



# Gibbet Hill Wood

## Management Plan 2017-2022

---

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

### ITEM Page No.

Introduction  
Plan review and updating  
Woodland Management Approach  
Summary  
1.0 Site details  
2.0 Site description  
    2.1 Summary Description  
    2.2 Extended Description  
3.0 Public access information  
    3.1 Getting there  
    3.2 Access / Walks  
4.0 Long term policy  
5.0 Key Features  
    5.1 New Native Woodland  
    5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees  
6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions  
Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)  
Glossary

### MAPS

Access  
Conservation Features  
Management

## 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	Gibbet Hill Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Coventry, nr Warwick University
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SP306756, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 140
<b>Area:</b>	10.36 hectares (25.60 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

A new woodland created as part of the millennium 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project in 1999. A young, mixed woodland with wide grassy glades and rides adjacent to the mature, ancient Tocil Wood. A hard standing cycle path dissects the wood north and south.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Gibbet Hill Wood is one of 200 woods created by the Woodland Trust to mark the Millennium. It was planted in December 1999 with a mixture of native broadleaf trees and shrubs such as oak, ash, silver birch, field maple and willow as part of the Woods On Your Doorstep initiative. The site (10.31ha) is leased from Coventry City Council on a 125 year agreement from December 1998. The site name is derived from the raised land to the SE of the site, now a residential area situated on the intersection with Kenilworth Road A249, Gibbet Hill Road and Stoneleigh Road.

The new woodland lies immediately south of Tocil Wood ASNW, managed by Warks Wildlife Trust. To the NE is a housing estate and immediately to the south-east is part of the University of Warwick's campus. A raised and surfaced path linking this part of the campus with the remainder on the other side of Tocil Wood, crosses the new wood in a generally east - west direction. There is management access across this linking the two parts of Gibbet Hill Wood.

Management access is gained from Gibbet Hill Road on the SW side. However visitors can access the site from the public footpath crossing the site from the university campus. There is a continual stream of people using this path, mainly students, however due the muddy conditions during wetter months this is not replicated across the site. Visitors can also access the site from the surfaced public footpath to the north which leads to an area of amenity grassland immediately to the north of the site and a residential area to the east. A seat has been placed at a central point on the SE boundary and this is the site's Millennium Feature.

The site design has included a circular route around both the woodland parts. An area for natural regeneration has been retained against Tocil Wood to act as a buffer from the introduced trees. . An area of archaeological interest (Flints Cottage) exists in the far SW corner of the site and this remains unplanted to protect any underground features. There are numerous services crossing the site which caused some limitations to planting.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Gibbet Hill wood is located within the grounds of Warwick University to the South west of Coventry city. It is near to the suburb of Canley and the woodland is dissected by a university pathway that links two areas of the university. Although this linking path is surfaced the permissive paths forming linear and circular paths are not. All paths are grass and some can be boggy in wet periods. Entrances are open without gates or barriers.

There is no parking available for visitors.

The following service stops very close to the woodland and an excellent local bus route network means the site can easily be accessed by bus.

Service Number: 12X & X17

Provider: Stagecoach Warwickshire (12X) & National Express Travel West Midlands (X17)  
(see [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) for up-to-date information)

The nearest train stations are:

Coventry Train Station - London Midland, Virgin Trains & Cross Country (3.4 miles north-east of Gibbet Hill Wood)

Tile Hill Train Station - London Midland (3 miles north-west of Gibbet Hill Wood)

Canley Train Station - London Midland (3 miles north of Gibbet Hill Wood)

There is no information on public conveniences within 5 miles of the site.

Gibbet Hill Wood lies on the outskirts of Coventry within the City limits. The site has a lengthy road frontage to Gibbet Hill Road with a farm gate entrance providing management access.

A footpath and track linking the University campus passes across the middle of site - there is not a Definitive map for the area but it is believed to be a public footpath falling within the University's control. The Lease grants a right of access on foot in connection with enjoyment of the site with or without vehicles in connection with management/maintenance of the site at all times across this track in order that the two land areas are a legally linked.

At the north end of the site, the boundary adjoins a well-used pedestrian track which forms part of a formal City park /playing field area and onto residential housing.

There are various other informal access points into the site from adjacent land

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The development of native, broadleaf, high forest woodland with a diverse and resilient mix of trees and shrubs, along with a varied age structure. It will remain fully accessible for people to enjoy for informal recreation throughout.

As the canopy develops, the rough grass will gradually diminish as shade-loving plants more typical of recent secondary woodland take over. Rides and glades will be kept open and mowed as necessary to provide valuable habitats.

Works will be carried out in accordance with the Trusts Woodland Management Approach (WMA) which may include operations such as thinning, as deemed appropriate through woodland condition assessments. Additional intervention works such as tree safety work and ride edge coppicing may also take place where this is seen to safeguard site users or enhance visitor access enjoyment. Paths will be maintained so as to allow for easy access and mown up to three times a year. Where paths have become difficult to negotiate, remedial work such as initial or replacement surfacing may take place.

Use of the site will be monitored and provisions for changes in informal recreation reviewed accordingly

Key Features: F1 Informal Public Access & F2 New Native Woodland



## 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 New Native Woodland

#### Description

The design of Gibbet Hill Wood includes areas of open ground, two circular paths and an area of natural regeneration. The planted area is of native broadleaf trees spaced at 2.1m centres in curved rows. These are largely oak, ash, alder, willow, field maple and birch. The alder and willow tend to be towards the damper areas to the eastern edge of the site

#### Significance

Ancient woodland is under pressure from development, particularly within city limits such as here. Gibbet Hill Wood acts to reduce that pressure and increase the value for both flora and fauna, by extending the habitat type for the future. The creation of new native woodlands such as Gibbet Hill wood is a core objective of the Woodland Trust.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The design tries to reduce the impact of the trees on adjacent housing by including open ground and smaller shrub species in these areas. The natural regeneration will serve as a buffer between introduced planted trees and the existing ASNW of Tocil Wood. Wildlife including flora associated with ancient woodland should occur within Gibbet Hill Wood relatively quickly this way. Underground services run across the site and have affected the planting design.

#### Factors Causing Change

Pests and diseases - Ash dieback (Chalara). Symptoms of Chalara have been identified within the woodland and have been reported to the FC through Tree Alert. Annual monitoring to be carried out through Key Feature observations.  
Squirrel and rabbit damage on existing stand and in future years as the natural regeneration the understory continue to develop - Monitor through KF observations.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create a resilient and structurally diverse native broadleaf woodland, with a graded edge habitat and open ground, in total no less than 10.31ha. The main canopy species are to be oak and ash with willow and alder in the damper areas

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

To remove any remaining tree shelters.

Halo thin around group planting of approximately 50 oak/maple and any natural regeneration of native broadleaf specimens in cpt 1a by 2020, in an effort to create a more robust and resilience woodland, with a more diverse age structure.

In addition essential tree safety work, some boundary hedge/maintenance work against the main road and ride edge coppicing, where this will enhance visitor enjoyment, will take place.

Monitor ash dieback (Chalara) in the woodland through key feature observations.

Monitor squirrel damage within the woodland and look to carry out intervention work, if required, in line with the Woodland Trust's squirrel policy.

## 5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

### Description

#### Access/Infrastructure

Gibbet Hill Wood was created in 1999 as part of the Millennium 'Woods on your Doorstep' project. It consists mainly of a young, mixed woodland which sits adjacent to an area of ancient woodland known as Tocil Wood.

It is located within the grounds of Warwick University to the South West of Coventry city. It is near to the suburb of Canley and the wood is dissected by a university pathway running North/South that links two areas of the university, which is believed to be a public footpath falling within the University's control. At the north end of the site, the boundary adjoins a well-used pedestrian track which forms part of a formal City park/playing field area and leads onto residential housing. There are various other informal access points into the site from adjacent land. Entrances are open without gates or barriers.

There is no parking available for visitors. There is a bus stop very close to the woodland and an excellent local bus route network which means the site can be accessed easily by bus. The nearest train stations are Coventry station, Tile Hill Station and Canley Station, all of which are approximately 3 miles away.

The pathways within the site have recently benefitted from a programme of improvement works to overcome the tendency for them to become boggy and impassable, and they are now surfaced, which will improve access considerably, particularly during the winter months.

The signage at each of the 6 entrances is clear and in good condition, and will include Exit Signage by the end of 2017. There is potential for better signage at the entrance which adjoins the University Campus, to attract University students and encourage them to use the site.

#### General Communication Drivers

Currently the main users of the site are University students and local residents who live in the surrounding area. The site is predominantly used currently by people who live within walking distance because of the lack of visitor parking. There is potential for the site to be exploited by people in from nearby Coventry, particularly given the available bus services, and we could consider promotion to these people as a source of accessible 'green space' within a predominantly urban environment. There is also potential to engage further with students from Warwick University, as although many of them pass the site on the cycle tracks and footpaths, few of them make the effort to turn off and utilise the woodland space. This audience might be most engaged by a 'physical and mental health and well-being' message and could potentially be interested in using the woodland for recreational relaxation, meditation, stress-management and physical exercise. Ways to promote the woodland in the University itself could be investigated.

The features within the site that provide interest are as follows :

- Informal public access to an area of green woodland space within a predominantly urban environment, enabling relaxation and recreation.
- Neighbouring site of ancient woodland, Tocil wood, owned by the Wildlife Trust
- A seat which forms the Millennium Feature, at the highest point of the site, centrally on the SE boundary.
- Areas of meadow within the site, creating a diverse experience for visitors and allowing

engagement with a variety of wildlife habitats

- Historic field boundaries, some of which may be Medieval

The current visitor offer at Gibbet Hill wood is a low key one, and reflects the Trust's original intention of creating places for quiet, informal recreation. The wood is a quiet and peaceful place which provides an amenity to local people to escape from the nearby city life and explore independently. The visitor offer is informal recreation, offering space for quite contemplative walking, family picnic site, and dog walking.

Nearby sites with potential for partnership engagement are English Heritage-owned Kenilworth Castle (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle> ) Coventry City Council-run Coombe Country Park ([http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/136/coombe\\_country\\_park/498/coombe\\_country\\_park](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/136/coombe_country_park/498/coombe_country_park)) and The War Memorial Park (<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/warmemorialpark>) and Warwickshire County Council-run Ryton Pools Country Park (<http://countryparks.warwickshire.gov.uk/country-parks/ryton-pools-country-park/>) Opportunities for partnership working with the neighbouring Wildlife Trust property at Tocil Wood should also be explored. The possibility of partnership work with Warwick University should also be investigated. The Woodland Trust also owns Elkin wood nearby, so joint opportunities and cross-promotion should be explored. Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, run by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust is also nearby, and is our biggest comparator for the same audience for events etc. (<http://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/brandon-marsh>)

#### Events

There is no current active events programme onsite. There is potential to do certain low-key relevant brand moments or guided walks or trails. The open meadow area would be suitable for running small, low-key events. However, the site is not appropriate for mass participation events because of limited size and lack of parking. The audience for these events would be limited to those who could access the site on foot or by public transport. There is potential for running events aimed at neighbouring University students.

#### Volunteers

There are currently no volunteers at this site. There is potential for volunteer involvement in the site, subject to capacity and availability of suitable projects.

#### Schools

There are currently no forest schools at the site, or schools which use the site in a formal capacity. There is potential to develop this in the future, as the site would be suitable, if local schools were interested in this. The nearest schools to the site are Canon Park Primary School, Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School, The Westwood Academy and Finham Park School. There is also the School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy nearby, which might give interesting potential for arts or drama-based interactions on the site. The biggest nearby educational establishment with the biggest potential for engagement remains Warwick University. However, there may be a conflict of user-groups in getting young children to share the same site as University students, and the site may not be appropriate or big enough to accommodate both comfortably.

#### Wider Community Engagement

There are 3 Scout groups in Coventry. The nearby Village of Canley has a Community Centre, and Cheylesmore Community Association Ltd (<https://www.cheylesmorecentre.co.uk/>) is also nearby.

Nearby Kenilworth has The Kenilworth Centre (<http://www.thekenilworthcentre.com/>) which is dedicated to providing a range of activities and support to local residents of all ages, and there may be partnership opportunities with them. There is a branch of the Young Farmers at nearby Stoneleigh. Warwick University itself has over 250 societies, including several which focus on health and wellbeing, and where there might be potential for engagement with the wood.

## Significance

The site provides a valuable area of natural recreational space in a highly urbanised area, on the edge of a large city. It is close to a large population and is a well-used through route and adjacent to public rights of way. It abuts an area of historic ancient woodland (Tocil Wood, owned by the Wildlife Trust) and together they provide a significant area of natural habitat. The site was previously covered by agricultural fields, and so the creation of the wood has provided a more diverse environment, and created an outdoor recreational space. Ancient hedgerows are preserved within the site, and form a feature of interest. The name Gibbet Hill references the historic land use in the area as the local gallows-site, and this provides an additional feature of interest and potential story-telling opportunities within the site.

## Opportunities & Constraints

### Opportunities:

#### Access/Infrastructure

Newly created stoned pathways to allow for increased access and footfall, particularly in winter. Potential to increase usage by students as a through-route and for recreational purposes. Paths allow for buggy access and improved wheelchair access so increasing audience potential to families and those with additional access needs.

#### General Comms Drivers

Local University population is a key potential audience and comms methods and channels which will engage with students is a key priority.

Produce a leaflet to engage with local University students for distribution around University site.

Joint comms and promotion with Wildlife Trust

#### Events

Potential to engage with student population for small-scale relevant events on site. Potential for partnership work with Wildlife Trust. Open areas at entrance to wood from Cycle path could be used for small-scale events.

#### Volunteering

Potential to engage volunteers with working on the site, possibly recruiting students from the University as volunteers?

#### Schools

New pathways make the wood increasingly accessible for schools allowing year-round access. Potential to engage with local schools and encourage usage, possibly forest schools. Increase engagement with University students, possibly encourage them to utilise the wood for appropriate departmental studies?

#### Wider Community Engagement

Potential to increase signage visibility from the cycle path and therefore widen local awareness of

the site. Engagement opportunities with local community groups such as the Kenilworth Centre, with potential to open the wood up to new audience and create sense of ownership in local residents.

#### Constraints:

##### Access/Infrastructure

University-owned surrounding land which limits signage opportunities at entrance points. The ground conditions are still uneven and boggy in some areas, so the whole wood is not equally accessible. Further work to paths may be required and this will be monitored.

Website may not be very user-friendly or appealing to student population.

Students who are not local will need additional support in finding and accessing the site, with increased signage and mapping.

##### General Comms Drivers

2 very diverse audiences, local permanent residents and temporary student residents, of differing wealth and interest profiles, with exposure to very different comms channels.

Site needs mapping in order to produce leaflets and orientation boards.

##### Events

Site is too small to warrant trails or guided walks on its own, but there may be potential to do joint events with the Wildlife Trust.

##### Volunteering

Staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement.

##### Schools

No environmental science or conservation-type courses taught at this University, so potentially limited interest from student tutor groups.

Staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement, and lack of current interest by schools. Capacity and receptiveness of school staff.

Possible increase in anti-social behaviour through increased usage by student population.

There may be a conflict of user-groups in getting young children to share the same site as University students, and the site may not be appropriate or big enough to accommodate both comfortably.

##### Wider Community Engagement

University-owned surrounding land which limits signage opportunities at entrance points. Services lie underneath the area of woodland near the cycle path which limits activity in this area.

Lack of staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement. There is potential for conflict if both student populations and local populations are encouraged to use the space.

Possible increase in anti-social behaviour through increased usage by student population.

## Factors Causing Change

Newly-laid pathways will open up the wood to a greater audience, and potentially create demand for even greater access provision and an appetite for more engagement opportunities. Possible expansion and growth of the University would increase the potential student audience and potential user-numbers for the site. If student usage increases dramatically this may necessitate even greater work to maintain and improve/expand the footpaths to withstand increased usage. The work required to thin the woodland may decrease its popularity and appeal and may cause controversy, particularly with student population, if that isn't appropriately communicated.

#### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

Open access will be maintained, and the wood will be available as a local resource for local residents and students. The site will retain its value as an escape from urban life and allowing city-dwellers to connect with nature on their doorstep. The site will see increased usage by the University students and there will be increased signage and interpretation on site to facilitate this engagement. Small scale events might take place where appropriate and within capacity. Opportunities for partnership working with the Wildlife Trust will be developed. Increased involvement in the wood by local resident community groups will be considered. The potential for the site to be used by local school groups will be explored.

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

Basic welcome site infrastructure signage in place End 2017  
Exit signage at all entrance points End 2017  
Open up view of woodland and signage from public right of way in North Eastern quarter to encourage access from that side. End 2017  
Increased coppicing to open up footpaths and reduce flooding ongoing  
Maintaining of boggy areas and monitoring to see if further works required ongoing  
General maintenance of footpaths and entrances to ensure maintained access ongoing  
Make contact with local community group to promote woodland June 2019  
Bigger sign at main entrance (dependant on University approval) Dec 2019  
Talk to University students group about the Woodland Trust and Gibbet Hill Wood Dec 2019  
Trial small scale event aimed at University Students June 2020  
Interpretation board at site explaining origin of site name and other features of interest in the site Dec 2021

---

## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
------	--------------	-------------	--------



## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	9.99	Ash	2000	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	Connecting People with woods & trees, New Native Woodland	
<p>This Cpt forms the major part of the site. The planting pattern is dominated by group planting of alder and ash (in groups of 25) and oak in groups of 50 (these comprise 75% of planted species). Crack willow comprises 12.5% in groups of 25. These are protected by Tubex Sleeves. The remaining 12.5% is made up by equal amounts of shrubs guarded with 0.6m Tubex Shelters. The alder and willow have been concentrated towards the damper areas of the site on the more northern edges.</p> <p>A circular path has been incorporated into both the woodland parts.</p>							
2a	0.32	Ash	2000	Wood establishment		Connecting People with woods & trees, New Native Woodland	
<p>25m wide strip of land running along the North Western boundary parallel to the neighbouring ASNW site of Tocil Wood (WWT). Area has been fenced off with rabbit netting (including a management access gate at the South West corner). Area to establish by natural regeneration from mature seed trees located on edge of Tocil Wood, (WGS stipulates a density of viable regeneration at 1600 stems / Ha.).</p>							

---

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	1a	Selective Fell	0.25	20	5

## 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.