



Cleatop 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 Archaeological Feature	
5.2 Informal Public Access	
5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	
5.4 New Native Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Cleatop Wood
Location:	South of Settle
Grid reference:	SD816612, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 98
Area:	12.80 hectares (31.63 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, National Park

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

The 12.14ha of Cleatop Wood incorporate areas of archaeological interest; possible Bronze Age remains include a circular mound that may be a burial cairn. Oak and ash dominate the tree life with holly, hawthorn and hazel forming the scrub layer.

2.2 Extended Description

Situated approximately 2km to the south west of Settle, Cleatop Wood consists of 12.14 hectares of establishing new native woodland planting, undertaken in December 2003, and 0.81 hectares of existing mature ancient woodland - Stubbing Wood. The planted woodland sits on a gentle to moderate west and south-west facing slope between 135m and 200m elevation, on 2 fields of semi-improved pasture grassland formerly used for cattle/ sheep grazing and silage/hay production.

Stubbing Wood is situated on top of a prominent gritstone outcrop almost central to the entire site. Cleatop Wood occupies a prominent position in the local landscape, and is highly visible alongside the main A65 Skipton to Kendal Road and the neighbouring railway line. Cleatop Wood forms an important addition to the scattering of often small isolated woodlands, surrounded by pasture grassland within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The new planting also buffers and links the Ancient Semi Natural Woodland of Stubbing Wood, existing mature trees along the streamside to the south (also likely to be Ancient Semi Natural Woodland) and the adjoining Planted Ancient

Woodland Site of Cleatop Park, to the east. At 11 hectares Cleatop Park Wood is one of the largest areas of Ancient Woodland in the National Park, and unusually is owned by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Stubbing wood and the mature woodland along the streamsides has little of the original ancient woodland ground flora, due to many hundreds of years of animal grazing, although isolated patches of bluebell, wild garlic, Dogs mercury and primrose are visible. The site is enclosed on all sides by drystone walls, with rough grazing and a private residence (Cleatop House) to the north and improved pasture to the south and west.

The whole site is of particular archaeological importance, and has been researched back to its first record in 1612, at which time much of the site was woodland - and area know as the 'South Park' - quote:' one great enclosure of woody ground' which continued until at least 1737. By 1759 this had been partly cleared to the south west of Stubbing Wood to create 'New Paddocks' and at the same time woodland to north of the now Stubbing Wood was cleared for 'Horse Pasture' . The rationalisation of the park layout necessitated the construction of the boundary walls - most of which remain today, and later documents indicate that by the 1844 with the production of the Settle Tithe Map, that 'South Park' had acquired the main components of the present day layout. The original Stubbing Wood had been reduced to almost that of the present day and a new plantation occupying the location of the present Cleatop Park Wood had been planted.

It is the continuity of land use - particularly parkland that has preserved the archaeological features, due to the mainly pastoral regime and the lack of cultivation. The visible archaeology comprises former arable fields to the west - now evident as two areas of ridge and furrow, probably relating to mediaeval settlement and agrarian landscape which pre-dates the embankment of Cleatop. Related to the ridge and furrow are at least two prominent and clearly visible field banks. Hollow ways are the most visible features - particularly that which passes through Stubbing Wood. These origins of this hollow way are uncertain, but it pre-dates the woodland clearance and may well have been formed through the extraction of quarried gritstone from within the confines of the present Stubbing Wood, as could the hollow way to the south east of Stubbing Wood which passes through a complex of earlier building platforms.

The nucleus of building platforms concentrated in the south east of the site may be the remains of mediaeval or later settlement, and at least one platform pre-dates the hollow way which cuts through it.

A large circular mound situated on the highest point to the east of Stubbing Wood, has the appearance of being a man made structure - possibly a chambered bronze age burial cairn. 3 small pits dug into it may well be small scale excavations by antiquaries. And when considered in relation to the proximity of the now destroyed Cleatop Park prehistoric stone circle, indicates the possibility of prehistoric activity on site, whilst the remaining features indicate settlement between the 11th and 19th centuries. Stubbing Wood also has a small number of geological erratics - small limestone boulders brought into the area from the limestone landscape to the north and east by glacial action, deposited as the glaciers retreated.

Planting within the woodland was been grant aided at the full stocking rate with Better Land Supplement and the Community Woodland Supplement. Wholly native woodland planted, using local provenance stock, the tree species include 40% sessile oak, 20% ash, 10% alder, 7% downy and 7% silver birch, 7% rowan and a shrub mixture composed of 3% hazel, 3% holly and 3% hawthorn. The tree species chosen to reflect and extend those found in nearby woodlands -

especially Cleatop Park, under the NVC W8/W10 category - lowland mixed broadleaved woodlands-dominated by oak and ash. Trees were planted in either 1.2m deer tubes or 0.75m shrub guards, all of which were removed in 2010. The planting was in irregular shaped single species groups, each containing between 30 and 50 trees, each group having an uniform spacing of between 1 and 8m. Planting density varies across the site, but averages out at 1600 plants per hectare across the entire 12 hectares. The shrub mixture being used along the areas of open space and to break up the severity of the power line easements. The planting becomes denser up slope towards Cleatop Park with wider spacing's towards the road. The open ground element of the design totalling 20% is concentrated on the easements for overhead services, the routes of paths, areas of archaeological importance and the road frontage where the planting has been scalloped back to retain views from Cleatop House and to allow road straightening works which have been proposed.. The planting was undertaken during November and December 2003 by contractors and partly by local school children through the Woodland Trust Tree for All project.

No parking for visitors is available on or near to the site, however access is available on foot across agricultural land from the local town of Settle (approximately 1 mile to the north) via two public footpaths, one of which follows the western boundary of the woodland and one following the eastern boundary, which even before acquisition and planting was very well used. The two paths are now linked to the south of Stubbing Wood via a permissive path, cut and maintained along with the public footpaths on two occasions during the year. A third permissive footpath enters the woodland from the adjoining Cleatop Park to the east, and connects with the footpath running north south along the eastern boundary. All the routes within the woodland are un-surfaced and grassy underfoot, generally on a gentle to moderate slopes with occasional steep sections to the north east and to the south. Welcome signs are sited at each of the public footpath entrances and the permissive route through from Cleatop Park, whilst an information board sited close to the 'burial cairn' structure describes the work of the Woodland Trust, the site at Cleatop and the archaeology of the area. Management access into the site is available via a gate and cattle grid to the north west, which is also the access road to Cleatop House and a series of farm buildings to the rear of Cleatop House. A second management gate is situated in the south west corner of the site, which is also the management access for the Yorkshire Dales National Park to access Cleatop Park Wood.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

No parking is available on or near to the site, however access is available on foot across agricultural land from the local town of Settle (approximately 1 mile to the north) There are two public footpaths, one of which follows the western boundary of the woodland and one following the eastern boundary. The two paths are linked to the south of Stubbing Wood via a permissive path, cut and maintained along with the public footpaths on two occasions during the year. A third permissive footpath enters the woodland from the adjoining Cleatop Park (Yorkshire Dales National Park owned woodland) to the east, and connects with the footpath running north south along the eastern boundary. All the routes within the woodland are unsurfaced and grassy underfoot, generally on a gentle to moderate slopes with occasional steep sections to the north east and to the south. The easiest route is to park at the main car park in Settle (where there are also public toilets) and take public footpaths to the site. A number of guidebooks detail the walks around Settle, as well as the local Settle and Yorkshire Dales National Park websites.

The nearest bus stop is either to the North on the road into Settle, or to the south close to the hamlet of Mearbeck - both approximately 1km via either unsurfaced footpaths across farmland or along the A65 (not recommended as this is a very busy road with no pavement). Information from the traveline website, Further information about public transport is available from Traveline- www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention will be to create, new native broadleaved woodland and to conserve and enhance ancient semi natural woodland on and adjacent to the site. This will be achieved by management of the existing woodland planting and through any natural regeneration from the ancient woodland of Stubbing Wood and adjacent Cleatop Park. Planting at Cleatop Wood also enhances the Ancient Semi Natural Woodland of Stubbing Wood, along the streamsides and the Planted Ancient Woodland of Cleatop Park through the increase in core woodland area, also removing animal grazing pressure allowing the development of natural regeneration. There will be a reduction in the effects of farming on the woodland and ground flora and fauna- particularly the use of herbicides and artificial fertilisers . Rides and open space which are an important feature of the woodland design will change little - although public and permissive paths will be cut annually to maintain access, the rides and open space will be left uncut, which may allow for the establishment of some natural regeneration .

Once mature this woodland may provide an opportunity for additional land purchase and woodland planting on adjacent land within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It may also act as an incentive for restoration of Planted Ancient Woodland at Cleatop Park. Informal public access is an important feature of the site and the current level of facilities and accessibility will be maintained which reflect the relatively low levels of use the woodland receives. The archaeology will remain undisturbed as a key feature of the site and the wider area, as the intensity of farming continues to deplete the visible feature on other fields locally. Further non-intrusive investigation may well be carried out by other organisations.

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 Archaeological Feature

Description

The visible archaeology is varied in terms of form and date, indicating settlement and land use over a long period from probably the 11th century through to the 19th century, with the added possibility of prehistoric activity on site. The features include former arable fields - now evident as two areas of ridge and furrow, two hollow ways, an complex of small earthworks connected with medieval or later settlements, woodland management and sandstone/ gritstone quarrying and a large mound which appears to be man made (possible bronze age burial mound). All of which are described in detail in the summary description.

Significance

Former parkland such as this has the capacity to afford good protection of archaeological features, because of the mainly pastoral regime and lack of cultivation associated with the recent (19th, 20th and 21st century) land use. The planting design and the continued undisturbed management associated with woodland will continue to provide good level of preservation of the features for future study if required

Opportunities & Constraints

The areas of archaeology are in the most part not to be planted across - apart from some of the ridge and furrow which is poor quality and found in profusion in this part of the Yorkshire Dales. Ground preparation - ploughing and ripping was advised against, as was any future large scale ground disturbance - drainage etc. There are opprtunities to use the features in site related literature and on-going educational activity which is likely to be linked with the site. The planting of the site and its maintenance as an undisturbed location will aid the preservation of the archaeological features for the future.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the present visible archaeology in an undisturbed state, preserved for future record and non-intrusive study. This can include allowing woodland regeneration, as the features have already been plotted and recorded, and even under woodland cover the features will still be preserved.

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

All of the open grassland areas over archaeology will be allowed to develop naturally (including regeneration) apart from the areas of public or permissive path. An information board will describe and explain some of the features on site.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Public access is available via four formal pedestrian entrances at either end of the two public footpaths which cross the western and eastern edges of the woodland, and also via a footpath which enters to the east from the adjoining Cleatop Park (woodland). A permissive path links the two public footpaths to the south of Stubbing Wood. Paths are mown twice annually during May and July, providing access through a mixture of woodland and open ground, either on the lower or upper slopes of the woodland. Full public access is available across the site.

Significance

This wood forms part of a patchwork of small woodlands which are very important in the local landscape, also linking via the footpath and bridleway network through to other Woodland Trust sites at Scaleber Wood and Langber Plantation. Acquisition was supported by the local communities, and the site is well used by the people from the nearby village and properties. It is important that locals continue to be able to enjoy and care for the woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Paths will require regular mowing to maintain the access provision and the access points requiring maintenance and replacement as necessary. Little scope for further access provision as the public and permissive paths and rides already allow access around and through the site, especially considering the large areas of open ground and the variable tree spacings. The site already receives a good number of visitors (walkers), as it is close to the town of Settle and the eastern footpath features on a number of advertised footpaths routes through guides and the internet.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain existing network of permissive and public footpaths, maintaining links with existing public rights of way on adjoining land.

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

Cut permissive and public footpaths twice per year to ensure easy and welcoming public access to the site.
 Check entrances (x5) signs (x5) twice a year, cutting back vegetation as necessary to ensure easy and welcoming access to the site.
 Repair/replace 5x entrance signs, 5x stiles, boundary drystone walls and management gates as required.

5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

0.81 hectares of mature native broadleaved woodland - Stubbing Wood, composed of mature (old growth) sessile oak with occasional birch, little or no regeneration and a much depleted ground flora due to grazing, situated on a prominent gritstone outcrop. Not designated or surveyed previously due to its size but classified due to a map exercise proving its existence since at least 1612. A small sparsely wooded area of ancient semi natural woodland - approximately the same as Stubbing Wood remains along the southern boundary, following the course of the stream, retaining elements of woodland ground flora, under oak, ash, rowan, birch, with a shrub element of hazel, holly, hawthorn and blackthorn.

Significance

Stubbing Wood and along the stream course, has been identified as a likely Ancient Semi Natural Woodland - the remaining part of the much larger woodland that once linked in with Cleatop Park to the east, the trees are extremely likely to be local origin - almost certainly as some date back to at least 250 years and would have been mapped on the original OS first edition of 1759, despite the quarrying activity that has gone on throughout the wood, and the effects of continuous animal grazing. This site could well provide a seed source for future local provenance/ origin planting in the area. In addition semi natural woodland cover within North Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Dales in particular is a scarce resource, important in the local landscape and also providing an opportunity for buffering/ linking with other existing areas of woodland to the south and east.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to use seed from the existing trees on site as they are extremely likely to be of local origin - related directly to the much larger expanse of Stubbing Wood as mapped through to the early to mid 19th centuries. Probably dating to at least 250 years old.

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of sessile oak and ash

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain native broadleaved woodland on this Ancient Semi Natural Woodland site. The woodland will be managed through minimum intervention maintaining predominantly oak high forest through natural regeneration.

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

Monitor the woodland through the condition assessment for the signs of native woodland regeneration - presumed to be oak and ash, which will be expected after the removal of grazing pressure. Some seed collection may be undertaken as part of the educational activities for re-planting on site around the existing mature woodland and along streamsides..

5.4 New Native Woodland

Description

Establishing native broadleaved woodland planting (2003) at an average density of 1600 trees per hectare, with tubes and stakes removed in 2010. Planted in 30 -50 single species groups, at spaces varying from 1 to 8m, planted with local provenance oak, ash, alder, silver and downy birch, rowan and a shrub mixture of hazel, holly and hawthorn.

Significance

Within this area there is a low percentage of woodland cover and very little Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. This is one opportunity to re-create secondary native broadleaved woodland, buffer and link the existing Ancient Semi Natural Woodland of Stubbing Wood and Cleatop Park and to encourage further planting locally, adding to the patchwork of generally small woodlands, important in the local landscape, which has already occurred in this part of the National Park, through support from the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

Opportunities & Constraints

The woodland does offer some scope for limited additional planting on the lower slopes (subject to road straightening plans) and for allowing and encouraging regeneration. However additional planting at this stage is unlikely. The woodland is relatively remote and it is unlikely to suffer any vandalism and/or other damaging activities.

Factors Causing Change

ash disease, deer

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To create mature, un-even aged native broadleaf woodland with shrubby edges and open rides. The woodland may require thinning between 2020-2025 and subsequently group felling to encourage new growth and a varied canopy structure.

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

Manage the woodland through minimum intervention over the next 5 years, allowing natural processes to shape the woodland, with management limited to key feature and woodland condition observations. Deer management will be necessary annually due to the increasing numbers of roe and red deer locally.

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	12.14	Ash	2004	High forest	Archaeological features, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	National Park
<p>The whole of the planted area 1a, is one compartment, composed of sessile oak, ash, alder, silver birch, downy birch and rowan which were planted in single species groups of 30-50 trees with a uniform spacing of between 1 and 8 metres using 1.2m tubex tree tubes (tubes and stakes removed in 2010). A shrub mixture of hazel, holly and hawthorn, was planted on the edges of open space using 0.75m shrubshelters. The variable spacings across the site averaged of 1600 trees per hectare. The ground flora is predominantly semi-improved grassland on a variable soil type where the bedrock includes limestone, shale and sandstone. The site is on a gentle to moderate west facing slope with a seasonal spring to the north and a permanent stream to the south, which does have remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland, included within the open space element of the new planting. Bounded to the north and south by improved grassland, used for grazing/ grass production and to the west by a major road (A65), and further improved grassland. To the east bounded by Cleatop Park - Planted Ancient Woodland. Public footpaths cross the eastern and western edges of the site, linked by a permissive route with management access available via two field gates at the north west and south west.</p>							
2a	0.81	Oak (sessile)	1900	High forest	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Park
<p>0.81 Ha of mature mixed native broadleaved woodland. Composed of predominantly sessile oak, with ash and birch on an obvious rock prominence. No designations but appears from maps to be a remnant of the ancient woodland which covered the remainder of the site, and could be classed as old growth with tree ages in the region of 250 years, though appearing younger. Limited ground flora due to sheep and cattle grazing prior to Woodland Trust ownership, difficult ground conditions due to quarrying activity and archaeological features. Contains a number of erratics - limestone boulders deposited amongst the gritstone by the action of glaciers.</p>							

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.