

Greyfield Wood

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



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 Connecting People with woods & trees
 - 4.2 f2 Natural Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Greyfield Wood

Location:	High Littleton, NE Somerset Grid reference: ST636583 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 172
Area:	36.23 hectares (89.53 acres)
External Designations:	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
Internal Designations:	Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Greyfield Wood is a well visited, semi-natural secondary woodland, with areas of plantation woodland and some ancient woodland characteristic flora throughout. It is situated on the edge of the village of High Littleton, 2 miles north of Midsomer Norton, 7 miles south-east of Bath, and 10 miles south of Bristol. Part of National Character Area (NCA) 118 Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges.

The woodland is predominantly secondary ash with oak and hazel, with areas of conifer, beech and sweet chestnut plantation. It was mined for coal in the 17th and 19th Centuries. Map evidence shows that part of the site was wooded during and between mining operations and has been under continuous canopy since C1860. The steeper slopes on the edges of the woodland may have been continuously wooded, with patches of AW ground flora rich in bluebells and wood anemone throughout. A conifer plantation was likely established in order to supply pit props or similar for the mining, and latterly replanted for forestry. The Forestry Commission were the preceding woodland owners, and the Woodland Trust took on ownership in 1998.

The wood is immediately surrounded by grazing fields, hedgerows, and pockets of connecting woodland, but on a wider scale is quite isolated in a landscape of agriculture. Visible from many directions the wood forms a prominent feature in the landscape. The centre of the wood is generally level but punctuated by bumps and gullies from previous mining activities. There are steeper slopes around the edges particularly the southern boundary. Streams run along the east and west boundaries, and flow through to the adjacent woodland to the south which contains a small waterfall that connects to the Cam Brook.

The wood contains an internal network of footpaths and surfaced tracks which link to a wider network and form a valuable recreational resource for visitors, dog walkers, and families from the local community, surrounding towns and villages, as well as Bristol and Bath. It is also well used as an access route on the public footpath to the popular waterfall and stream just outside the southern boundary of the Woodland Trust wood.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Connecting People with woods & trees: In 50 years time the importance of the wood as a local recreational resource will have been maintained. The site will be valued by local users and visitors alike and continue to engage people in woodland activities. The path network will continue to work towards the Trusts objectives of connecting people to woods and trees, and appropriate access infrastructure will be maintained to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme. The site will provide welcoming, well-maintained entrances, signage, and furniture, as well as sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions. The site will be a truly valued resource in the community and well respected.

Secondary Woodland: In 50 years time the woodland will have developed a mixed age and species structure, with a healthy, species-rich and resilient woodland. The gradual removal of conifers and selective thinning, coppicing and re-spacing of broadleaf trees will change the canopy to one of a predominantly native broadleaf high-forest, with less than 20% conifer trees remaining for landscape value and in reference to the plantation history of the site. The woodland will be managed through a continuous cover forestry approach, initially fulfilled through the thinning and removal of coniferous trees in the short term, shifting to the maintenance of structural diversity in the broadleaves and plantation stands in the medium to longer term, whilst improving the ride network and increasing the biodiversity of the woodland. Ash with some resilience to Ash Dieback will remain as part of the canopy. Other tree diseases that may become present such as *Phytophthora ramorum* within the larch and Sweet chestnut will be managed as required to maintain safety or deliver legal obligations. Structural, age and species diversification, creation of deadwood, open space, wide ride edges and tree enrichment will be a major part of future management. Deer populations will be managed at levels enabling natural regeneration processes to occur unimpeded by browsing. Existing and future veteran trees will be retained providing an important habitat for protected species. Ancient woodland species will be spreading into the surrounding woodland areas by natural colonization, and large amounts of standing and fallen deadwood will continue to provide habitat. Watercourses and adjacent woodland areas will be managed appropriated to enhance their wet flush conservation values and where appropriate leaky dams may be installed to slow water flow and siltation deposition into adjoining streams off the property. As water tables rise and wet woodland develops, paths in these areas may be closed or diverted to continue the habitat development and these area to become part of the wood's non or minimal intervention areas

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Greyfield Wood is a valuable recreational resource to the local community and surrounding towns and villages, as well as families and visitors from Bristol and Bath. The site is well known in the area, and visitor numbers are regarded as being relatively high. The wood is well used by dog walkers, parents and children, and visitors connecting to the waterfall just outside the boundary to the south of the wood.

The site contains an internal network of footpaths which link to a wider network, all of which are well used. The wood has a single public footpath running north to south through the site, and several kilometers of permissive footpaths which link with a well-used footpath network outside the site. The public footpath is a well-surfaced management access ride running north to south from the car park, and a newer surfaced track installed in 2018 links the east and south west of the site to this ride, creating good management access and a circular path which is also suitable for less able visitors. Many of the other paths in the wood have steep or wet sections and can become very muddy in winter. There is parking available at the main entrance for 10-12 cars after the car park was enlarged in 2018 from 5 spaces. Neighbouring landowners still have occasional access issues with visitor parking in the area during busy periods and blocking access.

It is a Welcome Site that had improvements in access, parking, signage and infrastructure during the last plan period 2017-2021.

The wood is currently used under a service level agreement by local community interest company Ecowild, who also use the neighbouring timber roundhouse for their activities in the adjacent field. They aim to engage people with the living world through woodland based activities including e.g. Forest School, mindfulness, nature and wellbeing courses, woodland activities, foraging and wildlife exploration.

There are WT volunteer wardens who help monitor and look after the site, and also a network of local volunteers that litter pick and keep an eye on both Greyfield Wood and the surrounding woodland and greenspaces. A small WT volunteer group carry out management tasks such as coppicing, fencing etc under the direction of the WT site manager.

A fundraising campaign locally in 1998 contributed significantly towards the acquisition of the wood showing the high value people have for the site.

Significance

Greyfield Wood provides an important local amenity and valued natural space for people in the area. It is well used and connects and links visitors into the wider natural landscape, and will inspire people to connect with their natural environment, native woodland and trees.

Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities: To engage with local volunteers in the area. To use the wood for WT events in partnership with Ecowilds courses and activities.</p> <p>Constraints: Limited car parking available during popular holiday periods visitors use the neighbouring area. Accessibility of some access paths during winter months</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>Campfires and litter. Unauthorised use by cyclists. Large network of small desire paths created by individuals. Fly tipping. Use of management tracks for restoration/timber prod might affect access. Increase of visitor numbers. Ash dieback and possible reconfiguration of permissive path routes.</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>Connecting People with woods & trees: In 50 years' time the importance of the wood as a local recreational resource will have been maintained. The site will be valued by local users and visitors alike and continue to engage people in woodland activities. The path network will continue to work towards the Trusts objectives of connecting people to woods and trees, and appropriate access infrastructure will be maintained to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme. The site will provide welcoming, well-maintained entrances, signage, and furniture, as well as a sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions. The site will be a truly valued resource in the community and well respected.</p>
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>The short term objective is to maintain the site as easily accessible, attractive, well maintained and safe woodland. The path network and entrances should remain in good condition and appropriate for level and type of use and in accordance with access category A - Ensure visitor safety via ongoing tree and infrastructure monitoring regime and remedial works as necessary. Paths cuts and litter picks as necessary. Entrance furniture to be maintained as required to keep them welcoming and in good condition.</p>

4.2 f2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description
<p>Greyfield Wood is a secondary woodland of mixed ash, oak and hazel, with areas of conifer and broadleaf plantation, and some ancient woodland ground flora. It has a rich history of coal mining at the site in the 17th and 19th Centuries.</p>

The southern and eastern slopes may have been continuously wooded and include numerous ancient woodland species, and the wood is carpeted with a patchwork of bluebells and some wood anemones in the spring. A few veteran ash, oak and sweet chestnut trees can be found throughout the wood.

The wood is unusual as its acidic soils formed by the local sandstones and combined with historic coal deposits supports plant communities unusual to the region

In Elizabethan times Greyfield Wood was part of the Earl of Warwickshire's hunting estate. Parts of the wood were mined for coal, cleared, and planted in the 17th-19th Centuries: with records from around 1610; and again from 1833-1911, with larch likely planted for mining pit props. From 1915-1965 conifer planting under Forestry Commission management included Norway spruce, Larch, Douglas fir and Lawson cypress, and around the 1930s some of the wood was planted with beech and sweet chestnut. Much of this was never subsequently managed or harvested, and throughout the wood natural regeneration of ash has out competed the conifers and beech. Much of the ash is now suffering from ash dieback since 2017/18, resulting in significant loss. These have been felled only where necessary in tree safety zones along property boundaries, roads and footpaths. Less affected ash trees still remain in these zones and much ash still remains in the wider woodland. It is hoped that this is where ADB tolerant ash will be found.

Conversion to a broadleaf canopy began with a thinning operation in 2004; a fell-to waste operation in 2007, and further restoration conifer thinning in 2012 and 2020. A management track and surfaced path was created in 2018 to provide circular access to the denser conifer stands. As a result there is strong natural regeneration of native broadleaf species within the wood including ash, birch, sycamore and sweet chestnut. A rich bramble flora has developed in the wood with one species known only to be found in the wood and which specialists believe may have evolved there.

A small proportion of laurel regenerates naturally from seed particularly in the west area of the wood and this is controlled by hand by the volunteer group. Ride-side coppicing is also carried out on a small scale by volunteers where appropriate to improve access and biodiversity in dense canopy areas where increased light levels will promote ground flora and benefit other associated fauna.

Volunteers were felling to waste young conifer for several years prior to 2015 in the denser conifer stands and removing sycamore and laurel.

Significance

This wood is locally important, is one of the largest in the area and is large enough to sustain viable populations of woodland species acting as a reservoir for their future spread.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity:
Transition to ancient semi-natural woodland.

Constraints:
The management access is limited and with steep slopes.

Factors Causing Change

Bramble suppressing natural regeneration of tree species.

Invasive laurel.

Regeneration of conifer woodland.

Deer browsing and Squirrel damage preventing some broadleaf trees from reaching maturity.

Pests and diseases - Ash die-back (Chalara), Phytophthora ramorum in Larch or Sweet chestnut.

Increasing Beech, Sycamore or Sweet chestnut canopy causing shade or lack of regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will be managed through a continuous cover forestry approach, initially fulfilled through the thinning and removal of coniferous trees in the short term, shifting to the maintenance of structural diversity in the broadleaves and plantation stands in the medium to longer term, whilst improving the ride network and increasing the biodiversity of the woodland. Ash with some resilience to Ash Dieback will remain as part of the canopy. Other tree diseases that may become present such as Phytophthora ramorum within the larch and Sweet chestnut will be managed as required to maintain safety or deliver legal obligations. Structural, age and species diversification, creation of deadwood, open space, wide ride edges and tree enrichment will be a major part of future management. Deer populations will be managed at levels enabling natural regeneration processes to occur unimpeded by browsing. Existing and future veteran trees will be retained providing an important habitat for protected species. Ancient woodland species will be spreading into the surrounding woodland areas by natural colonization, and large amounts of standing and fallen deadwood will continue to provide habitat. Watercourses and adjacent woodland areas will be managed appropriated to enhance their wet flush conservation values and where appropriate leaky dams may be installed to slow water flow and siltation deposition into adjoining streams off the property. As water tables rise and wet woodland develops, paths in these areas may be closed or diverted to continue the habitat development and these area to become part of the wood's non or minimal intervention areas

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

The short term objective is to improve the age structure and species composition of the woodland and increase natural regeneration of broadleaf trees, and to reduce the proportion of conifers, by continuing management process of thinning and selective coppicing approx. every plan period. This will in turn improve woodland characteristics and increase the biodiversity of the woodland.

This will be done by:

- Gradually thin (25%) the densest conifer stands to favour broadleaves and create the conditions in which the broadleaf woodland communities can recover and thrive in line with WT restoration guidance and policy. 5.0 Ha of N Spruce and Douglas Fir in 1A, 3.0 Ha larch in compartment 1B, 0.25Ha Lawson Cypress in 2D in 2024. 0.8Ha of Norway Spruce in 1C in 2025.

- Selective thinning and re-spacing (25%) of naturally regenerating broadleaf trees and ride-edge felling and coppicing to improve the age structure and species composition of the woodland and allow natural regeneration of broadleaf trees, promoting the standing and fallen deadwood component, and to create ride edge habitat to increase the woodland ground flora and biodiversity of associated woodland edge species. Thin approx. 4Ha of ash and sweet chestnut in compartments 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 2C in 2025.

- Take opportunities created during thinning operations to manage tree safety, particularly of diseased trees, widen

rides and path, improve drainage, create fallen and standing deadwood, promote drying of main tracks and paths and utilise some logs produced to form leaky dams and slow water flow around wet flushes and watercourses.

- Cut back any laurel shrubs re-appearing in compartment 2a to ground level, and treat if necessary.

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	7.99	Norway spruce	1960	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>This is a mixed stand of Norway spruce and Douglas fir (P1960), naturally regenerating ash and birch, with beech, willow and grey willow sp, and a mixed broadleaf plantation component comprised of dense mature sweet chestnut coppice planted circa 1930/40. Hawthorn and hazel understorey, with some sycamore and very occasional mature oaks.</p> <p>The density of the spruce varies across the compartment following a variable thin in 2004, 2007 and 2012, with some large Douglas firs present scattered within the spruce.</p> <p>Abundant ash regeneration is found across most of the area suffering from ADB.</p> <p>Ground flora is dominated by bramble, especially where the canopy is more open and in previously cleared areas that were over thinned. There are rushes and sedges in the wetter areas and bluebells and wood anemones elsewhere.</p> <p>There are several wet flushes and streams which flow into the larger stream on the eastern boundary.</p> <p>The ground is undulating with a steeper slope to the eastern and southern boundaries. Many of the mine workings in the wood are located in this compartment.</p>						
1b	7.34	Mixed broadleaves	1970	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Sub compartment 1b is a mixed stand of naturally regenerated ash, and hybrid planted larch and beech P73 formerly in rows, with beech and larch heavily thinned in 2019/20. Other broadleaf includes sweet chestnut, oak, and birch, with a shrub layer of hazel, hawthorn, and willow. There was a fell to waste operation in 2007 to thin the larch, and large scale harvesting operation in 2019 to thin the larch and favour broadleaves.</p> <p>In places the regeneration of broadleaf is good with sufficient light getting to the forest floor, but in other previously cleared places the regeneration is uniformly very thin ash and birch all of the same age.</p> <p>There are a few other scattered conifers in this compartment including Norway spruce, Douglas fir and Western red cedar.</p> <p>There are some veteran oak, field maple and ash relic trees on the southern boundary slope with the field.</p> <p>The understorey is limited by the previous density of the unthinned larch and beech, and by regenerating ash.</p> <p>Ground flora is dominated by ivy with small patches of bluebell.</p> <p>The compartment has a south westerly aspect. With areas of very steep slopes along the south boundaries.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1c	0.8	Norway spruce	1960	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	
<p>Sub compartment 1c is a small dense stand of P60 Norway spruce, with almost 100% canopy cover, thinned in 2019/20.</p> <p>There is very little regeneration in this compartment except for some track edge broadleaves of hazel, ash and sweet chestnut.</p> <p>The compartment has a southerly aspect. With areas of very steep slope towards the boundary.</p>						
2a	12.79	Mixed broadleaves	1973	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Mixed broadleaf canopy formed of ash, beech, birch, oak, sweet chestnut, hazel and willow. This area was heavily thinned in 2004 where a large portion of the originally dominant larch was removed. It now consists of about 10% of the canopy. The remaining canopy is very open.</p> <p>The understorey is developing well with the amount of light and space available. It is dominated by ash regeneration and hazel, but elements of hawthorn, bramble and bracken are also present. Laurel was dominant in parts of the compartment but is cleared periodically by volunteers.</p> <p>There are areas of wet mossy ground cover with lots of ferns and ground flora inc dog's mercury, bluebells, wood anemone and wood sorrel, with sedges and rushes in the damper flushes.</p> <p>The compartment is generally level, but deep gullies are present with some small streams found running from east to west and a bigger stream on the west boundary.</p>						
2b	2.36	Mixed broadleaves	1930	High forest		County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Compartment contains a mixture of Sweet chestnut coppice and ash, some of which is of a larger size than those that occur elsewhere in the wood. Other broadleaf includes scattered oak and some beech, with a shrub layer of hazel, hawthorn, birch and willow.</p> <p>The understorey is sparse in some areas and lush in ground flora associated with damp areas inc moss, dog's mercury and lots of ferns. Some patches of bluebell.</p> <p>The stream borders the western boundary and the ground is undulating to the west with a steep drop to the stream edge.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
2c	4.51	Mixed broadleaves	1962	High forest		County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Mixed broadleaves with mostly ash and sweet chestnut regenerating of a uniform age in dense stands. Some fairly mature beech particularly towards the centre of the wood with large canopies and little regeneration. Some scattered oak, douglas fir, and sycamore, with willow and birch understorey now maturing. This compartment was heavily thinned in 2003 where the majority of the Norway Spruce that dominated was removed, leaving it to form 20% of the canopy. Some wind-throw then occurred to remove even more. The canopy is now open in places with dense willow and birch regen, or sparse where beech occurs. Ash regeneration is abundant. Understorey is dominated by bramble since the thinning but is now being shaded by the tree regeneration. There is a gentle south western slope through the area.</p>						
2d	0.44	Lawsons cypress	1960	High forest		
<p>A small dense avenue of Lawson cypress along the main east to west ride, thinned in 2019-20. Many of the cypresses are growing side by side and shading the woodland floor. There is no regeneration or ground flora, but the cypress are of historical significance and a landscape feature.</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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