

Otterbourne Park Wood

(Plan period – 2020 to 2025)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

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

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and 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 natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Otterbourne Park Wood

Location:	Otterbourne Grid reference: SU458222 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 185
Area:	25.94 hectares (64.10 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Otterbourne Park Wood is an ancient semi natural woodland site situated in Hampshire, approximately 2.8km north of Eastleigh between the M3 and Southampton to London railway line. The Woodland Trust purchased the majority of the wood in 1986 and was gifted a further area in 1996, with almost 26 hectares (64 acres) now in its ownership.

The wood forms part of the Winchester City Council designated Cranbury Woodlands Landscape Character Area (LCA) which stretches from the Itchen Valley, east of Otterbourne, to Ampfield Wood in the west. The northern boundary of the LCA is formed by the more open downland and parkland of the Hursley Scarpland LCA, whilst the southern edge forms the boundary with the borough of Eastleigh.

The M3 motorway to the north and west separates Otterbourne Park Wood from the extensive woodland surrounding Cranbury Park that gives the LCA its name. However, it is loosely connected via adjacent woodland to the north and west, whilst arable fields and hedgerows surround the remaining boundaries. The line of a Roman road runs through the northern part of the wood which marks the course of the original Roman road that once connected Otterbourne to Winchester via Compton and Shawford villages, where sections of the road remain in use today.

A ridge running in a north-west to south-east direction through the Landscape Character Area is evident throughout Otterbourne Park Wood forming north and east facing slopes and undulating valleys, with the highest elevations in the north and west, and lowest points to the south and east. It is to this formation that the wood owes its existence, as the wood's topography was unsuitable for arable farming.

The soils in the wood are highly variable with chalk to the north, London Clay to the south and gravel patches associated with the stream beds. The varied soils have resulted in a varied species composition and the wood is designated as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) for its correspondingly high biodiversity value. The dominant tree species is oak, with significant ash stands in the north, south and east. Alder stands are found concentrated along seasonal stream valleys and major ditches in the south and far north. Many of the ash and alder are coppiced, with occasional large or even ancient multi-stem stools. On the plateau gravel areas in the higher western end are pedunculate oak coppice, with oak pollards growing on a pebble bed in the north of the wood.

Understorey is dominated by hazel, with holly abundant alongside birch, field maple, rowan, hawthorn and wild cherry. Guelder rose is found in some of the more isolated damp areas of the wood.

Ground flora is abundant with ancient woodland species including bluebell, lesser celandine and wood anemone, with a notable addition of mosses and ferns in the wetter stream valleys.

The majority of the periphery of the wood is accessible via a network of permissive paths, with occasional paths traversing the wood from east to west including a right of way footpath towards the northern end and footbridges installed to aid access in wetter areas.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Due to its undulating topography, abundance of wet woodland habitat and limited access, Otterbourne Park Wood will be managed with the minimum silvicultural intervention required to secure continuous canopy cover and a resilient mixed broadleaf composition. Management of pests and diseased trees (e.g. ash affected by ash dieback) will be carried out for visitor safety or if required for biosecurity reasons.

The canopy will remain a mixed broadleaf composition of oak, beech, birch, sweet chestnut and yew, with alder prolific in the wet streamside areas. Sycamore is present and will be maintained at a low density (up to a maximum of 15% total woodland cover) to maintain diversity following the loss of ash trees to ash dieback (approximately 20% ash canopy cover pre-ash dieback) whilst allowing other tree species to colonise in place of ash.

The understorey will include a diversity of native trees and shrubs including hazel, holly, rowan, wild cherry, field maple and hawthorn. Non-native invasive species such as cherry laurel and rhododendron will be removed and controlled and will not be threatening the woodland ecosystem.

Due to its relatively small scale, the wood will be managed to function as one wooded component of the Cranbury Landscape Character Area, with significant proportions of other habitats (e.g. open space) represented elsewhere in the landscape. Therefore, a minimum of 10% open space will be maintained as a level sufficient to sustain diversity within the wood itself. A significant proportion of this open space will constitute rides and paths, managed to facilitate access with annual maintenance and tree safety work. Therefore, levels of temporary open space adjacent to the rides are likely to fluctuate and may include anything from small canopy gaps from the loss of individual trees or selective tree removal, to larger openings and glades created by the thinning or felling of small groups (e.g. to manage significant numbers of ash affected by ash dieback). A proportion of rides through more shaded areas of closed canopy and wet woodland will provide a contrast of visitor experience and habitat. Elsewhere, canopy gaps will occur naturally due to aging and collapse of old coppice stems and windthrow, particularly in wet or elevated areas.

Open space will encourage and support diversity in the field and ground layers from swathes of ancient semi-natural woodland ground flora such as bluebell and anemone alongside more common woodland flora such as herb robert and red campion, to patches of coarse vegetation and scrub such as bramble and bracken. It will also provide opportunities for natural regeneration of tree species to replace trees lost to disease, and may allow room for a proportion of mature trees to develop into open-grown characterful veterans of high ecological value.

Riparian corridors will support ferns and mosses that depend on damp, wet and shady conditions.

A proportion of dead wood will be retained on the ground or left standing where it does not pose a safety risk.

Animal damage (e.g. deer browsing) will not be preventing succession and establishment of native trees and understorey from natural regeneration, or resulting in significant losses of established trees (e.g. by ring-barking from squirrels) following appropriate assessment and management to prevent a detrimental impact, if required.

There will be a moderate number of visitors each year who will have access to the majority of the wood via signed

entrances and a network of maintained but largely natural paths, with occasional bridges to facilitate access in wetter areas, resulting in a tranquil site for quiet recreation activities and thriving wildlife.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

There is considerable diversity in stand composition and structure due to the variations in soil type and topography. The prevalence of high ground with shallow soil and low ground with wet conditions results in frequent windthrow of trees forming natural canopy gaps, particularly in the south and east of the wood. Many areas of the wood also have a semi-open structure due to the prevalence of ash and alder coppice which often have clean stems and light canopies which only cast dappled shade, with long-established rides and paths with natural but compacted surfaces providing additional semi-open space.

The wood was managed as a coppice with standards system for many centuries until the early 20th century. The last significant silvicultural intervention in the wood appears to be prior to World War 2, indicated by the present size of coppice regrowth of a number of species. This includes a significant number of coppiced oak, ash, alder and hazel stools, some with diameters greater than 150cm and occasional field maple stools with a basal diameter of up to 100cm indicating their longevity.

Pedunculate oak is the most prevalent mature tree, with mature ash and birch frequent, while mature beech and sycamore are occasional, the latter naturally colonising and regenerating in peripheral areas of the wood, particularly along the north boundary. In 2020 ash trees adjacent to rides in the north, east and southern sections of the wood are showing early decline symptoms from ash dieback disease and their condition may alter during the plan period. Approximately 60 Turkey oak were planted in the wood during the early 1900s with many mature specimens currently evident.

Natural regeneration of ash is prolific with beech, oak, alder, birch and sycamore also regenerating. However, ash is being killed off at sapling stage by ash dieback disease (ADB) and although regenerating well, sycamore is a recent coloniser and is not widespread.

Understorey is dominated by hazel which is relatively evenly dispersed throughout the wood, regardless of canopy species, and is regenerating naturally from new shoots arising from collapsed coppice stools. Holly is abundant and is regenerating frequently in many areas across the wood and birch and wild cherry are plentiful with some notable outsized specimens and remnants of collapsed veterans providing dead wood habitat. Guelder rose is found in some of the more isolated damp areas of the wood.

Ancient woodland ground flora is abundant with bluebell, wood anemone, and lesser celandine throughout much of the wood, with moschatel, yellow pimpernel and wood sorrel more prevalent on ride edges along with the occasional early purple orchid. Common rush, wood rush and cow wheat are also found along the paths and butchers broom is scattered throughout the wood. In the wetter areas, bugle and yellow marsh saxifrage occur with kingcups and lesser spearwort is abundant with golden saxifrage and wood spurge also present. Ferns are also frequent in the wettest

areas, with moss carpeting the ground and coating the buttresses of trees, particularly ash, which accounts for approximately 20% canopy cover of the wood.

Coarse vegetation is localised with bramble mostly confined to areas of disturbance on ride edges and bracken abundant in the oak/birch stands, particularly along the higher ground in the west and at the extreme south of the wood as the boundary merges into adjacent private woodland. Ivy and honeysuckle are both frequent, climbing on understorey and trees, and adding to the ground flora.

Invasive species are almost absent, with only one large cherry laurel shrub identified in the last condition assessment, however, it is possible that plants may arise within the wood from neighbouring land where laurel is present.

Significance

The amount of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. Approximately 40% of England's ASNW is found in the South East and its protection and enhancement is one of the main aims of the Trust. It is irreplaceable due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years and contains many rare and threatened species.

The ancient continuity of woodland cover is evident in Otterbourne Park Wood by its significant coppice stool sizes of many species. Although the wood was cut off from a direct connection to adjacent woodland by the construction of the M3, as a SINC and component of the Cranbury Woodlands LCA it is an important wildlife hub, connected to the wider landscape via watercourses, hedgerows and other wooded habitats, providing corridors for flora and fauna to move through and colonise. Therefore, Otterbourne Park Wood together with the woods to which it is adjoined, forms a locally important tract of ancient habitat, benefitting the local community and wildlife whilst maintaining resilience and connectivity in the wider landscape. Along with the Trusts objectives, it is one of the landscape strategies of the LCA to conserve and restore the structure and condition of its woodlands through appropriate management.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Topography and stream valleys: The majority of the woodland floor is undulating and there are some steep-sided slopes and boggy areas formed by these features which limit or dictate access routes throughout the wood.

Ground conditions: The ground can be very wet and muddy in prolonged wet weather and in autumn and winter, affecting the timing of operations.

Access and egress: Vehicular access into the wood is extremely limited and may prevent timber extraction if large volumes of diseased ash need to be felled.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback: This disease was first observed in the wood in 2017. It is currently evident wherever ash is present and is affecting all age classes of the species. This is likely to have a significant impact on the composition and structure of the wood, with trees removed for safety reasons or lost through natural decline resulting in gaps and opportunities for other species such as oak, birch, sweet chestnut, beech, shrubs and ground flora to establish in their place. There is likely to be an increase in dead wood as a result of the disease and this will be retained on site where possible, in places where it does not present a hazard to neighbours or visitors to the wood.

Animal damage: A diversity of tree and shrub species are naturally regenerating, but levels may be being affected by deer browsing.

Watercourses and soil: With an increase in local development and within the Itchen river catchment there is a potentially increased risk of flooding and pollution via the watercourses and soil within the wood.

Climate change: Wetter winters may result in significant changes to the water table, saturation of soil and watercourses in and around the woodland. Conversely longer drought periods and increased temperatures are also anticipated through spring and summer. This increases the likelihood of knock-on effects such as drying or waterlogging of soils, increased vulnerability to tree diseases and changes in species composition to those that are best adapted to the changing conditions.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The topography, soil type and diversity of tree species within the wood provide a foundation for natural processes and minimum silvicultural intervention to be the overriding management prescription. Pests and diseases (including ash dieback) will be managed through reactive operations based on tree safety inspections.

Therefore, majority of the interior of the wood between rides, including wet woodland stands and riparian corridors will be retained as non-intervention areas to ensure long-term continuity. In this way, much of the mature coppice and standard tree population will be left to age and senesce naturally, sustaining a veteran tree population and resulting in a significant proportion of standing and fallen dead wood across the bulk of the woodland. A proportion of trees may achieve ancient ages.

Collapsed trees from natural decline and windthrow from high winds and storms will be retained in-situ where safe to do so, with gaps in the canopy providing space and light for succession of younger trees and shrubs, and dappled shade for ground flora as well as providing large sections of dead wood.

Annual maintenance of rides and paths will be managed to facilitate access and to supplement naturally occurring open space to a minimum of 10%, with a proportion of rides through more shaded areas of closed canopy and wet woodland providing a contrast of visitor experience and habitat.

Tree safety works to manage trees that present a risk to visitors will supplement natural canopy gaps by adding temporary open space along ride edges and boundaries where it is essential to remove them (e.g. removal of ash trees due to ash dieback disease).

The effect of deer on natural regeneration will be assessed and monitored in each plan period and if deemed to be preventing regeneration to a detrimental level then management options such as the protection of regeneration in fenced enclosures, deer control by culling or a combination of both will be undertaken.

The mixed native broadleaf canopy composition will remain, with oak the dominant tree species, supplemented by beech, birch, alder and rarely, yew. Naturalised sweet chestnut and sycamore (as sycamore is already present) up to a maximum of 15% total woodland cover will maintain diversity following the loss of ash trees to ash dieback by selectively recruiting or removing natural regeneration where appropriate. The understorey will include a diversity of native trees and shrubs including hazel, holly, rowan, wild cherry, field maple and hawthorn.

Non-native invasive species such cherry laurel and rhododendron will be removed and controlled and will not be threatening the woodland ecosystem.

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

To carry out essential works to safeguard the woodland structure and diversity during this plan period. This will be achieved through the following:-

- An annual summer assessment of the progress of ADB and the recruitment of suitable natural regeneration of future canopy trees.
- Felling of ash with moderate to advanced ash dieback decline symptoms adjacent to approximately one kilometer of footpaths within the plan period if required following annual assessments.
- Closure of two entrances on the south boundary and two footpath sections at the southern end of the wood in 2021 to prevent access to the area (approx. 2.5ha) worst affected by ash dieback and to allow the disease and habitat to progress naturally. Entrances will be closed with post and wire fencing and explanatory signs. A sleeper bridge will be removed and arisings from felled ash with mid to advanced decline symptoms used to close path sections.
- A thermal imaging assessment of deer in 2021 and implementation of annual deer management recommendations and monitoring.
- Removal of single figures of non-native invasive species shrubs (cherry laurel) in 2021 and annual control for the remainder of the plan period. Completion of species specific Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine control method and completion of an Environmental & Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) where a Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHP) is required.
- A woodland condition assessment in 2024 to inform the next management plan review.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Otterbourne Park Wood is situated half a mile south of Otterbourne, a village with a population of approximately 1500 people, approximately four miles south of Winchester and eight miles north of Southampton. The wood is a Woodland Trust category A access site (high usage, regularly used at all times of the year, with more than approximately 15-20 visitors using one entrance every day). Parking availability in close proximity to the wood is extremely scarce and limited to roadsides; therefore, access is best suited to pedestrian visits. Subsequently the majority of footfall is from local residents within walking distance of the wood.

Each of the woods entrances are marked with a wooden welcome sign. The main entrance is a kissing gate approximately central to the west boundary which is accessible via a right of way footpath which runs the length of Park Lane to the west of the wood. From the entrance the footpath traverses the wood loosely west to east for approximately 500 metres and then exits into a field in the north east corner, from which point the path continues north west before heading north to Otterbourne. For longer walks, the footpath can be followed approximately 1km east of the wood to join the Itchen Way, a 51km (31 mile) long-distance footpath following the River Itchen from its source near Hinton Ampner House to its mouth at Woolston.

The permissive footpath within the wood that runs parallel with the east boundary, from north to south, is a section of the Otter Trail. This is a 5.5km (3.5mile) circular walk created by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, from the village of Allbrook to Hawksley Memorial Gardens via part of the Itchen Navigation Path. Access and egress to the trail sections outside of the wood is via the entrances in the north east and south east corners.

A squeeze gap entrance is available in the north west corner of the wood, near Otterbourne Hill (road) which leads to Otterbourne Hill Common, a publically accessible 10 hectare mixed grass and deciduous woodland site. A public footpath exits the west boundary of the common and onto a bridge which crosses the M3 and leads to the other woodlands which form the Cranbury Woodlands Landscape Character Area (including Woodend Copse, Castle Copse

and Great Moorlands Copse).

Additional permissive footpaths traverse the wood from east to west and the majority of the periphery of the wood is accessible via a network of permissive paths which form a circular route of approximately 2km (1 mile). However, access at the wood can be challenging, with footpaths throughout the wood natural and unsurfaced and some sections narrow and undulating and weaving between trees. Paths can be extremely muddy in prolonged wet periods and in autumn and winter, with small sleeper footbridges aiding access across streams where required to maintain a circular or connective route.

Paths at the southern end of the wood have previously facilitated access to two privately maintained permissive entrances on the south boundary. However, due to the prevalence of ash in this area and the onset of ash dieback, public access is no longer suitable in this area.

Two other Woodland Trust woods are situated within driving distance of Otterbourne Park Wood:

Upper Barn and Crowdhill Copse, Fair Oak, SO50 7GD - 28 hectares of planted ancient woodland, approximately 5km (3 miles) to the east.

Valley Park Woods, Chandler's Ford, SO53 4QX – A complex of four ancient and secondary woodlands totalling nearly 30 hectares, approximately 5km (3 miles) to the west.

Significance

Otterbourne Park Wood's urban fringe setting and high local demand for public access is reflective of the increasing development in south east England and the corresponding need for accessible open space. The woods close proximity to residential areas makes it ideal for local residents situated within walking distance and its connectivity to the wider right of way and footpath network (e.g. the Itchen Way and Otter Trail) offers opportunities for longer countryside and woodland walks.

The wood also offers a tranquil contrast to the noise of the surrounding road network with ancient woodland ground flora displays a highlight in spring. It is therefore an important ecological and recreational resource, providing benefits to both mental and physical health.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Paths and rides can become very muddy during prolonged wet weather and in autumn and winter.

Opportunities:

Increasing visitor numbers may provide volunteer and engagement opportunities.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback: This tree disease affects public access provision, requiring tree safety works and path and entrance closures where necessary to maintain safe access.

Local development: There is a general increase in development in the southeast and Hampshire which increases the likelihood of positive and negative effects including anti-social behaviour, littering, dog fouling, fires, new desire lines and trampling of ground flora, volunteering and local support for the copses and the Trust.

Increased operational activity: Increased operations within the wood (e.g. to manage trees affected by ash dieback) in

the coming management plan period may require interpretation and engagement with the local community following a long period of minimal management within the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Entrance infrastructure will be maintained to cater for the high frequency of visitors to the site. Footpaths will remain largely natural, but suitable infrastructure (e.g. bridges) will facilitate access through some of the more challenging areas of the site to provide a safe, enjoyable and varied woodland experience for visitors. The site will be well used and appreciated by local residents and should retain its largely natural aesthetic.

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

To provide a safe, enjoyable woodland experience for visitors. This will be achieved through the following within the plan period:

- Two annual path cuts and entrance maintenance visits.
- Annual infrastructure inspections and maintenance.
- Annual tree safety inspections and remedial works as required in line with the Trusts Tree Risk Management Policy.
- An assessment of access infrastructure and signs in 2024 as part of the whole site woodland condition assessment.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	25.94	Oak (pedunculate)	1940	Min-intervention	Diseases, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)

Stand types reflect differences in local geology:

Oak coppice with birch and an understorey of hazel and holly found on the plateau gravel areas towards the higher elevations in the north-west.

Oak standards with ash and an understorey of hazel. Ash stands dominate the lower slopes in the north and east.

Alder concentrated in the wetter valleys around the larger ditches and streams in the south and at the bottom of the slope in the east of the wood.

Approximately 60 Turkey oak were planted in the wood in the early 1900s of which about one third have been felled to waste.

Beech and sweet chestnut are occasional along with rare yew.

One public footpath crosses the compartment from east to west at the north end, with an additional permissive footpath network which extends to most parts of the woodland.

Ground conditions vary from gravelly on the upper ground and stream beds to wet clay on the lower ground to the south.

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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