



Cow Hollow Wood

Management Plan 2014-2019

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Cow Hollow Wood
Location:	Waterbeach
Grid reference:	TL500647, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 154
Area:	6.82 hectares (16.85 acres)
Designations:	Green Belt

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This attractive wood was planted by local people in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. Trees include: willow, ash, alder, birch, field maple and oak, with shrubby edges of hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, hazel and dogwood.

2.2 Extended Description

Cow Hollow Wood was planted in November 2000 as a native broadleaved woodland under our Woods on your Doorstep initiative with help from volunteers and schoolchildren. It has become very well established using a species mix associated with Wet Woodland habitat and comprises 30% open space and 70% tree cover with closed canopy (or in coppice rotation) and an average top height around of 7 meters (in 2014)

The wood is set in a typical fenland landscape on the edge of the village of Waterbeach. The agricultural land to the south of the wood is owned by the county council and managed by a local tenant farmer, who grazes cattle and occasionally cuts the field for silage. The land is also registered under HLS. The railway borders the west of the site, with the river Cam a short way (100m) to the east. The whole area is part of the flood plane for the river Cam, and so can flood in times of extreme weather. (not occurred in last 10 years).

The name 'Cow Hollow Wood' has been chosen locally and refers to the old field name for the site when the field was a meadow grazed by cattle. The features on the site have been named by children at the local school, as part of the 2012/13 site improvement project. These include "Explorer's Hangout", "Coppice Corner" "Mouse Gate" and the "Remarkable Reed Bed" amongst others.

A small area (0.10ha) next to the central drain has been planted with osiers (*Salix viminalis*) and is managed as coppice along with other areas of willow as seen necessary. The Central ditch is managed by the Woodland trust and leads into an Internal Drainage Board drain, with a newly created (Dec 2013) reed-bed to the south of the site, overlapping Cambridge County council land and serving to softening the landscape and provide additional habitat. Part of the site on the western side will deliberately not have paths running through it to create an area that is less disturbed for wildlife. The grassy rides & paths throughout the site are prone to becoming waterlogged in the winter months making vehicular access difficult.

The site links well into the local public rights of way network - joining the village with the river Cam. Circular routes have been created within the site giving the visitor a choice of paths around the wood, with the addition of the living willow bridge (designed and built by Cambridge University in 2013) helping connectivity and providing a focal point. Welcoming entrances using kissing gates have been created, signs and two information boards at either end of the wood help to guide visitors around the site. Car parking is available either in the lay-by at the south-eastern corner (space for up to 5 cars) or in the railway station car park (30+ pay and display spaces, often full during normal office hours)

The key features on this site are: Informal Public Access and New Native Woodland.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Next to the railway station at Waterbeach. For train time visit www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/WBC. Pay and display parking available in station carpark. Access also available via Sustrans route 11 running inbetween Waterbeach and Cambridge. Paths are level but rather uneven, unsurfaced and can become muddy in the wet weather, the site has been known to flood. Access via kissing gates, not wheelchair friendly. There is a bus stop at the railway sation. For routes and times visit www.traveline.org.uk or ring Traveline on 087120032233. Public toilets located at the railway sation, disabled facilities available

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Fully established native high forest with wet woodland characteristics, comprising of native broadleaved species. The areas of dense willow will be managed through sustainable coppice rotation to prevent instability leading to safety concerns, provide opportunities for community engagement and for the local heritage value of continuing traditional fenland crafts. The materials arising from these operations should be used locally wherever possible. The rest of the woodland will be managed by supporting natural processes in line with Woodland Trust management guidelines. It should exhibit strong community links and be regularly enjoyed by local people.

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

Access/Infrastructure

Cow Hollow was planted as part of the Woodland Trust Millennium 'Woods on your Doorstep' project. Local people were involved in the fundraising, design and planting. The site is within easy walking distance of the village of Waterbeach, a 12 minute walk via the railway station, which is located next to the wood. Trains run to Cambridge approximately every 15 minutes and the journey is 6 minutes. Access is possible along the Sustrans towpath along the banks of the river Cam, and it is a 10 minute cycle ride to the centre of Cambridge. Transport links locally are good, with the A10 and A14 nearby. The cathedral city of Ely is 20 minutes' drive away.

There are 3 access points all fitted with medium mobility kissing gates. One is next to the pay and display car park at Waterbeach Station and another is next to a layby which affords less formal local parking. Both entrances have display boards with visitor information, routes and maps.

Permissive access is available throughout the site on un-surfaced woodland pathways and wide, open rides, which can become very muddy during times of wet weather. In addition to the information boards at the two main entrances, there is finger post signage to assist with navigation around the site, highlighting the features of interest which were named by local school children in 2013.

There are good quality orientation boards at each entrance, with poster holders which allow for additional information to be added and rotated. Currently these poster holders contain print outs of activities from the Nature Detective website, and these are updated quite regularly by the Volunteer Warden. They could be used to provide additional information about work taking place at the site, particularly around the Willow Bridge. There are well-positioned finger post signs in good condition throughout the site which clearly mark the trail and features of interest. The signage to the site from the main car park could be clearer.

General Communication Drivers

Cow Hollow wood is located within the village of Waterbeach, which is the largest village on the edge of the fens, with a population 5166. Nearby Cambridge is the County Town of Cambridgeshire with a population of 123.900 (2011). Good public transport links and footpaths connect the wood to both, meaning that target audiences in both locations could potentially be visitors to the wood. The site provides accessible 'green space' within easy access of the urban city of Cambridge, and provides opportunities for city-dwellers to utilise it for relaxation and recreation. The large population of Waterbeach is within walking distance, and the site can be promoted as a local community asset. Anecdotally the site is well-used by locals, particularly dog-walkers but detailed information on the visitor base and numbers is not available.

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

- There is an open central glade which was named 'Explorers Hangout' by the local schoolchildren and which provides a great spot to relax in for a family picnic, and is a magnet for butterflies and dragonflies in summer.
- Two of the four carved benches on site are also situated in this area, and provide a welcome resting place.
- The artworks on these benches have been inspired by the names given to the site features.
- There is an area of willow coppice, managed under licence by a local woven fence maker. The area is known as Coppice Corner, where visitors can see a traditional form of management practice.

The current visitor offer at Cow Hollow 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 urban developments and explore independently. The visitor offer is informal recreation, offering space for quite contemplative walking, family picnic site, and dog walking.

The site links in with public rights of way in the area and could be publicised via the 'Fen Rivers Way' (a footpath along the river bank between Ely and Cambridge.) A Sustrans route was installed around/just outside the boundary in 2007 running between Waterbeach and Cambridge which will eventually connect through to Ely, and which provides potential opportunities to increase visitors from these urban areas. The wood is within walking distance of Waterbeach railway station, which lies on the Cambridge to Kings Lynn line, and there are direct trains to Cambridge, Kings Lynn and Kings Cross, London.

For future engagement and interpretation there is potential to expand on the theme of preserving traditional land-uses and rural skills relating to the willow coppicing industry.

Nearby sites with potential for partnership engagement are Milton Country Park (<http://www.miltoncountrypark.org/>), English Heritage-owned Denny Abbey (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/denny-abbey-and-the-farmland-museum/>), and the National Trust-owned Wicken Fen (<http://www.wicken.org.uk/>) and Anglesey Abbey (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey-gardens-and-lode-mill>).

Events

There is no current active events programme onsite. There is an open space, The Explorer's Hangout, which could be utilised for small community events such as certain low-key brand moments or guided walks, trails, foraging events etc, which are relevant. The site is not appropriate for mass participation events because of limited size and limited parking nearby.

Volunteers

The site currently benefits from one volunteer warden, who undertakes minor practical tasks such as wiping signs, cutting back overhanging branches, updating publicity signs.

It may be possible to develop opportunities for one-off volunteers or groups to promote the site and help with the delivery of events and activities, subject to capacity.

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. As a result of the previous project in 2013, Waterbeach Community Primary

School has already been involved with the wood, and there may be potential to build further on this relationship (although they have a woodland on their school premises so there may be little incentive for them become more involved) . If they are not already part of the Green Tree School Award, opportunities to sign them up to this should be investigated. Milton Primary School is also nearby.

Wider Community Engagement

There is a very active local group, the Waterbeach Community Association, (<http://www.waterbeach.org/>) which is a 'friendly alliance of community groups, organisations and interested individuals' in Waterbeach, Landbeach and Chittering, that organises a variety of annual community and social events, including the Waterbeach Feast every year in June. They also publish a quarterly magazine 'Beach News' to which we might consider submitting an article to promote Cow Hollow wood. There is also a community Playgroup in the village (<http://www.waterbeachplaygroup.org.uk/>)

Significance

Cow Hollow Wood provides an important free accessible woodland close to the city of Cambridge, accessible to the surrounding urban population via footpaths. It is very well used by locals, particularly for dog-walking, and informal recreational use. It provides a valuable public amenity for which local alternatives are limited.

The village of Waterbeach is within walking distance, and the wood provides a valuable local community resource for recreation and educational use, and the relationship with the local school is valuable. Ways to promote and increase the involvement of the local community should be encouraged. Previous engagement initiatives such as the living willow bridge should be maintained and expanded upon where possible.

With the surrounding fenland landscape, the site provides a rare woodland environment, and preserves ancient landscape characteristics such as reed beds and willow coppices which are now few in number elsewhere. As a result of this, the woodland also contributes to the preservation of traditional fenland crafts such as willow-weaving and thatching, and opportunities to increase this should be encouraged.

Because of the nature of the fenland on which it stands, the wood is a rare example of a wet woodland environment, which provides specialist habitat for a variety of species of plants, birds and mammals, within a landscape which is otherwise predominated by intense arable farming.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Access/Infrastructure

The site links in with public rights of way in the area and could be publicised via the 'Fens Rivers Way' (A footpath along the river bank between Ely and Cambridgeshire).

A Sustrans route was installed around/just outside the boundary of the wood in 2007 running between Waterbeach and Cambridge, and will eventually connect to Ely.

There is a railway station right next to the site.

General Comms Drivers

Engagement with local community - fostering of community affection for the woodland, and increased local usage.

Engagement with people using local footpaths, encouraging them to 'detour' into the wood. There is a high percentage of the local population that overlaps with our Woodland Trust Membership Mosaic Profile, which could indicate a membership 'ask' might be well-received, providing an opportunity for membership development activity in this area.

Events

There is a car park nearby that could be utilised, particularly for weekend events, when there is less pressure on the car park from commuters. There is a small amount of relatively open space that could host small-scale events.

Open central glade - 'Explorers Hangout' - which could be used

Volunteering

There may be opportunities for one-off volunteering groups or working groups to engage through events and activities. Increased local engagement and publicity opportunities could be fulfilled through volunteer opportunities.

Schools

Waterbeach Community Primary School is within walking distance of the wood and has engaged with it previously, so there may be opportunities to re-engage them and encourage further involvement.

Wider Community Engagement

Possibility to engage with Waterbeach Community Association which is an active local community group that organises a variety of annual community events, including the Waterbeach Feast every year in June.

Potential to raise awareness of the site via marketing at the train station?

Cambs University?

Constraints:

Access/Infrastructure

The site can become wet and boggy and this may constrain access at certain times of the year. The high percentage of willow and the narrow paths mean that continual resource expenditure on ride edge coppice will be needed if expected levels of public access are to be maintained. Site can flood.

General Comms Drivers

Small-scale site with limited parking facilities limits the scale of activities that can be done on-site. Disparity in wealth of surrounding population requires careful management to ensure that events or engagement activities are not perceived as being for more well-off residents and exclusive of those on lower-incomes.

Events

Lack of large-scale open space within the site for larger events. Car parking facilities are not sufficient enough for large events.

Largest, wealthiest sector of residents are retired, so paid-for events need to cater for this age group, or for families in a grandparent setting. Local families tend to be on lower incomes and therefore any family events need to reflect this.

Volunteering

Staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement

Schools

WT Staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement. Capacity and receptiveness of school staff.

Wider Community Engagement

Lack of staff capacity to facilitate and maintain involvement. Milton Country Park is closer to inhabitants of Cambridge and may present competition for the same user groups.

Factors Causing Change

Because of the nature of the site, which can be boggy and wet underfoot, any significant increase in visitor access might have consequences for path maintenance, and require work at the site to improve and maintain footpaths.

Expansion of commuter populations in villages around Cambridge, such as Waterbeach, may impact on the local population in terms of size and also MOSAIC make-up, and possibly the potential audience may grow or change.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Cow Hollow wood will exhibit strong community links, and continue to be enjoyed by local people for relaxation and recreation. Free public access will continue to be provided for quiet, informal recreation, and rides, paths, car parks and access points will continue to be maintained to ensure the site is accessible, welcoming and safe. The site will successfully connect people to woods and trees and be a shop window for our wider cause messaging. Potential opportunities for engagement with local community groups will be embraced with capacity created by effective engagement of volunteers who will help sustain the quality of the visitor offer onsite. This may include small-scale guided walks and events for example. Local schools will use the site regularly for self-led engagement. Links with other local attractions will be strengthened and opportunities for partnership working and cross-promotion pursued where appropriate. Ways to improve or expand the car parking facilities to enable better access will also be investigated.

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

Create new posters about the willow bridge and add these to poster holders March 18

Investigate renewal of relationship with local Primary School and encourage increased usage of site, possibly with a forest school Dec 2018

Investigate working in partnership with local organisations (Rowan?) for creation of artworks and signage on-site Nov 2018

Work in partnership with Cambridge university to re-create the living Willow Bridge and maintain this March 2019

Make contact with Waterbeach Community Association and investigate low-key partnership working opportunities (eg possible WT presence at Waterbeach Feast) March 2019

Investigate reprinting and distribution of site leaflet Dec 2019

Trial a small-scale off-peak event on site, possibly guided walk or foraging session, possibly with volunteer support Dec 2019

Investigate creation of artworks on site by local natural artists using natural materials from site - eg willow weaving from willow coppicing work. Dec 2020

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

The site was planted up as a native broadleaved woodland in November 2000 using wet woodland species, in-keeping with the area. A small area of osiers were planted near the ditch with a view to managing it as coppice.

Significance

Wet woodland is becoming an uncommon habitat due to drainage, conversion to agriculture and unsympathetic management. As a result, features heavily in local Habitat action plans.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity

The establishment and maintenance of an area of wet woodland in line with the Habitat Action Plan for Cambridgeshire.

To maintain the osier and willow coppice for the benefit of wildlife and local craftsmen

Threats

Pests and diseases.

Species/ vegetation succession

Climate change

Factors Causing Change

Chalara Fraxinea - already believed to be affecting the wood (2013), it is expected that ash will be naturally succeeded by other species present at the site, but the exact affects are unknown.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A native woodland with wet woodland characteristics, containing osier coppice and pollarded willows and wetland areas (reed bed)

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

Native broadleaf woodland, managed for the most part to support natural processes. Intervention areas include willow coppice on a regular rotation (3rd party managed) and to maintain public access (see KF1). The reed bed created in 2013 is to be maintained, with works identified through general key feature observations.(see observations in section 7.0)

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

Cow Hollow Wood was planted up as part of The Woodland Trust's "Woods on your Doorstep" project, And local people were involved in the fundraising, design and planting. The site is within easy walking distance of the village and the towpath along the river Cam. There are 3 access points to the wood all fitted with medium mobility kissing gates. A public bridleway runs along the boundary of the site. Paths have been created throughout the site, and improved in 2013 with the addition of bespoke carved benches and the living willow bridge to provide talking points and encourage dwell time

Significance

As a Wood On Your Doorstep it is always open to the public for quiet enjoyment. Links into existing Public rights of way, it has a car park for the railway station adjacent and is within easy walking distance of the village of Waterbeach and just off the Fen rivers way cycle path (10 mins ride out of Cambridge)

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

- The site links in with public rights of way in the area and could be publicised via the 'Fen Rivers Way' (a footpath along the river bank between Ely and Cambridge).
- A Sustrans route was installed around/just outside the boundary in 2007 running between Waterbeach and Cambridge, it will eventually connect through to Ely.
- Railway station next to site

Threats

- The site can get wet and this may constrain access at certain times of the year.
- The high percentage of willow and the narrow paths mean that continual resource expenditure on ride edge coppice will be needed if expected levels of public access are to be maintained
- Site can flood

Factors Causing Change

- Scrub encroachment.
- Deterioration of paths/ footpath erosion.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An established broadleaved wet woodland which is easily accessible and regularly enjoyed by the wider community.

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

Well defined paths, open, safe and easy to use. Cut at four times during the growing season to a width of 2 meters as per woodland trust spec 2.01 (2014) and assessed annually for any additional works which may become necessary, such as coppicing or cutting back encroaching vegetation. Signs and entrances are to be maintained in "good order" at all times. (regular visits by Volunteer Warden (at least every month) and SM (at least once per year)- actions as needed)

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	6.63	other willows	2000	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Green Belt
<p>Formally a mixed arable/ grazed field, planted in November 2000 by volunteers, schoolchildren and contractors with a native broadleaf mix of species associated with Wet woodland. Including: willow (white willow, goat willow and osier) ash, alder, birch, field maple, woody shrubs (hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, guelder rose and dogwood) with a few oak. The site was also sown (in May 2000) with a low maintenance grass mix and was planted with 30 - 45cm transplants in sleeves and shrub-shelters at a density of 2250 per hectare. Approximately 20 native black poplar cuttings were also included in the planting. The trees have grown extremely well, with an average top height of 6 meters in 2014.</p>							
1b	0.10	other willows	2001	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Green Belt
<p>A small area of osiers (<i>Salix viminalis</i>) planted close to the large central drain. Managed in a coppice rotation with the materials used locally.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2015	1b	Coppice	1.00	0	0
2016	1b	Coppice	1.00	0	0
2017	1b	Coppice	1.00	0	0
2018	1b	Coppice	1.00	10	10
2019	1b	Coppice	1.00	3	3
2020	1a	Coppice	1.00	3	3

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.