

Views Wood (The Williams Wood) (Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

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

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

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
 - 4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Views Wood (The Williams Wood)

Location:	Uckfield	Grid	reference:	TQ481224	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	198
Area:	24.72 hectares (61.08 acres)								
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Article IV Directive (Southern Section), Tree Preservation Order								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Views Wood is a large ancient semi-natural woodland situated on the northern edge of the East Sussex Low Weald, between the town of Uckfield and the Buxted Park estate, to which it originally belonged. The Low Weald National Character Area (NCA) of East Sussex is an area of low lying, mainly pastoral agriculture and woodland on heavy clay soils. Woodland accounts for 16% of this landscape with almost half being ancient (defined as existing since at least 1600AD). The Woodland Trust acquired 61 acres (24.7ha) of the southern part of the wood in 1986, which was part-funded by a generous donation from Mr Hugh Williams to whom the wood is dedicated.

The wood provides public access mainly for the residents of the Manor Park housing estate, which borders the wood to the south-west. A public footpath links Manor Park to Buxted Park which adjoins the eastern boundary. The paths and rides within the wood are well used and as a result, some have been surfaced to provide all-weather access.

The wood is dominated by sweet chestnut coppice with frequent oak and sweet chestnut standards. There are good displays of woodland spring flowers such as bluebells, wild garlic and wood anemones. There is an area of wet woodland with alder and willow to the south-east of the wood with good displays of marsh marigolds. The wood was severely damaged in the Great Storm of 1987 with coppice stools and standards being blown. This accelerated the already heavy infestation of cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*). A programme of work to remove these non-native, invasive species began in the winter of 2002/2003 when they covered approximately 15% of the site. The vast majority of these species has now been removed with just the occasional seedling left.

Sweet chestnut in the wood is being affected by ink disease (*Phytophthora* spp) which is causing many coppice stools to die back. Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) has also been present since at least 2015. The whole site is covered by a Tree Preservation Order issued in 1990.

The site is gently undulating except where crossed by small streams which flow towards the north-east before joining a tributary stream of the River Uck in adjoining Buxted Park. The Park is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) noted for its grassland, veteran trees and associated invertebrate assemblages. The underlying geology of the wood consists of Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand with slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage, which results in seasonal waterlogging.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The key features of Views Wood are ancient semi-natural woodland and connecting people with woods and trees. The long term policy is that it will remain semi-natural broadleaved woodland with a range of tree species appropriate to the topography and location of the site. The woodland should have structural diversity, a range of age-classes of trees and significant deadwood for biodiversity. Ancient woodland indicator species such as bluebell and wood anemone should be present across the site. The wood will be free of damaging non-native, invasive species such as rhododendron and cherry laurel.

Native or naturalised broadleaved tree species will dominate the canopy, with sweet chestnut which is currently the most common species in the wood, largely being replaced in the long term. Species such as oak, birch and sycamore will be present along with other species such as holly, alder and willow. It is likely that the current small percentage of ash present on the site will be reduced due to ash dieback killing trees and the need to undertake remedial works to ensure the wood remains safe and accessible will continue.

A policy of minimum silvicultural intervention (ie no systematic coppicing or thinning) across the majority of the site will allow long-lived species such as oak to develop veteran tree characteristics and canopy gaps to form due to disease and windblow of coppice stools. Recruitment of replacement trees in these gaps will be by natural regeneration and coppice regrowth rather than by planting.

Regular ongoing management of the site will be required however to encourage structural diversity, to remove and control invasive species and maintain the rides for public access and conservation. Considered management will be in the form of ride-side coppicing to allow the development of early successional habitats (temporary open ground and scrub) whilst still ensuring appropriate light levels to avoid heavy bramble growth and to allow woodland plants to flourish.

Views Wood will be an important local natural amenity, visited predominantly by people living within walking distance of the site. Infrastructure and maintenance will be in keeping with this high level of use but appropriate to an ancient woodland site.

The site will continue to provide a natural buffer between the expanding urban landscape of Uckfield and the ecologically important Buxted Park (SSSI) and the River Uck.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Views Wood has a typical coppice with standards structure and approximates to National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W10b woodland - oak/bracken/bramble (Anemone nemorosa subcommunity). Coppice is predominantly sweet chestnut with some hazel, birch and sycamore. Standards are pedunculate oak, sweet chestnut and occasionally beech. The sweet chestnut is increasingly being affected by ink disease, leading to the death of coppice stools and standards. Ancient woodland ground flora typical of this community is well represented and includes bluebell, wood anemone and yellow archangel. The wetter areas of the wood along the streams and valleys contain alder, crack and goat willow, ash and birch. Ground flora in these areas includes marsh marigolds, wild garlic, dog's mercury, woodrush and ferns.

Previously the wood was extensively invaded by rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). The issue was greatly accelerated after the Great Storm of 1987 which caused extensive windblow of coppice stools and standard trees within the wood. This led to layering and new growth of these densely shading shrubs. The majority of these invasive non-native species has now been removed with just the occasional seedling present.

There are a number of large old conifers (mainly larch and Douglas fir) scattered throughout the wood as well as one Chinese fir which are now noticeable landscape trees. These are probably the result of Victorian 'improvements' to the wood, similar to the introduction of cherry laurel and rhododendron. .

Since owning the wood, the Woodland Trust has coppiced small areas of chestnut as well as coppicing along much of the ride network.

Significance

The amount of ancient woodland left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. Approximately 40% of England's ancient woodland is found in the south-east. This habitat is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodlands.

Views Wood is a large block of ancient semi-natural woodland in a heavily wooded area but where woodland has become increasingly fragmented. Larger areas of woodland are more likely to be able to withstand external pressures such as climate change, with predicted more extreme weather events. Ancient woodland is irreplaceable - protection and restoration of this habitat are two of the main aims of the Woodland Trust..

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:-
TPO covering the whole site.

Poor access to and within the site for timber extraction.
Soils prone to waterlogging.

Opportunities

- Partnership working with flood alleviation projects in the Uck catchment.

Factors Causing Change

- Ink disease of sweet chestnut. High impact as the dominant species within the site.
- Ash dieback. Low impact due to small ash population.
- Deer browsing of coppice regrowth and natural regeneration. Medium impact (as of 2024).
- Invasive rhododendron/cherry laurel (mostly eradicated). Low impact with ongoing monitoring and intervention as necessary.
- Invasive Himalayan balsam. Low impact with annual control.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To allow a more natural broadleaved woodland to develop with a varied age structure including large veteran trees and standing and fallen deadwood as a result of the derelict coppice collapsing through age and disease. Broadleaved trees will naturally regenerate in gaps formed by fallen trees and existing oak standards will become veteran trees. Species composition will change as disease reduces the dominance of sweet chestnut and reduces ash to a rare component of the canopy. Natural regeneration of replacement trees will not be adversely impacted by deer browsing.

The site will be free from invasive non-native species. Areas previously dominated by rhododendron and cherry laurel will be closed-canopy native broadleaves with ancient woodland ground flora recolonising successfully. Himalayan balsam will be absent or in very small quantities where invasion from neighbouring land is beyond the control of the WT.

There will be a managed element of permanent and temporary open ground and scrub/coppice regrowth from ride and glade management which will also benefit public access. The wood will continue to have a role as part of the catchment of the River Uck, having the capacity to slow some water flow during very wet weather.

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

During the 5-year plan period there will be a work programme to manage the ride network (for access and habitat), control remaining invasive species and monitor the impact of deer.

- Annual 2-zone ride management programme along a total of approx 800m. 2024-29.
- Annual control of Himalayan balsam (0.1ha) by hand-pulling.
- Annual check for rhododendron/cherry laurel regrowth and seedlings and follow up control as necessary. Less than 0.1ha in total across site.
- Repeat herbivore impact assessments 2026 and 2028.
- Full woodland condition assessment in spring 2029 to inform the next management plan review.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Views Wood is a WT access category A high usage site (regularly used at all times of year, more than approx 20 people using one entrance every day). It is located next to the Manor Park housing estate on the edge of the town of Uckfield (population: 15,033 in 2021). The wood is heavily used by local people mainly for dog walking. Due to its location and limited parking most visitors arrive on foot.

There are many paths throughout the wood (totalling 5.6km in length) including a public footpath to Buxted Park. There are 6 access points from Manor Park and 2 from Buxted Park, mostly squeeze gaps. Due to the soils and terrain some parts of the wood become very muddy during wet weather. In response to this approximately 1km of the path network was surfaced in 2011. Most of the entrances and signage was upgraded in 2021. There is an information board at the main entrance and a waymarked route through the wood which links to Buxted Park and the railway station (responsibility of East Sussex County Council Rights of Way department).

Views Wood provides a high quality, easily-accessible greenspace for the local population. Being ancient semi-natural woodland it is also of high conservation value, providing year-round interest with its displays of spring flowers, varied habitats for birds and insects and autumn colours and fungi.

Significance

Views wood provides a large area of open public access on an urban fringe. It is accessible on foot by a large number of people - in excess of 6000 living within 1km. It has been proven that access to woodland provides an improved quality of life with benefits to both mental and physical health. Increasing public understanding and enjoyment of woodland is one of the main aims of the Trust and allowing free access is crucial to this. The wood provides a link to access in the wider countryside beyond.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:-

Poorly-drained soils, exacerbated by heavy use and shading, means unsurfaced routes can be difficult to negotiate during wet weather.

Lack of parking limits visitors travelling by car.

Factors Causing Change

- Increase in visitor numbers leading to damage to unsurfaced paths, trampling of ancient woodland ground flora and disturbance to wildlife.

- Anti-social behaviour including littering, dog issues and vandalism.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

As part of the Woodland Trust's vision for a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife, Views Wood will continue to provide free, safe and enjoyable access for the local population to experience a well-cared for ancient woodland.

There will be a well-maintained and safe network of paths and rides with a variety of aspects - from narrow shaded paths to open, wide rides. Access infrastructure and signage will remain low-key and appropriate to the ancient

woodland setting. The surfaced rides will be maintained to provide easy all-weather access but their extent is unlikely to be expanded.

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

During this plan period visitor access will be maintained across the site with an appropriate management regime.

- Biannual path cut in June and September. Includes approx 5.6km of rides, 8 entrance points and along 270m of boundary between Cpt 3 and Manor Park (trim vegetation and cut hedge).
- Annual safety check on site infrastructure: 6 footbridges; 1 culvert; 3 benches; 2 management gates; 1 kissing gate.
- Annual Zone A tree safety survey along boundary with Manor Park and rugby pitch. Alternate autumn and summer surveys.
- Biennial Zone B tree safety survey along all maintained paths within the wood. Due 2026 and 2028.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	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,	June
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2024	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
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
2024	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
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,	June
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	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

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
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,	June
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	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	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2027	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,	June
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2027	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
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2028	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,	June
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
2028	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
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2028	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2029	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	11.96	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This is the most northern part of the wood in WT ownership, adjoining the remainder of Views Wood to the N. This boundary is marked by a post and wire fence. To the W the boundary is along an old track way, and to the S is marked by fencing and concrete post. The E boundary is formed by rides within the wood. Predominantly sweet chestnut coppice last cut in c1985. Sycamore and hazel coppice are also present, with hazel, willow and alder present along the small seasonal stream which crosses this part of the wood flowing in a NE direction. A majority of the rhododendron which was present throughout the subcpt has been cleared. There is an area of re-coppiced chestnut (approx 0.4ha) in the centre of the subcpt and an area (approx 1.2ha) in the NE coppiced in 1999.</p>						
2a	6.13	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Sweet chestnut coppice with some oak, sweet chestnut and beech standards, previously heavily infested with rhododendron and cherry laurel. An area of approximately 1ha was mulched in 2002 and restocked with oak in 2008. The S edge of the subcpt along the public footpath was cleared and replanted with mixed broadleaves in 1991. This area also contains much birch regeneration. There is a very large mature beech tree next to the public footpath at the E end of the subcpt. The E boundary is with Buxted Park.</p>						
3a	6.63	Sweet chestnut	1900	Coppice	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Other, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Mixed coppice with oak & sweet chestnut standards. Coppice consists predominantly of sweet chestnut with hazel, rowan, birch, hornbeam, sycamore and goat willow also in the understorey. There is also dense holly in the understorey particularly along the N boundary of the subcpt along the public footpath. There is a seasonal stream which runs into a wet area with willow and alder along the NE boundary of the wood, adjoining Buxted Park. There are various narrow informal paths through this subcpt. The main public and management access points into the</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>wood are situated on the SW boundary with Manor Park at the end of a cul de sac off Nevill Road. To the SE the wood adjoins Uckfield Rugby Club's ground.</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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