

Barley Mow Wood

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



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

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

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Barley Mow Wood

Location:	Knaphill	Grid	reference:	SU966592	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	186
Area:	10.40 hectares (25.70 acres)								
External Designations:	Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Barley Mow Wood is situated just to the north of Knaphill, a suburban village close to the town of Woking 4km to the east, in north-west Surrey. The Woodland Trust purchased the wood in 1992 following a successful local fundraising appeal. The wood is now under a blanket Tree Preservation Order designated by Woking Borough Council.

Between 1870 and 1896, the Waterer Family of Knaphill Nurseries laid out farmland as a nursery, within the ring bounded by the lanes of Barley Mow and Barrs. Within the wood a grid-work of paths was laid out especially on the western side, some of which respected the original field boundaries, some of which go back to 1790's, but other paths cut across them. Groups of trees such as yews and redwoods in the south-west corner of the site follow the lines of some of the paths. These feature trees add to the character of the wood, which is otherwise dominated by oak and beech high forest with a diverse understory dominated, in patches, by holly, sycamore and hornbeam. There are two meadows within the wood, covering approximately 10% of the total site, which support a relatively common neutral grassland community. Barley Mow Wood is a secondary woodland on Bagshot formation bedrock - a series of sands and clays, with slightly acidic, clayey soils which impedes drainage. It is within the Thames Basin Heaths National Character Area (NCA) which stretches westwards from Weybridge in Surrey to the countryside around Newbury in Berkshire.

Barley Mow Wood is surrounded by housing and development to the south and west, with grazed pasture to the north and a nursery to the east. Barley Mow Wood is bordered by the busy Chobham Road to the north and west, and Barrs Lane to the East, with pastures and horse paddocks beyond. Waterer's Park, a popular sports and recreation field, abuts the southern boundary, with Barley Mow Lane and housing and development to the southwest. The wood acts as an important corridor connecting wildlife to larger local nature reserves of White Rose Lane and Mayford Meadows and Horsell Common. Separated by Barr Lane, Barley Mow Wood is contiguous with further woodland stretching out to the east for 1.5km and Horsell Common beyond. Bisley Common is less than 1 km away to the SW. Important local wildlife includes meadow pipit and reed bunting, little owl, and other nesting raptors. Within the wood, ground flora includes bluebells, dogs mercury, garlic mustard, lords and ladies and the occasional patch of bracken.

The wood is well-used by the local community - schools, youth groups, a forest school, dog walkers, and parents waiting for their children to finish sport activities at Waterers Park. There is a network of paths throughout the wood which do get muddy in the winter months. Some paths become submerged in places for several months of the year. Car parking is available in the public car park of Waterers Park and there is space for one vehicle in a layby along Chobham Road.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Barley Mow Wood will be maintained as high forest and managed through minimal silvicultural intervention. The Wood will consist of predominately native broadleaf species, dominated by oak and beech, with a diverse understory. Exotic trees will be retained as feature trees for visual and historic interest. Active management of the semi-natural grassland will prevent scrub establishing but will maintain a graded woodland edge. The wood will be free from the damaging effects of invasive non-native species such as bamboo, laurel, and rhododendron. The density of holly in the understorey will be managed to prevent it dominating at the expense of other trees, shrubs, and ground flora.

Barley Mow Wood will continue to be free and open for public access and the Trust will ensure that safety risks to the public are minimised as far as possible. The wood will continue to be a welcoming place for visitors and will offer a variety of short local walks.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 F1 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description
Barley Mow Wood is mixed secondary woodland, mostly composed of native broadleaves. Storms in the 1980s brought over large beeches creating gaps for younger trees. In consequence the deadwood habitat is very healthy. Two grassy glades, covering less than 10% of the site in the north-west of the wood, support a species-poor MG1 semi-natural neutral coarse grassland. Barley Mow Wood was part of a plant nursery, covering parts of the surrounding landscape. The nursery was world-renowned for growing rhododendrons and azaleas. The site was a later addition to the nursery, appearing in the late 19th century, and then fell out of nursery management following the end of the Second World War. Before this date, the land was open fields. Remnants of the formal layout of the nursery and its planting can still be discerned, such as clumps of single species like the yew in the eastern corner and there are still scattered specimen trees like Wellingtonia and exotics like bamboo still present. Other understorey species includes hornbeam, holly, sycamore, yew, willow, silver birch, ash, horse chestnut, elm, white poplar, red oak, field maple, Norway maple, cherry, and lime. Holly has the potential to become dominant and invasive. Woodland ground flora is sparse with pockets of bluebells, dog's mercury and garlic mustard and patches of bramble and nettle in areas of past disturbance. Older historical features are also present with an old bank and ditch running north-south across the wood and old boundary banks around parts of the perimeter. All these are thought to be medieval in origin and mark old field boundaries.
Significance
Barley Mow Wood is a refuge for wildlife on the edge of the busy conurbation of Woking, linking with woodland to the northeast of the site stretching for several miles.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: Thinning operations to improve woodland structure and age class of trees; Selective halo thinning around feature trees, and mature trees with potential to become wildlife-rich veterans. Constraints: wet conditions in the winter due to underlying clay substrate, along with poor management access to the wood, restricting silvicultural operations, such as thinning to improve woodland structure; Blanket TPO (Tree Preservation Order) across Barley Mow Wood.
Factors Causing Change
Invasive non-native species - mainly bamboo and laurel, occasional rhododendron. Also more recent garden escapes such as variegated yellow archangel and box-leaved honeysuckle entering the site from boundaries. Proliferating native holly dominating the shrub layer.

Continuing grey squirrel damage to trees, particularly to beech, maples, and hornbeam, as well as deer browsing preventing the establishment of regenerating tree species.

Wetter and windier winters increasing storm damage and wind throw to trees, and increasing seasonal flooding in the wood.

Encroachment of scrub into the two permanent open grassland areas.

Increase in number and frequency of visitors leaving designated paths.

Change to the tree species composition over time due to adaption to climate change.

Pests & Diseases, such as ash dieback, acute oak decline and oak processionary moth.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Barley Mow Wood will be composed of mainly native broadleaved species but will contain a selection of non-native specimen trees which will not be a threat to biodiversity, such as Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). Its structure will largely be two-storied high forest with natural processes being allowed to shape the wood. This approach should encourage the development of old trees, standing and fallen deadwood and patches of natural regeneration in windblown canopy gaps. Although a small component of the wood, the inevitable loss of the remaining ash trees present due to Ash Dieback will provide further gaps in the canopy aiding the development of woodland structure. These qualities will drive the wood towards a semi-natural state.

The two glades of connected semi-natural grassland will be managed to ensure they continue to account for a minimum of 8% of total size of the wood. Scrubby ecotones grading from open space to high forest will be encouraged around parts of the perimeter of the glades for the benefit of wildlife.

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

During the 10 year plan period, management will be undertaken to continue to control and monitor invasive species, manage the semi-natural grassland, and dig an ephemeral pond to the south of the grassland to act as an attenuation pond, reducing waterlogging that is inundating an area of the wood that includes a public right of way (No. 10a). Silvicultural operations will be limited to the targeted removal of dangerous trees identified during routine tree safety inspections along permissive paths, PROWS, and boundaries, as well as reacting to wind-throw and seasonal storm damage where necessary. Oak processionary moth (OPM) nests have been recorded on site in very low numbers. As of 2023, Barley Mow Wood now sits within the 'Established Zone' for OPM presence, as defined by Forestry Commission. Observatree volunteers walk the wood each summer and report locations of any OPM nests found. These are then risk-assessed and only removed when necessary, in line with Forestry Commission guidance for presence of OPM nests within the established zone.

- Invasive non-natives present such as bamboo and laurel will be manually pulled or dug out annually where scattered throughout the wood and prevented from spreading and colonising new areas. Known patches within the wood continue to be mapped, and removal will continue in summer 2025 through to 2027, as is required. An assessment of remaining presence will be undertaken 2028 to inform management strategy to end of management plan. The main area of established bamboo forms a rectangular block located between the southern boundary and the southernmost permissive path, and measures approximately 80m x 10m. The remaining larger concentrations of laurel are in the north corner (laurel <0.05ha), and along southern and western boundaries.

- Variegated yellow archangel (garden escape) growing next to NW entry point into the site will be prevented from spreading vegetatively into the wood by digging it out in 2026. The area measures approximately 12 x 8 metres, as of summer 2024. Following removal, the area will be monitored in 2027 and again in 2029 to ensure the plant is controlled.

- Holly continues to be dominant throughout the wood and will be coppiced along designated paths (total length approximately 600m) with brash being used to manage path creep. Approximately 50m of path edge holly coppicing will be undertaken each year at same time as the September path cut. This will be re-assessed whilst doing the woodland condition assessment (WCA) and Zone B tree safety inspections in summer 2029.
- To maintain the extent of the grassland (approx. 0.7 Ha) and improve its biodiversity, by cutting and removing arisings from the connected grassy woodland glades to the north of the site annually in late summer/early autumn, after most flora has set seed but before ground conditions become too wet. This will begin in 2026. In 2025, the grasslands will be mown as has previously occurred. Meadow condition assessments will be undertaken by the site manager in summer 2026 and then again in 2029 during the Woodland Condition Assessment (WCAs). Comparisons between these assessments will inform on management of the meadow from 2030 to end of plan in 2035.
- A Woodland Condition Assessment (WCA) will be undertaken midway through the 10-year management plan in 2029, and then again at the end in 2034 to inform the next plan. An Herbivore Impact Assessment Lite (HIA Lite) done in 2024 showed low impact from deer, overall. This will be repeated 2029 and 2034 at same time as the WCA.

4.2 F2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description
Barley Mow Wood has an access category B (moderate usage site where paths are maintained). The wood is within walking distance of Knaphill (population of 11,116), on the edge of Woking (population of 104,636). It is well served with many criss-crossing paths through the wood offering a variety of walking routes for visitors. Four public rights of way (PROWs) in the form of public footpaths also transect the wood and there are many entrance points into the wood from the adjacent Waterers Park recreational ground and from Barley Mow Lane to the west of the wood. Much of the entry infrastructure was upgraded during the previous management plan. The wood also benefits from the public carpark at neighbouring Waterers Park. Many of the paths are muddy in winter due to the underlying clay soil's poor drainage, with areas of woodland becoming waterlogged during the winter months completely submerging both public and permissive paths in places.
Significance
Barley Mow Wood is important because it provides an accessible 'wild space' on the doorstep of a local population in Knaphill. The site is a regular destination for local dog walkers and those associated with activities in Waterers Park, which provides a free car park near to Barley Mow's SW boundary. Local schools and youth groups use the wood, as well as it hosting a 3rd party forest school.
Opportunities & Constraints
Constraints: - Clay substrate & poor drainage. - Wet areas and lack of undergrowth along paths are resulting in path-creep. - Unwanted desire lines continue to establish, increasing tree safety risk and to the detriment of flora and fauna. - There is some antisocial behaviour such as motorbikes occasionally using the wood and campfires.

Opportunity: - All paths are muddy to varying extents across the wood. One area in particular, on the woodland edge just south of the grassy glades, is submerged under rainwater for several months of the year. The public footpath (PROW) here was diverted away from the flooded area some years ago, but was not maintained. Chance to re-establish drier route with help from Surrey CC Rights of Way.
Factors Causing Change
Increase in visitor numbers Anti-social behaviour Climate change potentially leading to even wetter winters. This could increase waterlogging, further affecting public access along designated paths, thus increasing the likelihood for unwanted desire lines to establish.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To have a network of paths through the whole site. The site will continue to have regular daily visitors with appropriate well-maintained infrastructure at entrances.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Low key public access will be maintained over the plan period by regular maintenance and safety inspections, appropriate for the numbers of visitors. - Maintain entrances and paths: Approx. 2.8km of paths and 7 entrances will be maintained annually to allow continued access across the whole site. This will include strimming path edges and entrances, and appropriate tree safety work, identified by Zone B safety inspections every 2 years. Signage will be maintained and replaced where necessary, including OPM awareness signage at entry points. - The PROW through the flooded area was moved by SCC's Rights of Way Dept. a number of years ago but not maintained. In late summer/early autumn 2026, public footpath no.10a will be re-routed across drier area again, in conjunction with SCC's ROW to mean is accessible all year round. - Reduce Desire Lines: Work will be undertaken to block off unwanted desire lines that have appeared to keep visitors on public and permissive paths. Unwanted desire lines will be mapped during the schedule zone B tree safety inspection in summer 2025, and work will begin to block them from 2026 and continue through this management period, as is necessary.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	March
2025	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance 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
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	February
2026	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	March
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	April
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	April
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,	May
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	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance 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	October

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	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	November
2027	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	March
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	March
2027	PC - Other Pest / Animal Control	Works associated with wildlife control outside of deer / rabbits / squirrel	August
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	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2028	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	March
2028	PC - Other Pest / Animal Control	Works associated with wildlife control outside of deer / rabbits / squirrel	August
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2028	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	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

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2029	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	March
2029	PC - Other Pest / Animal Control	Works associated with wildlife control outside of deer / rabbits / squirrel	August
2029	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September
2029	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

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	9.66	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
The compartment is a stand of secondary mixed broadleaf dominated by oak and beech towards the north. The wood's understorey consists mainly of holly, hornbeam and sycamore, along with field maple, yew, silver birch, hazel, willow, elm, Norway maple, lime, cherry, horse chestnut, ash, elder and occasional specimen trees such as Coast redwood, Atlas cedar, white poplar, London plane, and red oak remnant of when the site was a tree nursery. Ground flora is limited and lacking in specialist woodland plants although there are pockets of bluebells, dog's mercury and garlic mustard and patches where bramble is common. Fallen deadwood is abundant throughout the site, standing less common.						
1b	0.74	Open ground	2025	Non-wood habitat		
Two connected areas of open ground within the north of the site totalling approx. 0.7 Ha in size, comprising species-poor grassland with a history of mowing without removing arisings. Until 2025, these were part of sub-comp. 1a, which covers the whole site, but have now been moved into their own sub-compartment (sub-comp. 1b). From 2026, the grassland will be cut with the cuttings removed to help reduce nutrients in the soil, helping wildflowers to establish and compete with nutrient-hungry grasses and plants.						

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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