, lesser celandine, moschatel, goldilocks buttercup and pignut.</p>							
1b	3.00	Mixed broadleaves	1900	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Connecting People with woods & trees	Local Wildlife Site

This sub-compartment contains Upton Bridge Wood and a linear shelter belt of trees alongside Arrowe Brook on the western boundary to the site.

1/ Upton Bridge Wood is a mature semi-natural lowland mixed deciduous woodland, and is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (previously called Site of Biological Importance). The sub-compartment contains a mosaic of habitats that includes damp ditches with bryophytes, mosses and ferns; open glades with a reasonably diverse ground flora and many mature canopy species. These include pedunculate oak, Turkey oak, sessile oak, sycamore, ash, beech, English elm, wych elm, and horse chestnut. The shrub layer of the woodland is diversely structured with species including hazel, wild privet, hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, honeysuckle and ivy. There is good natural regeneration within the wood with many saplings observed in the shrub layer. Ground flora in the woodland is diverse and well established with locally abundant species including lords and ladies, ground ivy, goldilocks buttercup lesser celandine pignut and moscahtel. The woodland contains significant levels of deadwood which offers an excellent habitat for birds and invertebrates.

2/ The plantation woodland alongside Arrowe Brook was planted by Wirral Borough Council in 1980. It contains mostly broadleaf species including field maple, grey alder, grey willow, hawthorn, guelder rose, poplar, oak and ash, with some pines. Ground flora in the plantation area includes common comfrey, common sorrel and coltsfoot. A bridleway runs through the sub compartment from north to south.

1c	4.60	Open ground	1900	Non-wood habitat	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Connecting People with woods & trees	Local Wildlife Site
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This sub-compartment consists of two areas of open ground habitat (meadows) which are separated by Upton Bridge Wood. The northern meadow is less ecologically valuable than the southern meadow.

The southern meadow is classed as semi-improved grassland and is part of the Upton Bridge Wood Local Wildlife Site (previously called Site of Biological Importance). Surveys of this area found there to be a good range of meadow wildflower species including yellow rattle, velvet bent, meadow buttercup, common vetch and sneezewort.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Thin	0.20	10	2
2019	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.20	10	2
2022	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.20	10	2
2024	1a	Thin	7.00	7	50
2027	1a	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.