

# Crawford's Wood

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



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](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

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GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Crawford's Wood

Location:	Aspull	Grid	reference:	SD605081	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	109
Area:	19.96 hectares (49.32 acres)								
External Designations:	Community Forest, Green Belt								
Internal Designations:	Welcoming Sites Programme								

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Crawford's wood is located on the west side of the village of Aspull, close to the town of Wigan in Greater Manchester. Two other Woodland Trust sites Lady Mabel's Wood and Kirkless Wood can be found nearby. The land to the east and the south is mainly housing and the land to the west and the north is improved pasture.

The site is mostly flat with a moderate gradient and SW aspect in the north and eastern sections. The site has two seasonal ponds and the local soil type is dominated by slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils. Approximately 54% of the area is new plantation (11.1Ha) the remaining area (9.1ha) is a mixture of rides, paths and open grassland. The planting undertaken in 1996 consists of oak and ash with wild cherry, alder, silver birch, rowan and woody shrubs such as hazel, guelder rose, dog rose, and hawthorn. To reflect the species in the nearby Haigh Plantations small stands of lime and horse chestnut have also been planted. Open ground habitat and New Native Woodland are Key Features of the site.

Prior to Woodland Trust ownership the recent management of the site has been as pasture. The local geology comprises of middle coal measures/strata overlain with boulder clay, a fault in the strata runs just to the north of the bridle path. Consequently like much of the local area mining has affected the landscape and ground conditions. Records suggest the existence of a capped mineshaft in the area just west of the management access off Manor Grange (exact location is unknown). Further capped shafts lie adjacent to the western boundary. The southern meadow area was mined for topsoil, gravel and clay deposits in 1969 and backfilled with waste and scrapings (clay and sandstone) derived from construction works on the M61.

The site is popular with dog walkers and ramblers and due to its urban fringe location is accessible to a large number of people. Many of the footpaths crossing the site link to public rights of way and open areas such as Haigh Hall Country Park and the Leeds Liverpool canal towpath. Connecting people with woods and trees is a Key Feature of the site.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

Crawford's Wood will be allowed to grow and develop naturally, as a refuge for wildlife. The wood will be managed as high forest of mixed broadleaves, including non-native trees common to the local area. It will be managed predominantly as a landscape and conservation feature.

The development of natural secondary woodland will be promoted through the encouragement of any further areas of natural regeneration, on areas not designated as long-term open spaces. Gaps will be created in the canopy due to trees naturally reaching senescence and tree safety operations. Thinning work will also occur across the site to help diversify the age/species structure of the site and to promote stand stability.

At this current time (2022) there appears no practical rationale for maintaining the open space, the meadow area is wet making it very difficult to mow, the domination of juncus reed means the hay crop would be of no value or use. Heavy disturbance by dogs means that the area is of no value to ground nesting birds. Therefore the open areas will be managed as transitional habitats and allowed to scrub up and eventually succeed to woodland over a long period of time.

The present network of open access for pedestrian use which consists of 2500 metres of permissive unsurfaced paths, 440 metres of permissive bridleway and seven formal entrances will be maintained through a regular mowing regime in the summer months under the sites Estates Maintenance Contract. Our aim will be to increase public usage through the promotion of the site locally and regionally (for example through Manchester City of Tree's literature).

Statutory obligations will continue to be met with respect to managing tree safety and ensuring public access via the permissive path & permissive bridleway network.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 F1 Connecting People with woods & trees

#### Description

This site is part of the Welcoming Sites Programme, which aims to improve the visitor experience to this site. The Welcoming Site Programme will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that will improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to the wood. An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths will further encourage the appreciation of the woodland both on the site and in the locality. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme and will provide a clear welcome: entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors. The site will be a truly valued resource in the local community and well respected.

#### Its position in the landscape

Crawford's Wood is located on the north-western edge of the small town of Aspull. Approximately 2.5 miles from the town centre of Wigan, it is bounded to the east by housing and the B5238 Wigan Road. To the west is open grassland and beyond the historic woodlands of Haigh Hall—a listed building and historic grounds, built in the early 1800's for the 7th Earl of Balcarres, now managed as a hotel and leisure facilities (Metropolitan Borough of Wigan)

#### General description of the access

The site is well used and has approximately 2.5km of formal and informal paths, 440m of permissive bridle path and seven public entrance points linking the compartments to Aspull, other local footpaths and Bridleways, and to Upper Wood at Haigh Country Park. The paths and access offer circular and through walks and provide easy access to site features. Crawford's Wood was planted as community woodland and is part of the Red Rose Forest.

#### The visitor profile

The majority of visitors to the woodland are locals within easy walking or driving distance, offering very easy access for local people to enjoy informal recreation and access to nature very close to where they live. Many of the visitors walk further afield making use of the extensive path and bridleway network and the adjoining mature woodlands

#### Events, activities and volunteering

There are currently no people engagement events planned for Crawfords Wood and it does not have any formal volunteer group, although there are volunteer and friends of groups that operate at Haigh Hall and also nearby on the Leeds Liverpool Canal (Canal and Rivers Trust). Volunteers from the Woodland Trust Smithills Estate occasionally visit.

#### Nearby Woodland Trust sites

Crawford's Wood is part of a complex of establishing native woodlands around the Wigan area, including Lady Mabel's Wood and Kirkless Wood. All three woodlands are accessible from one to another via footpaths and bridleways and with the Haigh Hall Country Park form an almost continuous accessible green space. The largest site in England for the



Woodland Trust sites nearby at Bolton – Smithills Estate
<b>Significance</b>
In accordance with the Woodland Trusts general aims the site is open to the public for quiet informal pedestrian activities. It is part of the Red Rose Forest, and its juxtaposition alongside Haigh Hall Country Park and close to the village of Aspull means that it extends the opportunities available for informal recreation both locally and in the heavily populated and urban area of Greater Manchester.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>A lack of car parking provision at the site will always limit the number of visitors to the wood. Visitors are on the whole likely to be local people who have walked from the nearby housing estate. The site is also permanently wet and the path network which is unsurfaced is likely to limit the visitor experience over large parts of the wood at that time of year. The high usage and close proximity of an urban population also mean that the site is subject to fairly intense use during the summer months, at which times “use” can manifest itself as miss-use and over-use. Wear and tear on open spaces; disturbance of wildlife by dogs; fires; den building; vandalism; unauthorised motor bike access and fly tipping are perennial problems in urban woodlands that need to be taken into consideration when creating or improving access.</p> <p>The site offers great potential for engagement with volunteers and community woodland groups. There could be potential to develop the wood allotment model or similar and there is also possible local business opportunities linked to coppicing, wood fuel, charcoal and events / training. The sites close proximity to a large population coupled with its habitat value and management requirements will provide excellent opportunities for use by local interest, field study, and volunteer groups, and will give rise to opportunities during public consultation to present and explain the Trusts overall aims. There may be opportunities to develop wider volunteer partnerships with the nearby Woodland Trust Smithills Estate as well as other organisations such as the Canal and Rivers Trust. There is an opportunity to improve the welcome, with a revamp of the entire site signage, waymarking and existing entrances. The short term upgrades in infrastructure, trails and on site interpretation would support the needs of the local visitor groups, as well as providing potential development opportunities for events, volunteering and community engagement. Given the size of the site and range of habitats and areas there is also potential for engagement with volunteers and community woodland groups, as well as the potential to develop areas dedicated to forest Schools without having any major impact on the site or other users. Woodland Trust Schools schemes (Green Tree Schools, DEFRA and People Postcode Lottery programmes) should be encouraged to make use of the wood, and there could be potential for developing an onsite education area and resources.</p>
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
Anti-social problems, such as litter, fly-tipping, vandalism and illegal camp fires occur occasionally and are difficult to tackle proactively. Pressure from bridleway users to extend the existing network beyond the existing permissive path are on-going. Increased numbers of visitors would require significantly improved infrastructure on the site and greater engagement capacity with visitors, volunteers, and community engagement. The wood does require a greater level of annual maintenance, with a periodic (maximum 10 year) refurbishment of the entire welcome facilities, utilising bespoke and robust infrastructure.
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>

The woodland will provide an extensive area of native broadleaved woodland, for quiet informal recreation to a wide range of users both from the local community and from further afield (visitors linking a visit to the woodland and Haigh Hall Country Park). The use of the site will be promoted through positive relationships locally with neighbouring tourist destination sites, with good signage and interpretation.

Entrances and signage will have a welcoming appearance and there will be a network of well-maintained paths providing a range of circular routes suitable for walkers with viewpoints over a range of varied habitat types. Interpretation or waymarking that is integrated with, or complements existing routes and tourist opportunities will provide visitors with information on directions and points of interest.

The use of the site for education will have increased, and linked with other Woodland Trust sites in the area, will have a sustainable events and schools programme established, including demonstrations and workshops, and as an educational and recreational resource. Volunteering would ideally be active and linked to or complement the activity locally and at Haigh Hall.

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

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines. Achieved by ensuring that:

Entrances & signage are welcoming to visitors and well maintained (annually).

All managed paths are kept well-drained and free from encroaching vegetation by strimming, and that access features (e.g. bridges, steps, entrances, boundary features, etc. are kept in good order (annually).

The site is kept safe and welcoming by: repair of vandalism (when needed); clearing of fallen or dangerous trees where access is obstructed (as needed); and regular site safety surveys (as per risk assessment).

The visitor welcome & experience will be further enhanced by the following infrastructure improvements by the end of the current plan period:

Significant improvement to the welcome signage, including replacement of the existing signs, and potentially waymarkers at key locations through the woodland. Minor entrances will be formalised with a consistent access standard (eg kissing gate and named welcome and exit signs)

The network of paths will be maintained at least once per plan period, with a more regular maintenance (surfacing and drainage) of the permissive surfaced route.

Furniture, including feature benches, information points will be maintained annually or as required.

New volunteer activity and volunteer roles will be developed and encouraged, where the opportunities arise, although these are unlikely to be proactively developed.

Identified areas of the woodland will be available for education, with forest schools and other local user groups suited

to the aims and objectives of the Woodland Trust will be encouraged wherever possible.

## 4.2 F2 New Native Woodland

### Description

Approximately 54% (11.1Ha) of the area is new plantation (planted winter 1996/97) with a few remnant sections of hedgerow. The young plantings are in large blocks of mixed native broadleaves interspersed with rides and open ground. Made soils and poor drainage during wet summers made establishment of the trees difficult to begin with and some areas were beat up on a regular basis. However the young plantation is now fully established.

### Significance

The creation of new native species woodland is one of the Woodland Trusts core objectives. Crawford's Wood lies close to existing mature mixed oak, beech and ash plantations on Haigh Country Park and serves to compliment and diversify woodland structure and habitat variety in the local area. On a regional scale woodland cover is below the national average, Crawford's Wood was planted as part of the regions Red Rose Forest initiative designed to increase and enhance woodland cover across the Greater Manchester.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The plantation has a complex mix of trees with widely different growth rates, forms, tolerances and growth requirements, all planted in a mosaic of small stands. The planted trees growth rate is acceptable and the site has now taken on the appearance of young woodland.

The site is on the whole abutted by farmland and housing , hence the sites ecological value will always be limited due to a lack of surrounding semi natural habitats.

An opportunity exists during public consultation and media coverage to incorporate and re-familiarise the local populating with the Woodland Trusts aims and objectives.

### Factors Causing Change

Tree disease particularly ash dieback.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The aim is to create a high forest of mixed predominantly native broadleaves The wood will be managed predominantly as a recreational and landscape feature. Regeneration of both natives and non-native species will be accepted.

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

Active thinning work will be carried out during the current plan period (2022-2027) to ensure a diverse mix of trees in terms of both species and age structure of the woodland.

Undertake tree safety inspections as part of the site risk assessment regime for public safety in high risk zones (i.e. by buildings, footpaths and roads) and carry out any remedial work identified. remove accumulations of litter & fly tipping

as necessary - to be done via the Estates Maintenance Contract 3 visits per calendar year.

Carry out a Woodland Condition Assessment towards the end of the current plan period to assess the health and resilience of the woodland including the mix of species and natural regeneration, to monitor threats from tree disease, pests, non-native invasive species and to take appropriate action where necessary.

### 4.3 F3 Open Ground Habitat

#### Description

Approximately 9.1 hectares (46%) of the site has been left as open ground. The eastern half of the site contains a large meadow and firebreak (between the plantations and St David's Crescent) with two small ponds located centrally. A large meadow area also exists in the southern half of the site. The area supports a variety of grassland communities from wet flushes totally dominated by rush, to mixed meadow grass sward dominated by red fescue (seeded in 1996). The southern meadow was mined for top soil, gravel and clay deposits in 1969 and back filled with waste and scrapings the resultant soil is shallow and graded as made land with very poor drainage, and despite an annual hay cut since 1997 is now 80% rush bed. Four small ponds were also created on site in 2011.

#### Significance

The open meadow area to the south of the site is thought to be suitable habitat for winter wading birds, although no survey work has ever been carried out. Through allowing natural development in the wetter areas and managing for structural variety along the woodland marginal zones the Trust can further diversify the sites habitat value.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Despite a regime of annual hay cuts, a number of large wet flushes and a succession of wet summers in the 1990's has led to colonisation of much of the area by rush's degrading the value of the hay produced. The opportunity exist to further diversify the habitat within the site by letting these areas develop naturally to scrubland and further tree planting could also occur. Unfortunately high usage by dog walkers compromises the value of many areas for nesting birds.

#### Factors Causing Change

Development of scrub.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Manage the open space as a transitional habitat allowing scrub woodland to develop.

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

The open ground will be allowed naturally to transition to a scrubland area via natural regeneration with annual grass cutting limited to pedestrian specification and along the back of St David's Crescent. The open space could also provide opportunities for enrichment planting as a reaction to ash disease or through involvement with local communities through existing Woodland Trust initiatives.



## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	May
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	July
2022	LC - Fly Tipping	Works associated with removing fly tipped waste – one off /unplanned litter and rubbish removal	August
2022	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	August
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	October
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	May

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	September
2026	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	November

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	20.2	Ash	1997	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, null, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Community Forest, Green Belt
<p>Compartment 1A consists of 54% new woodland plantation and 46% open ground and rides (11.1ha &amp; 9.1ha respectively). The woodland blocks were planted in 1997, in small complex stands of native woodland species, the mix was made more complex by high losses and subsequent beat-up during establishment. The plantings are dominated by oak and ash with, wild cherry, birch, alder, rowan, goat willow, small leaved lime and a variety of woodland shrubs mainly hazel, dog rose and guelder rose. The open ground supports a variety of grassland communities from areas dominated by rush to mixed meadow grasses. The compartment has a slight to moderate gradient with a southwest aspect and poor drainage across its south-western and northern slopes. The compartment is bounded by housing to the east and south and farmland to the west and north. The intricate mosaic of woodland blocks and open space make it difficult to separate the habitats into distinct compartments. Furthermore the open space is a transitional habitat which is slowly been colonised by trees and will eventually develop into broadleaved woodland itself.</p>						



### **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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