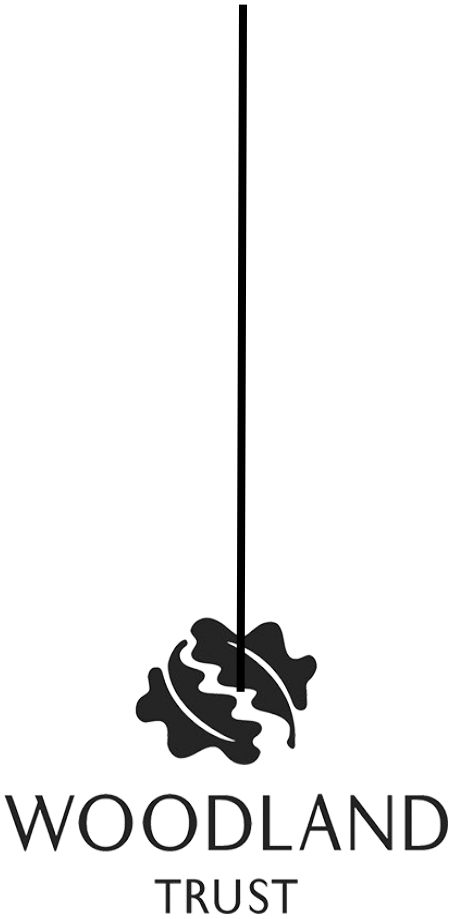
Swineshead & Spanoak Woods (Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



Management Plan Content Page

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

Swineshead & Spanoak Woods

Location:	Swineshead, Kimbolton Grid reference: TL060668 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 153
Area:	46.07 hectares (113.84 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Two separate woodlands, Swineshead (34.4 ha) and Spanoak (11.8 ha) separated by 1 km of intensively farmed arable land. A wide, hedged byway links the two sites. Prior to Trust acquisition both woodlands had been managed primarily for their sporting value. Swineshead Wood has an established ride system, Spanoak's rides are more recent and relatively species poor.

Swineshead Wood displays diversity in structure and richness in wildlife, with 22ha designated as a site of special scientific interest. The remaining 12ha is a plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS), presumably having a structure similar to the SSSI prior to clear fell and restocking in the 1970s. Since 2012 the PAWS areas are regarded as 'secure' with any remaining non-native conifer species dominated by a more native species composition. Where conditions permit, the original ancient woodland ground flora has survived under the planting, although course vegetation such as nettle, sedge and bramble are also widespread. Green and great spotted woodpecker, nightingales have been recorded in the wood, as have crossbill, which were first recorded breeding in the wood in 1991.

Spanoak Wood, also an Ancient Woodland Site, was clear felled in the 1970s and repeated attempts at restocking with a mix of non-native species appear to have been made, some of which continue to struggle. Following ring-barking of non-native conifers, the last 10 years has seen the woodland composition shift increasingly towards a more native species mix. A Phase 2 PAWS survey in 2012 showed the wood to be 'secure', in that no further loss of ancient woodland characteristics are anticipated. Natural regeneration of native species is slowly reclaiming the ancient woodland site, allowing more quality habitat to develop. Although the long term vision of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland characteristics visible in Swineshead are likely to be many years off.

Both woods contain significant proportions of open habitat in the form of recently created glades, open rides and partially failed plantations. These add greatly to the overall structural richness of the woodlands.

Both woods are set on the shoulder of a shallow rise in the rolling countryside typical of this part of Anglia. Swineshead is very typically a clay wood with, to the west and north and uphill, a substratum of calcareous boulder clay. To the east, even more calcareous underlying Oxford clay. Nearby there are small pockets of glacial sand and gravel amid river terrace gravels (that give Sandy Lane its name). These may feature in the local geology of the wood itself. There is a small semi-natural rivulet that bisects cpt 2 and joins the field drainage system at the edge of the wood. Both woods can get very wet during winter, which can limit operations.

The antiquity of both woods is demonstrated by a combination of features. Namely: a good assemblage of ancient woodland indicator plant species, substantial ditch/bank structures along Sandy lane and the north-western boundary of Swineshead Wood, the position of the woods abutting the parish boundary, the sinuosity of the remaining ancient margins and the presence of a number of ponds and the semi-natural rivulet within the wood itself. The straighter boundaries indicate that the woods have been truncated by grubbing and subsequent conversion to arable farming. An archaeological and document survey undertaken in 2001 by Angela Simco shows the woodland originally extended to the edges of Swineshead village in 1586 (Frithy Wood) and that Swineshead and Spanoak Woods were linked by woodland called Netherwardens Wood / Lower Wood until the 1800's.

Muntjac, fallow and roe deer are prevalent in this area.

The two key features of the site are:
KF1 Ancient semi-natural woodland.
KF2 Informal public access

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The majority of the site will be managed as a native high forest, with intervention that supports natural processes in line with the Woodland Trust's management approach. This will include maintaining and enhancing the species rich network of rides, glades and woodland types, resulting in a resilient mix of habitats and structures (at least 3 native broadleaved canopy species of diverse age ranges), abundant in wildlife and regularly enjoyed by the local population. Other opportunities for improving biodiversity and increasing the variety of habitats, such as through silvicultural thinning, coppice reinstatement and pond creation, will be assessed for suitability and implemented if deemed appropriately beneficial (and not significantly impacting the remnant ancient woodland features). Informal public access will be maintained via a managed path network, where not having a detrimental impact on habitats and species or a safety concern.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
Wet Oak/ Ash/ Field maple woodland characteristic of heavy Oxford and Boulder clays. Diverse in structure containing areas of over stood ash coppice/high forest and elements of a well defined understory comprising of hazel, dogwood, midland hawthorn, wayfaring tree and Crab apple. There are some very large ash, oak and field maples within compartments 1 and 2. Rich ground flora containing several ASNW indicators including blue bell, Dogs mercury, primrose, Wood barley occurs here - one of few sites in beds. A number of damp rides run through the wood and are characterised by Pendulous sedge, Meadow sweet, ragged robin and creeping jenny. Within the woodlands are extensive areas of open grassland habitat, which add greatly to the wildlife interest of both sites. Last PAWS assessment was done in 2012, with Woodland condition assessment being favored as more appropriate measure from 2023 onward.
Significance
Represents habitat scarce and under threat nationally and in Bedfordshire. Relatively large area of woodland. SSSI citation mentions value of diverse layered structure and rich flora.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: -Compartments 3, 4, 5,6,7 were formerly of similar character to the SSSI before clear felling. It is hoped that the seed bank is still present to allow a large proportion of these compartments to be returned to some form of semi natural wooded habitat in time. -Elements of the species and structure of ASNW have clung on in these areas. -Rides still retain their richness despite lack of management prior to the Trust's acquisition. -Spanoak Wood has a developing crop of oak which if well managed can be developed into a valuable and species rich oak woodland. -Potential to identify ash regen with resistance to chalara of ash. - The wet woodland habitat in Spanoak and the drainage ditches around the outside capturing some of the agricultural run-off indicates the potential for beneficial pond creation in the already open areas. - Work to best practice with neighbours/deer management groups to manage populations at a landscape scale, or a scale wider than the individual site wherever possible Constraints: - Wood is very wet all year round and vehicle access is difficult and could be damaging. - Conifer and other planted trees have not developed well into a financially viable crop, particularly in Swineshead. - Coarse vegetation and rank grasses like Wood small reed and Tufted hair grass are putting pressure on more desirable ground flora.

- High deer pressure in local area reducing ability for natural regen/regrowth to establish.
- Chalara of Ash (Ash die back) present on much of the natural ash regen, though not all.
- Significant amounts of dead ash in cmpt 3a
- Rapid decline of many mature oaks with Agrillus beetle bore holes present.
- Difficult access and extraction for forestry machinery makes most forest operations costly/un-economic.

Factors Causing Change

Browsing from fallow, muntjac and roe deer. Also the potential for other impact species (Chinese water deer, for example) in the future.
Continuing influence of conifers in PAWS cpts
Pests and diseases (Chalara of Ash, Agrillus beetle)
Encroaching of scrub into species rich rides.
The loss of large levels of ash in cmpt 3a in a short period of time (causing potentially damaging increased light levels to the woodland floor).
Spreading group of Aspen in 4a may dominate other species.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain area of ASNW and encourage natural regeneration of native broadleaf species. Return planted ancient woodland (PAWS) compartments to a largely semi natural state. Maintain rides and open areas within both woods. Explore other options for improving biodiversity and resilience (e.g. coppice restoration, ride-side coppicing, pond creation).

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

Deer are to be monitored and managed as detailed on the separate management plan and annual contract. Target levels will be considered from thermal surveys (1-2 per plan period) and impact assessments (1-2 per plan period).
Maintain open areas through mowing regime. 3 cuts of paths in growing season. Main rides cut on an annual 2 zone system. Annual ride edge coppicing as deemed beneficial (determined by annual inspection). Open ride is to be managed as such (annual mowing) between 2a and 4a via ride-side thinning/coppicing. Create some scalloped areas along the ride to the south of 2a and 4a.
Plan for forest operations within Spanoak Wood to clear some of the stagnating poplar overstorey in sub-cpt 7b and ring-bark further spruce that are impeding native species (2028 and 2032). Potentially close/divert paths that are threatened by large numbers of stagnating poplar and allow to decline naturally.
Limited thinning/respacing in Swineshead wood to favour veterans, future veterans and ash regen that demonstrates resistance to chalara of ash. Thin some of the aspen that are spreading in 4a. Ring-bark further spruce and other non-natives that are impeding native species (2032).
Monitor cmpt 3a for ash decline and regeneration levels and consider best options (e.g. felling and replant or gradual removal for recolonisation/supplementary planting).
Assess the suitability of pond creation in the open areas of Spanoak (6a and maybe 7a/b) and implement if deemed appropriate and beneficial.

4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

Description
Adjacent to well used Byway open to all traffic (seasonal restriction to motorised vehicles) and other public rights of way in the local network. Both woods now contain circular routes for visitors. The woods are in an area were few ancient woodlands are open to the public.
Significance
Few areas of open access mature woodland in the local area. Good example of ASNW, PAWS/RASW and planted secondary.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities -Local demographic fits with main Woodland Trust user groups. -Right of way network linking the woods together and with local villages. Constraints -Rides are very wet often muddy. -20 minute walk from village and parking
Factors Causing Change
Increased popularity of site putting pressure on paths/ rides in the winter and creating local ill will when cars are parked inconsiderately in the village, particularly during bluebell season.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Informal public access will be maintained via a managed path network, where not having a detrimental impact on habitats and species or a safety concern.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Mow all main rides to pedestrian width (Woodland trust Spec 2.1) at least twice a year to allow easy, safe and inviting access. Cut back encroaching shrubs and ride edge coppice as necessary (to at least 2m), informed by regular inspection. Ensure woodland is excluded from publicity/campaigns in relation to bluebells.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	March
2025	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	May
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2027	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	January
2027	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	February
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2029	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2029	PC - Deer Control - Shooting	Works associated with deer management by shooting – such as stalker costs, high seats, signage, maintenance of tracks and open ground provided specifically for deer management etc	February
2030	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2031	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2032	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2033	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2034	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2035	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	13	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Ancient Semi-natural woodland (SSSI), with a canopy dominated by Oak (60%) and Ash (40%). Remnant coppice structure is present - predominantly ash/hazel. Some very large ash and oak standards including several pollards along the internal ditch and wood banks. The understory is well defined comprising of hazel, common and Midland Hawthorn and Field maple, which is dominant in some areas. Towards the edges of the compartment there is some goat willow, blackthorn, Crab apple, dog rose, Dogwood, Aspen and suckering Elm. Ground flora is dominated by bluebell with patches of dog's mercury in places. Nettles are also widespread, with bramble in patches and some areas of deep leaf litter. Spurge laurel, clustered bellflower and lesser stitchwort can be found along with a notable species, namely Wood Barley Hodelymus europeus. Which occurs in the southern end of the compartment. The rides are damp and shaded but are species rich, characterised by several sedge species including Pendulous sedge as well as birds foot trefoil, Meadow vetchling and Marsh foxtail.						
2a	9	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Ancient Semi-natural woodland (SSSI) with canopy dominated by oak and ash. Remnant coppice structure - dominated by many large over stood ash stools throughout the compartment along side some very large mature and over mature ash and oak standards with Field maple present in some areas. Understorey is a little patchy under the high canopy but there are small areas of Hazel, common and Midland Hawthorn and Field maple. Towards the edges of the compartments there is some goat willow, blackthorn, Crab apple, Dog Rose, Dogwood, Aspen and suckering Elm. Ground flora is dominated by Dogs mercury with tufted hair grass, bramble and wood false brome. On the western edge there is abundant nettle, with frequent Primrose on the northern edge. Spurge laurel occurs in patches throughout the compartment and Wood Barley Hodelymus europeus can be found in the western corner. The rides are dominated by rank Pendulous sedge although sunny and wide.						
3a	5.2	Ash		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Woodland Site

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Strong stand of Ash (80%) & Field maple with an understory of hawthorn, occasional Oak regeneration. Abundant ground flora including Dogs Mercury and Bluebell, but also a high proportion of nettles. Some conifer present, but either standing dead (ring barked) or recessive.						
4a	6.8	Oak (pedunculate)	1970	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Woodland Site
Diverse stand of Oak, Ash, Field maple, Aspen and Goat Willow. Conifers are rare and include spruce and hemlock. Understory of Hawthorn, Black thorn and hazel.Ground flora was abubndent and included Dogs M', Bluebell, and primrose but was dominated by sedge grasses in places. This could be due to a combination of wet, waterlogged soils and deer pressure. The western edge of this compartment faces the prevailing wind and has a distinctly battered/ragged feel to it.						
5a	3.1	Oak (pedunculate)	1990	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site
This compartment was replanted between 1990-95 following clearfell with rows of oak and spruce/scots/larch. The conifer rows have largely been removed with remaining non-native trees rare, leaving an even-aged oak monoculture. Regimented planting lines still dominate with little natural regeneration evident in 2016 & 17. The restock is none the less well established, forming a closed canopy in most places. Ground flora is only occasional, but includes ancient woodland remnants like Bluebell and primrose. There are signs of repeated beat-up, giving approximately 80% stocking rate. On the eastern and southern edges of the compartment suckering elm is abundant (but dying cyclically from Dutch Elm Disease), and has suppressed the planted species, becoming dominant in places, and possibly reflecting the presence of an old hedge or historical woodland composition prior to the arrival of Dutch Elm disease. A colony of white letter hairstreak butterflies existed here in 2007.						
6a	2.1	Open ground	1994	Non-wood habitat	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site
Re planted in 1994-98, the planting has not been successful, with an establishment rate of less than10%. The area has been mown in the past to help sporting use, however under WT tenure has been allowed to develop into scrub. Vegetation is extremely dense, Wood small reed and Pendulous sedge sward with some bramble and occasional oak, spruce, grey willow and pine form shrubby outcrops amongst the dense and rank grasses. The ground was severely disturbed during the woodland operations of the recent past, but remnant woodland ground flora can be found under the thorn hedge along the western boundary. There is a very obvious wood bank along byway.						
6b	2.09	Oak (pedunculate)	1993	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Young Oak plantation mono-culture intersected with rows of much reduced conifer (Spruce/ Pine/ Larch). The confiners have been ring barked, but many have survived. However the ring barking has sufficiently weakened the conifers allowing the Oak to become dominant in most areas. Very limited understorey or structural diversity. Some bramble present, likely to encouraged by the removal of remaining conifers. Remnant woodland ground flora and areas of suckering elm survive along the eastern boundary with a very obvious woodbank along the byway.						
7a	3.16	Oak (pedunculate)	1970	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site
Oak plantation mono-culture with scattered conifer (Spruce) surviving ring barking. Oak remains dominant with elm regen abundant. Reasonable understory of hazel and hawthorn but little vegetation beneath, apart from along the south western boundary where spindle, wild privet primula and other woodland vegetation hangs on. Extensive dead spruce forms obstacle to any form of forest operations (mechanised or motor/manual) until cleared or management racks established.						
7b	1.31	other poplar spp	1970	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site
Long, thin stand of stagnated poplar only 5 rows wide planted at 6x6 m spacing in the 1970s. Light levels are good, with strong natural regeneration of native broadleaves underneath. While significant bramble dominates the ground flora, there are other herbaceous species interspersed within it. Although not consistent with ASNW, this compartment is more species rich than other areas in Spanoak wood.						

GLOSSARY

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.