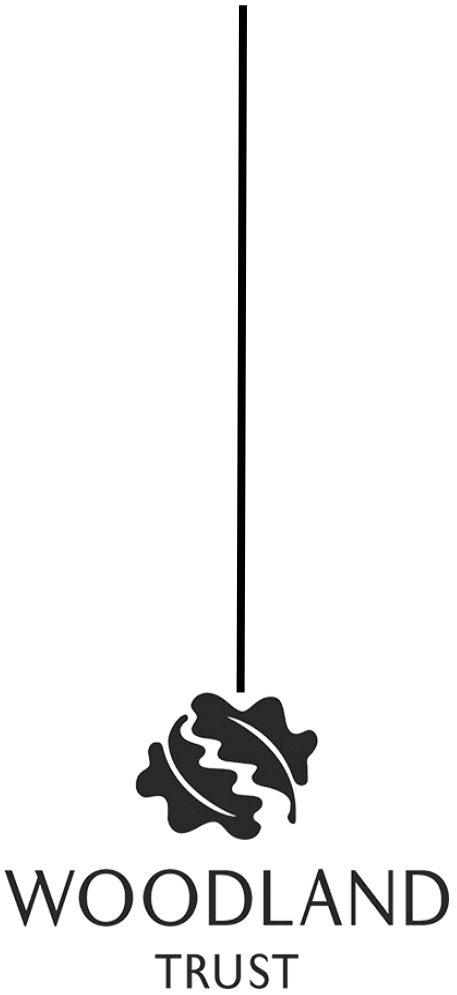
Common Wood

(Plan period – 2020 to 2025)



Management Plan Content Page

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

1. SITE DETAILS

Common Wood

Location:	Llanrhidian Grid reference: SS507925 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 159
Area:	16.20 hectares (40.03 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Common Wood is a mixed woodland near the B4295, half a mile east of the village of Llanrhidian on the Gower peninsula. At approximately 50 metres above sea-level it overlooks the estuary of the river Llwchwr to the north, which is a SSSI. Other SSSI's in the vicinity include Welshmoor Commons, half a kilometer to the east and Cefn Bryn Common, one kilometer to the South.

Cilifor Top, a millstone grit summit and the site of an iron age hillfort is on the western side of the wood. Improved pasture lies to the north, east and south of the wood but mixed broadleaved woodland adjoins the south and south-eastern boundary of Common Wood. A holiday park is located only 100 metres from the north-eastern tip of the site but there is no pubic right of way joining the two. Housing is situated to the north west near the public road. All paths within the woodland are permissive and a section links up to a neighbouring permissive footpath leading up to Cilifor Top.

The site comprises areas of Plantation on Ancient Woodland (PAWS) and areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW). The drier areas of the broadleaved-dominated sections are typical of lowland mixed broadleaved woodlands and the wet areas in the south support alder with some ash. Ash is the dominant broadleaved species in the east of the wood, followed closely by beech, along with birch, sycamore, sessile oak and hazel. A number of veteran oaks are found scattered through the wood, some with a girth of 4 metres. A small concentration of mature oaks with a hazel understorey is present in the eastern half of the wood. A good show of bluebells can be seen in spring in the drier broadleaf areas.

The non-broadleaf areas are dominated by Norway spruce planted in the 1960's. Significant areas planted with spruce are now more open in character, due to a combination of historical thinning and significant windblow. Ancient woodland remnants are surviving in areas where the Norway spruce has failed or the canopy has been opened up by windblow.

The key features of the wood are: PAWS, ASNW and informal public access.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Common Wood will be a predominantly broadleaved woodland, where natural processes of tree regeneration and succession are allowed to occur. The principal tree species in areas formerly planted with conifers (compartments 1a and 2a) will be oak, with hazel developing in the understory. All former plantation areas will have been cleared of conifer in blocks over a number of harvesting interventions. These cleared areas will now constitute young broadleaved woodland, having been restocked with a combination of planted site-native trees and trees that have regenerated naturally. The wet areas, which suffered from considerable windblow of the planted spruce in the past, will be regenerating well with alder and grey willow, with downy birch, hazel and oak establishing naturally where the ground is a drier. Some bramble-dominated areas will remain untouched due to their value to ground nesting birds and the protection it offers to small mammals.

Norway spruce will only form a small part of the canopy, having been cleared on a block basis over a number of years. Long-term, spruce trees will likely be limited to small pockets across the site where access with machinery has been either impractical and/or undesirable. Any natural regeneration of Norway spruce will be controlled where it is deemed to threaten ancient woodland components or interfere with the development of preferred tree and shrub species.

All pre-plantation oaks will be secure and free from the threat of windblow or shading from adjacent conifers. Ancient Woodland ground flora will have grown in extent as a result of improved light levels and the growth of a more diverse assemblage of native tree and shrub species.

Compartment 1b, an area of predominantly alder on wet ground, will continue to develop naturally under a minimum intervention regime to maintain its current diversity and allow further natural regeneration to migrate from the ancient semi-natural woodland adjoining the south-eastern boundary. It will remain unserved by permissive footpaths and any intervention is likely to be limited to the removal of any Norway spruce regeneration or any invasive species found. Through progressive thinnings of the planted ash and beech areas, compartment 2b, will continue to have ash and beech present in the compartment but the canopy will be more diverse, with a greater contribution by oak and a developing understory.

Capital investment in the development of management access for Common Wood will enable the long-term vision to be realised by making it possible to reach, harvest and extract timber products within the mature conifer stands and the areas of younger planted beech and ash, as well as to make general site maintenance easier and more cost-effective. Local residents and visitors from further afield will continue to be able to enjoy a permissive path network that takes in much of the site.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
A permissive footpath network comprising two main loops gives access to most of the woodland. One circular route takes in the western half of the wood, the other the eastern half. Both loops join in the centre of the wood. The paths are gently sloping and are only steep where steps and a bridge pass over the stream which runs through the centre of the site. The paths are uneven in places and some tree roots cross the paths. Parts of the site become muddy in wet weather. Minor, unmarked permissive paths also allow access to neighbouring land on the eastern boundary and to Cilifor Top on the western boundary. No bridleways exist within the site. Parking is difficult and limited to a few cars on the grass verge on the B4295. The verge is located next to a red post box set in a stone wall approximately 550 metres south of the Llanrhidian holiday park entrance. The road is busy so care should be taken when getting in and out of your vehicle.
Significance
An important amenity site locally, with a route through the woodland to an adjacent popular landmark - Cilifor Top, the site of an iron-age hillfort.
Opportunities & Constraints
For visitors / walkers from afar, there are two major constraints (a) parking is limited to two cars (b) the woodland is not well signposted from the public highway. The woodland itself is of main interest to local residents.
Factors Causing Change
Frequent windblow blocking permissive footpath routes.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The site has free and open public access through a network of well-maintained paths and glades.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
The current network of paths will be maintained through periodic cutting of vegetation and clearance of windblown trees.. Current entrances and site furniture will be maintained in a welcoming and accessible condition.

4.2 f2 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description
Common Wood is an Ancient Woodland site in a prominent position on the northern Gower peninsula. Approximately half of the woodland was planted with Norway spruce in 1965 and is now categorised as a Planted Ancient Woodland

Site (PAWS). Large areas exist where the planted spruce has failed or has suffered from extensive windblow. As such, around one third of the site now has Norway spruce as the dominant canopy species. Due to the density of the conifer crop, little ancient woodland flora remains and is therefore threatened. Survival of ancient woodland remnants is better where the crop has failed or where windblow has occurred. The more open areas are dominated by dense bramble which has grown high over considerable quantities of windblown trees and timber that was felled in the past but not extracted. These impenetrable areas do, however, show promising signs of regeneration of young downy birch, willow and hazel. Three pre-plantation oaks of considerable age and biodiversity interest are located on the south west border of compartment 1a on the boundary between the spruce areas and the adjacent broadleaved compartment. A number of large felled oaks remain as dead wood - these were cut at the time of replanting in the mid-1960s.

Significance

Common Wood is located on the Gower peninsula, a part of Wales famous for its sandy beaches and where the percentage of woodland cover is below the national average. Most woodlands designated AWS or ASNW are small and fragmented and many are planted with Conifers or exotic broadleaves. The gradual restoration of Common Wood to a predominantly broadleaved woodland will improve biodiversity as well as visual (aesthetic) benefits internally and externally.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is significant potential to restore the woodland to predominantly native species - natural regeneration is abundant in the more open areas and flora typical of semi-natural and ancient woodland remains at the site. It is a prominent site in the local landscape and the areas of ancient-semi natural woodland adjoining the coniferised areas provide a ready source for the spread of site-native trees and shrubs.

The principal constraint is the lack of suitable access for site management. Access for contractors is currently limited to the narrow track in the northwest corner next to residential properties and this is only suitable for small vehicles. There is no suitable provision for the entrance or egress of timber harvesting machinery, timber stacking areas or access for timber lorries.

Central areas of the wood (in both the eastern and western halves) are susceptible to windblow. This has been exacerbated by the planting of Norway spruce, especially in some of the wetter areas but the impact of this could be limited considerably by supporting the development of the native species that are currently regenerating naturally.

Dormice are believed to be present in the woodland and surrounding landscape: a species licence may be required to undertake certain operations or methodologies adopted to avoid disturbance to this protected species.

Factors Causing Change

Maturing conifer, windblow, ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Over a series of three or four interventions, all large areas of dense Norway spruce will be felled in blocks every 5 years or so to allow the site to recover in between. These areas will be restocked with a combination of planted site-native trees and trees that have regenerated naturally. These cleared areas will therefore take on the character of young mixed broadleaved woodland. The wetter areas will be regenerating well with alder and willow. Downy birch, hazel and oak will have established on the drier ground from planted and regenerated stock. Some bramble-dominated areas

will remain untouched due to their value to ground nesting birds and the protection it offers to small mammals. Bramble in cleared areas will have to be controlled until canopy cover is achieved. Repeated thinning of the Norway spruce is not a viable option at this site due to the significant risk of windthrow within the PAWS areas.

Ancient woodland components will be secure and improving in condition. Norway spruce will remain a minor component of the woodland, but its regeneration will be controlled where it is deemed to pose a threat to ancient woodland flora or is growing to the detriment of preferred species. Once the woodland as a whole is broadleaf in character, it will be allowed to develop through natural processes.

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

Ancient woodland remnants and remaining broadleaved trees will be halo thinned. Subject to an investment in management access, a selected block of Norway spruce will be felled and restocked with site-native broadleaved trees. Windblown trees in the open areas will be harvested at the same time where possible, along with any accessible isolated conifers clumps vulnerable to windblow. A path through the impenetrable bramble in compartments 1a and 2a will be cut to allow access to these central areas. Year on year these paths can be widened to form glades. Small clumps of broadleaved tree and shrub species may be planted in these glades once they are large enough in order to supplement the considerable levels of natural regeneration.

4.3 f3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Two distinct areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) are present in Common Wood. The first is an area of fairly wet ground at the southern end of the wood (compartment 1b), planted with alder and with limited amounts of planted ash on the drier soils. Scattered sycamore is present and there is a good hazel understory, with some rowan regenerating. A diverse area of ASNW lies on neighbouring land adjoining the eastern boundary and a few large, pre-plantation oaks are scattered in the compartment.

The other area of ASNW lies in the eastern half of the wood (compartment 2b) which was part felled under previous ownership and restocked with ash and beech on the drier ground. Ash makes up around a third of the compartment, with the younger beech making up around a quarter. It includes an area of pre-plantation mature oaks with a hazel understory, a small area of semi-mature alder (and willow) on the wetter ground in the far eastern corner and several scattered pre-plantation sessile oaks and ash coppice stools. The ASNW areas also include the strip of broadleaves on the woodland's perimeter between the edges of the spruce areas and the site boundary (ash, sycamore, birch, with hazel, holly and elder understory). Birch and sycamore are also present to a lesser extent and the understory is very limited in the planted ash and beech. The wetter areas have a richer and more diverse ground flora, with a good population of bluebells in parts. In places along the northern boundary Rhododendron is established, but is not seeding into the site.

Significance

Both lowland mixed deciduous woodland and wet woodland are covered by a UK habitat action plan.
Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable biological resource.
The woodland is believed to provide habitat for the rare hazel dormouse, a protected species.

Opportunities & Constraints
There is an opportunity to manage the planted areas of ash and beech in the eastern half of the wood to increase the age and species diversity of the stands, although this is entirely depended on improving the management access to this area of the wood (and the site as a whole). In the wetter alder-dominated woodland at the southern end there is the opportunity to continue to leave it unserved by permissive paths and to allow natural process to continue under a minimum intervention regime. Protected species such as dormice must be considered when planning operations.
Factors Causing Change
Invasive rhododendron, Norway spruce regeneration ash dieback.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Areas under minimum intervention such as the wetter woodland of compartment 1b, the broadleaved perimeter woodland and the area of mature oak with hazel in compartment 2b will continue to develop by natural process to become mature high forest. Areas of planted ash and beech will have undergone successive thinnings and birch, sessile oak and hazel will form a greater component of the stands and so tree ages here will be more diverse. Beech will remain a component of the woodland but will not dominate any one part of the site.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Subject to the development of management access infrastructure, the areas of planted beech and ash will be thinned by hand and the timber extracted from site, perhaps under a firewood contract. Boundary fences will be inspected and maintained to keep the woodland free from grazing. There is scope to remove isolated Norway spruce (semi-mature and regen) from compartment 1b on a fell to waste basis if regen is seen to be negatively impacting preferred species.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2020	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	December
2020	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2021	CS - Silvicultural Agent's Fees	Use of external consultants/agents to support silvicultural operations – supervision, timber sales, roading etc	March
2021	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	May
2021	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	May
2021	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	May
2021	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2020	CS - Silvicultural Agent's Fees	Use of external consultants/agents to support silvicultural operations – supervision, timber sales, roading etc	September
2021	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	October
2022	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	May
2022	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	December
2023	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	February

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	5.21	Norway spruce	1965	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Area of pure Norway spruce, west of the small stream that bisects the wood. The January storms of 2014 opened up the canopy in places, and several areas of windblow were cleared and stacked in autumn 2014, along with some timber previously felled to waste. Because historic and more recent windblow, as well as timber from previous fellings, were not extracted, large areas are now dominated by tall, impenetrable bramble growing on the logs. Significant amounts of conifer deadwood together with smaller volumes of broadleaf deadwood are found on the ground but hidden by course vegetation. Despite the bramble, downy birch is regenerating well in these open areas, along with hazel and willow and alder on the wetter ground. Some of the broadleaved deadwood are oaks felled at the time the conifers were planted. Small Isolated pockets of ash and oak remain. Six large pre-plantation sessile oaks are present along the southern and southwestern boundary and are of high biodiversity value. . Some ancient woodland flora remains surrounding areas of broadleaves and where Norway spruce has failed. Ancient woodland flora is threatened under the dense spruce canopy.						
1b	3.3	Alder species	1965	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Area of broadleaves encircling the conifer west of the stream that bisects the woodland. At the southern end of the compartment, the ground is wet and here p1965 alder predominates, with some ash on the drier ground. The thin perimeter of broadleaved woodland surrounding the conifer in compartment 1a is either planted beech to the west with a limited understorey or ash, sycamore and birch with a hazel, holly and elder understory. Seven large pre-plantation oaks are present along the boundary with the spruce. Hazel is the dominant understory species and there is rich floristic interest, with bluebells abundant in parts. The alder canopy is relatively even-aged but has good understory development including rowan regeneration. Diverse ASNW on neighbouring land adjoins the eastern boundary.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
2a	2.74	Norway spruce	1965	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Area of pure Norway spruce, east of the small stream that bisects the wood. The January storms of 2014 opened up the canopy in places, and several areas of windblow were cleared and stacked in autumn 2014, along with some timber previously felled to waste. Because historic and more recent windblow, as well as timber from previous fellings, were not extracted, large areas are now dominated by tall, impenetrable bramble growing on the logs. Significant amounts of conifer deadwood together with smaller volumes of broadleaf deadwood are found on the ground but hidden by course vegetation. Despite the bramble, downy birch is regenerating well in these open areas, along with hazel and willow and alder on the wetter ground. Some of the broadleaved deadwood are oaks felled at the time the conifers were planted. Small Isolated pockets of ash, oak and some birch remain. Fewer ancient trees found on the boundary of this compartment. Some ancient woodland flora remains surrounding areas of broadleaves and where Norway spruce has failed. Ancient woodland flora is threatened under the dense spruce canopy.						
2b	4.96	Ash	1965	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Area of Broadleaf encircling the conifer east of the stream that bisects the woodland. An area of planted ash makes up around a third of the compartment, with an area of circa p1985 beech taking around a quarter. There is an area of mature oaks with a hazel understory which has a good woodland structure and several pre-plantation oaks and pre-plantation ash coppice stools are scattered throughout the compartment. A small area of semi-mature alder can be found in the far eastern corner on the wetter ground. The thin perimeter of broadleaved woodland on the outer edges of the spruce of compartment 2a comprises ash, sycamore and birch, with a hazel, holly and elder understory. The canopy is even-aged in the young planted beech area and in the area of planted ash. There is rich floristic interest in outwith the young ash and beech plantings.						

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.

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