

# Ipsden Heath

## (Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Management Plan Content Page

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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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

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

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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
  - 4.1 f1 Natural Secondary Woodland
  - 4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Ipsden Heath

|                        |                                      |      |            |          |    |          |       |     |     |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|----------|----|----------|-------|-----|-----|
| Location:              | Ipsden                               | Grid | reference: | SU664851 | OS | 1:50,000 | Sheet | No. | 175 |
| Area:                  | 12.72 hectares (31.43 acres)         |      |            |          |    |          |       |     |     |
| External Designations: | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty   |      |            |          |    |          |       |     |     |
| Internal Designations: | Ancient Woodland Restoration Project |      |            |          |    |          |       |     |     |

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Ipsden Heath is a 13 ha / 32 acre woodland in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) of the Oxfordshire Chilterns, between the villages of Nuffield and Stoke Row. Ipsden Heath is situated in the south of the Chilterns National Character Area (NCA 110), which is dominated by the Thames Valley which runs north east/south west along the south eastern side of the chalk escarpment. The landscape is predominantly rolling hills with extensive woodland (both natural and plantation) and agricultural land; mostly arable with some pasture, generally bounded by hedgerows providing good connectivity for woodland species. The AONB and NCA are important areas for the large population associated with the many villages, towns and cities north west of Greater London, providing food, water and recreation.

The woodland is composed of a mixture of mature oak, ash, cherry, beech and yew trees, ranging from around 80 to 200+ years of age. There are a small number of yew trees over 200 years old, scattered throughout the woodland. Some hazel and whitebeam are also present. There are some small blocks of non-native conifers (totalling around 1.2 ha) namely hemlock, Norway spruce, Douglas and grand fir, the majority of which was planted during the 1960's and 1970's. The broadleaf / conifer component ratio currently stands at around 90:10

Ipsden Heath has been managed and owned by the Woodland Trust since 1992. Ipsden Heath is part of a larger area of woodland and is bounded on two sides by minor roads. To the north an access track is the boundary and to the west is a substantial earth bank and ditch separating it from neighbouring woodland. The lack of fencing or significant physical barriers allows free movement of local wildlife.

It is thought that this was an area of wooded heath used as common land until around the 1850's when the first beech would have been planted. Although the site is not ancient woodland, it is bordered by ancient woodland to the west and east and does harbour some characteristic ancient woodland species, such as abundant bluebells, wood sorrel, enchanter's nightshade, herb robert, sweet woodruff and dog's mercury. The woodland lies on clay with flint soils which become progressively thinner and more calcareous towards the east and the south. The geology is predominantly Chilterns chalk.

Public access is via a series of both public rights of way and permissive footpaths, no access for horses or public vehicles is permitted. Parking is limited to a few pull in along the roadside and infrastructure is minimal, limited to a small number of squeeze gaps and associated welcome signs.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

The management of this site encompasses several criteria of The Woodland Trust's management approach, and will be:

- Managed to maintain intrinsic key features and reflect those of the surrounding landscape
- Managed to provide free, welcoming, accessible and safe public access for quiet, informal recreation
- Managed to retain heritage and cultural value, and old-growth / ancient trees will be retained for as long as possible

A minimal intervention approach will be deployed where possible. The only planned silvicultural operations will be associated with the removal of diseased ash trees where ash dieback has caused significant decline, making these trees potentially hazardous. Other individual trees will be made safe on the grounds of tree safety. Small scale restoration of conifer stands will also see hemlock and a small number of Douglas, grand fir and Norway spruce felled and extracted with a long-term aspiration of no regenerating non native conifers that threaten native woodland flora. Natural processes will help to shape the woodland so that it contains a diverse range of tree species across the age range. Gaps in the canopy will allow natural regeneration of native species. As the woodland matures, some broadleaved trees will be left to reach old age and decline naturally. Deadwood, both standing and fallen will be maintained to provide important niche habitats within the wood, of particular importance for native flora and fauna, including invertebrate and fungi species. These trees will only be felled if they pose a significant tree safety risk.

Naturally regenerating species include beech, English oak, and yew, with some rowan, and a shrub composition of hawthorn, blackthorn, holly and hazel. Whilst there is some ash regeneration, it is not proving to be successful due to ash dieback. These species will replace the declining beech and ash over time. After recent assessment, the Western hemlock within the woodland is an emerging threat to native flora regeneration, this is particularly true in compartment 1a and 1d, where Western hemlock is now actively regenerating. The previously thinned conifers, mostly Douglas fir, do provide some diversity to structure and habitat and are seen as a lesser threat, especially as these trees are in decline. The conifer component will require monitoring as these trees lose vitality and may require felling should they pose a hazard to site users.

Observations will be carried out to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland. As the impact of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is apparent across the site encouraging replacement species such as oak, cherry and yew will be important as will be retaining any ash showing tolerance to the disease. Other pests and diseases will be monitored and managed where necessary.

The public's enjoyment of the woodland will be sustained by maintaining an accessible and safe network of paths and rides. Entrances, parking pull ins, signage and benches will be maintained. The access provision will be monitored to ensure provision is adequate to the site usage as the local population increases.



## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Natural Secondary Woodland

| Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Ipsden Heath is predominantly natural secondary woodland, with some ancient woodland indicator species such as bluebell, wood sorrel and enchanters' nightshade. Approximately 90% of the site is National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W14 beech-oak woodland with bramble and contains a mixture of mature oak, ash, cherry, beech, and yew trees, ranging from around 80 to 200+ years of age. The woodland is thought to have naturally grown on the site of what was once a wooded common, with the conifer species (Douglas and grand fir, Norway spruce and western hemlock) planted in the 1960's and 70's.</p> <p>Natural regeneration of beech is widespread, but impacted by deer browsing. Ash is failing to regenerate in significant numbers due to ash dieback being present on site.</p> <p>The three small conifer areas (compartments 1b, 1c &amp; 1d) totalling 1.2 ha, have been thinned gradually over the last decade and only pose a limited threat by shading of the broadleaf regeneration and ground flora. This threat is mainly from the western hemlock and its ability to regenerate freely.</p> |
| Significance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>This woodland is important as it is characteristic of the Chilterns wooded commons. The Chilterns are heavily wooded with circa 21% of total land being wooded, and of that 60% is designated as ancient semi natural woodland. Many of these wooded commons used to be worked as a local source of wood products and grazing pasture for commoners.</p> <p>This long-established site holds many plants which are more characteristic of ancient woodlands, and so should be treated as equally important in terms of biodiversity. It is also surrounded by designated ancient woodland and so over time ancient native flora has spread to the site. It also forms an important secure buffer to this surrounding ancient woodland.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Opportunities & Constraints                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Constraints:</p> <p>There is some steep ground in the dry valley to the north west of the site which limits forestry operations.</p> <p>Timber quality is low-grade and low volume making operations uneconomic.</p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <p>There are some mature to late-mature oak, beech and yew to be retained as future old growth trees. As the number of</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| ash trees fall the openings created will allow for natural regeneration of other native tree species. The dead wood left as these trees fail or are felled will provide a deadwood habitat for saprophytic woodland flora and fauna.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Factors Causing Change</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>Deer damage is significant and limiting natural regeneration considerably. Deer control is in place, but the impact of high numbers is clear to see, with browse lines visible across the site.</p> <p>Change in species composition due to tree diseases e.g. ash dieback. The majority of the remaining ash is roadside, mature, and in decline due to ash dieback, managing these will be a priority to avoid risk of failure.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| The secondary woodland should be predominantly broadleaved in character with a few stands of open-canopied, mature specimen conifers retained for enhanced diversity and structure. There will be a range of age-classes from scrub to maturing high forest. The woodland will be for the most part allowed to develop naturally towards more semi-natural woodland characteristics with a range of site-native broadleaved tree species, including oak, beech, silver birch, rowan, field maple, holly and ash where it survives. All areas should be developing some natural characteristics with structural and species diversity and planted compartments will have lost most of their original plantation characteristics.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>During the next 5-year plan period, work to manage diseased ash trees will continue. Silvicultural operations will be required to ensure any threat posed by non-native conifers species is negated. Illegal access by horses and off-road vehicles will be further limited. Impact of deer will be monitored and numbers controlled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roadside (Zone A) ash trees will be removed where trees are showing advanced decline due to ash dieback. These trees are to be removed by 28 Feb 2024.</li> <li>- Ash trees that are within falling distance of the path network (Zone B) will also be removed where they are showing advanced decline, removal will be completed by 28 Feb 2024.</li> <li>- A silvicultural operation will be required to remove a stand of western hemlock in compartments 1a and 1d, net felling area not more than 0.5 hectare, to limit its impact on native woodland flora. Work will be completed by the end of winter 2023/24. Removal of canopy trees and regenerating saplings will be required to eliminate the threat posed.</li> <li>- Deer assessments will continue to be carried out once every 5 years, midway through the plan period. This is in order to determine the long-term impact of deer browsing pressure on the woodland and whether the deer management contract should be continued or adjusted, in order to maintain a level of sustainable browsing, which is not adversely impacting natural regeneration.</li> <li>- Tree safety inspections will be carried out annually within the Zone A tree safety zone and every two years in the Zone B (once the ash component is no longer deemed to be a risk to safety zones).</li> <li>- To ensure site security and damage prevention, access routes that are illegally used by horses and vehicles will be blocked. Action will be taken as and when these routes are identified as a problem.</li> </ul> |

## 4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>There is a one public footpath running north/south through the wood (public footpath No.37), as well as several permissive paths. The site receives only occasional visitors. The site is classed as an Access Category C site which entails one scheduled maintenance visit per year.</p> <p>Parking is limited to just a couple of small informal roadside pull ins. Welcome signs, squeeze gaps and benches are the only onsite furniture.</p> <p>Ipsden Heath is an old wooded common with links to the wider countryside via footpaths and permissive routes, in spring and summer a good show of native woodland flora can be seen, including abundant bluebells.</p> |
| <b>Significance</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>It provides a quiet area for walking and recreation for local people, especially during the spring and summer when woodland flowers are in proliferation. Links into the wider woodlands of the area means the site can be walked as part of a more extensive outing. Some large, older trees can be seen across the site and spring flowers are well known locally.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Constraints:</p> <p>Vehicular parking spaces on the boundaries are limited.</p> <p>The terrain is steep in places and some of the paths difficult to navigate, particularly in adverse weather conditions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Factors Causing Change</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes in vegetation along rides as footfall increases.</li> <li>- Use of site by horse-riders / unauthorised vehicles.</li> <li>- Populations are increasing locally likely leading to higher visitor numbers, which in turn could have a detrimental impact on woodland flora.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>The paths will be kept safe for quiet, recreational pedestrian access to the woodland.</p> <p>The site should be accessible and safe but not over-managed with excessive infrastructure and signage.</p> <p>Manage access and site use to ensure increased foot fall does not lead to biodiversity loss.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>The paths will be kept open all year around for pedestrian visitors to the woodland, and all paths will be cut back to approx. 3m in width, ensuring overhanging branches and failed trees are also dealt with.</p> <p>Marked entrances will have vegetation managed, signs cleaned, and minor repairs carried out.</p> <p>Litter will be removed from entrances and paths.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

| Year | Type Of Work                  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Due Date |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 2022 | WMM - General Site Management | Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,                                                                                                                                                                                    | December |
| 2023 | WMM - Secondary Silviculture  | Works associated with silvicultural operations within secondary woods to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors | November |
| 2023 | WMM - General Site Management | Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,                                                                                                                                                                                    | November |
| 2024 | WMM - General Site Management | Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,                                                                                                                                                                                    | November |
| 2026 | WMM - General Site Management | Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,                                                                                                                                                                                    | November |

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Area (ha) | Main Species   | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints | Designations                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 11.85     | Beech          | 1901 | High forest       |                              | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| This compartment covers most of the site. It is made up of predominantly mature to over mature beech, oak, ash and cherry trees with some scattered old yew trees and holly bushes. Bramble, bluebell, bracken and dogs mercury are growing mainly at the eastern and southern ends of the compartment. |           |                |      |                   |                              |                                    |
| 1b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 0.36      | Mixed conifers | 1960 | PAWS restoration  |                              | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| A small plantation of grand fir, planted around 1960. The ground flora is sparse, but has some typical ancient woodland indicator species.                                                                                                                                                              |           |                |      |                   |                              |                                    |
| 1c                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 0.12      | Norway spruce  | 1975 | PAWS restoration  |                              | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| A small plantation of red oak and Norway spruce which was planted around 1975 amongst several mature oak trees.                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |                |      |                   |                              |                                    |
| 1d                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 0.67      | Ash            | 1975 | PAWS restoration  |                              | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| A mixed stand containing ash and oak, with a component of conifers (Norway spruce and western hemlock).                                                                                                                                                                                                 |           |                |      |                   |                              |                                    |

### **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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