WOODLAND TRUST

Park Wood

Management Plan 2020-2025

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MAPS

THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

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.
In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.
We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, 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.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on 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 heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential 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 allow our woods to be used to support 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. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
10. Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Park Wood
Location:	Waterlooville
Grid reference:	SU685103, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 196
Area:	3.39 hectares (8.38 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Park Wood is a small (3.39ha) site situated in Waterlooville to the west of the A3 London to Portsmouth Road. It lies between the South Downs National Park 3km to the north, and the Chichester Harbour AONB coastline 5km to the south. It is bordered on three sides by houses and gardens, while the eastern side abuts the A3 London Road.

The immediate surrounds are dominated by a swathe of towns: Purbrook, Widley, Cowplain and Horndean. However, these are intertwined with a network of street trees, parks, gardens and east of the wood, the Forestry Commissions Queens Inclosure, a 37ha predominantly broadleaf plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS). Both Park Wood and the Queens Inclosure are remnants of the ancient Forest of Bere, a large expanse of royal hunting forest established in Norman times that was grazed with livestock by tenants of surrounding manors.

The majority of Park Wood (2.52 ha) is comprised of ancient semi-natural woodland, with less than a hectare of secondary woodland and two significant glades formed from remnant meadows on the south and east boundaries. The wood is mainly flat on London Clay with acid to neutral subsoil. It has many veteran and specimen trees for its size including oak, yew, Scots pine, lime, beech, holly and sycamore, and areas of understorey shrubs and ancient woodland plants. This diversity of habitat niches accounts for the 140 flora and fauna species recorded in a previous ecological survey, a remarkable tally for the small size of the wood.

In 1814 Park Wood was acquired by William Friend, a member of a prominent local family, and it was used

by the Friend family and their guests, with a walled garden being created and maintained during the Georgian era. The walled garden occupied approximately 2000 square metres in the east of the wood. Remains of the brick footings of the walls are still visible today and a path still runs along the approximate line of the original path that ran through the centre of the garden in its heyday.

Between 1910 and 1922 the wood was owned by Dr Beddow, who was renowned in the Portsmouth area, and managed the site as an ornamental woodland including the walled garden. A house was also built there in 1911 (on the site of the present Park Wood House).

Through the 1970's and 80's the area was the subject of various planning proposals, culminating in the fulfilment of the wishes of local residents and the Council in seeing most of the wood preserved as an amenity and conservation area. The wood was largely unmanaged during this time and was significantly affected by the great storm of 1987.

The freehold of the land now lies with the University of Southampton who lease the wood to Havant Borough Council. Subsequently, the Trust acquired the wood in 1991 on a 199 year lease from Havant Borough Council following which some paths were opened up and some cherry laurel was cleared.

In May 2000 local residents formed the Friends of Park Wood (FOPW) who support the Trust by carrying out conservation work and promoting care and protection of the site through events which are well attended by the local community. Through this collaboration major improvements to access have been made, invasive species such as cherry laurel have been cleared, and habitat management such as coppicing has also been carried out.

There is access throughout the majority of the wood via a permissive path network with sleeper bridges across ditches. Two interpretation boards demonstrate the wildlife and history of the wood and occasional benches provide stopping points at key locations, while a sculpture of giant feet is a local curiosity and talking point.

2.2 Extended Description

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Park Wood is located in Waterlooville, accesible from junctions 2 and 3 of the A3(M). It is situated between Queen's Road and Wallis Road on the west side of the A3 London Road, directly opposite the Forestry Commission's Queen's Inclosure. There is no parking on the A3 London Road, but several side roads can be used for parking.

There are four pedestrian access points with kissing gates that lead directly into the wood. Two on the east boundary off of the A3 London Road and two on the west boundary off of Treeside Way and Queen's Road.

Nearest Bus Stop : Queen's Road, on A3 London Road, Waterlooville. Accessible from Cosham and Horndean by Stagecoach Coachline Service No. 38 (Information from Traveline May 2007 www.traveline.org.uk 0871 200 2233).

Nearest Station : Cosham 5 miles

Nearest Public Toilet : Mission Lane, Cowplain 0.5 miles (Information from www.havant.gov.uk May 2007)

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In the long-term (50 years plus) Park Wood will continue to be characterised by its specimen tree population including veterans of a variety of species including yew, oak and beech. These will be complemented by stands of mixed broadleaves of a variety of age classes. The wood will be largely naturalised as non-native trees from past management as an ornamental wood and garden diminish through senescence.

The majority of the woodland canopy will evolve naturally, as the small scale of the site does not lend itself to significant silvicultural intervention. Dead or dying trees will only be felled if they pose a safety risk, with the management of diseases such as ash dieback resulting in the most significant changes where multiple trees are affected and require removal. Gaps created from tree removal will provide space and light for naturally regenerating trees such as beech, oak, yew or sycamore or planted native trees (where this is required as a stipulation of the Tree Preservation Order). A proportion of establishing trees will be haloed to develop as open-grown specimens and future veterans where possible.

Predominantly native trees and shrubs including birch and hazel will provide a diverse understorey, with an uneven distribution that also allows for patches of coarse vegetation and open space beneath the canopy. This variety of structure and temporary open space will be maintained through coppicing of small coupes and the control of species such as holly and sycamore that may become dominant at this small scale. However, a small proportion of sycamore will be retained to help maintain cover in anticipation of the loss of ash due to ash dieback. Non-native invasive species such as cherry laurel will also be controlled and will not be threatening the woodland ecosystem.

Ancient woodland ground flora will remain plentiful while herb and scrub edges will line sections of the network of paths. Large sections of fallen dead wood will be plentiful from previously felled or naturally fallen trees within the wood.

There will be a minimum of 10% open space with the remnant meadow glades remaining semi-open with a dominance of meadow flora and grasses and a low density of trees which will provide a complimentary habitat to the denser areas of the wood.

Access facilities including the existing entrances, network of permissive paths and bridges will be maintained to suit the high local demand, and occasional visitors from further afield.

The Friends of Park Wood will continue to play an active role in the conservation of the wood, which will be an important local site of nature conservation with the surrounding community inspired to enjoy and protect it.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

The whole site was once contained within the ancient Forest of Bere but it has since been the subject of various usage which included stop-over sites for travelers using the London to Portsmouth road, a Georgian walled garden, and inclusion within a much larger estate following Enclosure in the early 1800's. This has led to the current layout of sub-compartments which comprise an ancient woodland area which incorporates the remains of the walled garden (cpt 1a), alongside two semi-open glades formed of remnant meadows over-topped with trees (cpt 1b and 1c).

The overall aesthetic of the site is most reminiscent of ancient woodland with veterans of a variety of tree species including yew, oak and beech the most prominent and defining characteristic of the wood, providing both visual and ecological interest.

Ash (which makes up less than 5% of the canopy), birch, and sycamore are also present in small irregular stands or as individual specimens from natural regeneration. Occasional Scot's pine, lime, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, elm and poplar are also present, with many mature examples. There are some gaps in the canopy following past tree removal and these are providing space and light for oak, ash, beech, yew and sycamore which are all regenerating. Ash dieback is present within the wood, affecting ash of all age classes and the first trees showing significant signs of decline from the disease were removed in 2018.

A proportion of establishing trees have been recruited or planted in place of removed trees (a requirement of the Tree Preservation Order on the wood) and some of these have been haloed to encourage their establishment as veteran trees in the long-term. There is evidence of squirrel damage to some young trees including beech, oak and sycamore, however, this does not currently appear to be affecting the overall composition or ecology of the wood.

There is a diverse understorey of trees and shrubs with hazel, holly, hawthorn, cherry, elder, rowan, field maple, goat willow and box all present. There is some prolific re-growth from previously coppiced species, notably holly and sycamore, though previously coppiced hazel has not re-grown to its full potential due to shade from the surrounding understorey. Non-native invasive species are almost absent following past clearance, though the occasional plant becomes apparent from time to time. The result is a patchy distribution of understorey with much temporary open space and gaps beneath the canopy creating a suitable structure which allows for sustainable succession within the wood and a pleasing aesthetic which compliments the specimen trees.

The area that previously comprised the walled garden in the east of compartment 1a has seen the least intervention in recent years, currently providing a denser, largely undisturbed area almost central to the wood.

Ancient woodland ground flora is abundant, with bluebell, wood anemone, lesser celandine and butcher's broom well represented, while other woodland plants are also present. Coarse vegetation is also present in patches, with bramble and bracken prevalent where there are gaps in the canopy and lining path edges in some areas. Large sections of fallen dead wood are plentiful where previously felled or naturally fallen trees have been retained within the wood.

The remnant meadow areas now resemble semi-open woodland glades, with spacious stands of oak which have been previously thinned overlying a ground flora dominated by grasses and meadow flora including occasional orchids.

A series of water-holding scrapes adjacent to the southern boundary to the east of compartment 1b link to a ditch and land-drain network which cross the southern end of the site. These features carry water through this historically wet portion of the site which is notable for the proliferation of goat willow and occasional poplar.

Significance

Ancient woodland now occupies only 2% of land in the UK and supports more threatened species than any other habitat in the UK. The veteran tree population in Park Wood is of particular importance as veteran trees provide unique ecological niches that cannot be provided by any other habitat. Park Wood is also locally significant, with its diversity of habitats providing sanctuary in a heavily populated area for flora and fauna that cannot bridge the dividing infrastructure that surrounds it. The wood is also likely to provide a measure of ecological connectivity to the wider landscape (e.g. for avian species and wind-dispersed seeds and pollen) due to a loosely connected 'green corridor' network in the surrounding area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
Wildlife, habitat and veteran tree surveys could be carried out to compile data.
Constraints:
Opportunities to retain standing dead wood are rare due to the small size of the wood, with footpaths through the majority and properties and roads on the periphery.

Factors Causing Change

Squirrels causing occasional damage to trees.
Non-native invasive species such as cherry laurel and bamboo which are mainly present within private gardens on the periphery of the wood and are at continual risk of spreading through the wood if not monitored and managed.
Holly and sycamore require management and monitoring as these species may dominate other species if left unchecked.
Natural succession of trees and coarse vegetation in open areas such as the glades and canopy gaps.
Ash dieback is likely to result in the loss of ash at the site, however, as ash is not one of the main constituents of the canopy (<5%) the loss of this species is not anticipated to be detrimental to the overall ecology of the wood. The gaps created from the loss of ash will allow some space and light for naturally regenerating trees such as beech, birch, oak and sycamore.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will retain its ancient woodland aesthetic and ecosystem, most evidently through its sustained population of veteran and mature trees, with supplementary age-classes providing succession for the long-

term. The canopy will comprise a diverse range of species, providing resilience to single species threats such as ash dieback, and will be sustained through natural regeneration (e.g. from beech, oak and sycamore) or supplementary planting of native UK sourced and grown (UKSG) trees where required.

Native shrubs will provide a diverse understorey, with an uneven distribution that also allows for patches of coarse vegetation and open space beneath the canopy. Non-native invasive species such cherry laurel will also be controlled and will not be threatening the woodland ecosystem. Ancient woodland ground flora will remain plentiful while herbs and scrub will line some edges of the network of paths. Large sections of fallen dead wood will be plentiful from previously felled or naturally fallen trees within the wood.

A minimum of 10% of the site will comprise open/temporary open space, with the majority provided by the two remnant meadow glades, supplemented by small coppice coupes which will provide short-term successional habitat throughout the wood.

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

To maintain the diverse woodland structure during this plan period. This will be achieved through the following:-

- Annual coppicing of one 0.1ha coupe of mixed broadleaf understorey, promoting hazel regeneration where possible.
- Coppicing of up to 30% of sycamore, holly and goat willow (including re-growth from past coppicing) across the whole site within the plan period. Opportunities to halo or promote specimen or veteran trees will be preferentially selected where applicable.
- Removal of non-native invasive species (e.g. cherry laurel and rhododendron) throughout the plan period if identified.
- Crown lifting/formative pruning of oaks in 1b and 1c within the plan period.
- Annual monitoring of coppicing and invasive species.
- Recruitment of natural regeneration or planting of UKSG trees to replace removed trees as required, subject to the conditions of the Tree Preservation Order on the wood within the plan period.
- Annual aftercare of any planted or recruited trees on site including removal of competing vegetation and formative pruning.
- Annual mowing of 0.6ha in compartments 1b and 1c and the arisings collected and deposited on the periphery of the site in September after flowering.
- Annual maintenance of ditches throughout the site and scrapes in cpt 1a.
- Annual observations of the progress of ADB and the succession of the habitat and any planting or recruitment of trees.
- Completion of a woodland condition assessment (WCA) in 2024.

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Park Wood is situated in Waterlooville, a large town with a population of over 64,000 people, accessible from junctions 2 and 3 of the A3(M). It is located between Queen's Road and Wallis Road on the west side of the A3 London Road, directly opposite the Forestry Commission's Queen's Inclosure. There is no parking on the A3 London Road, but the residential roads can be used for parking.

The wood is classified as access category A - regularly used at all times of year with more than approximately 15 - 20 people using one entrance every day.

There are four pedestrian access points with kissing gates that lead directly into the wood. Two on the east boundary off of the A3 London Road and two on the west boundary off of Treeside Way and Queen's Road. Each entrance is clearly marked with a wooden welcome sign, and ladderboards with notice panels are located opposite the south entrance off of London Road and the Treeside Way entrance on the west boundary. Litter bins are also located at these two entrances. There is a permissive path network throughout the majority of the wood, with four sleeper bridges on the southern-most path to facilitate access across ditches.

Benches provide stopping points at key locations, while a sculpture of giant feet along the northern-most path is a local curiosity and talking point. There is also an interpretation panel on the east meadow which provides an overview of the wood, and another near the remains of the old walled garden towards the centre of the wood which provides specific information about this part of Park Wood's history.

The Friends of Park Wood are active supporters of the Trust and hold monthly work parties to deliver works set out in the Trusts management plan for the wood. Throughout the year designated wardens also carry out regular patrols and litter picks, and the group hold events such as fungi and wildlife walks, and seasonal celebrations which are well attended by the local community.

Other sites (also remnants of the Forest of Bere) extend east to west in a fragmented 'corridor' of largely Forestry Commission owned woodland, all of which are publicly accessible and are under 10 miles away. These include Havant Thicket and Stanstead Forest to the east, and Creech Wood and West Walk to the west.

Significance

With a large local population, Park Wood provides an important ecological and recreational resource to the residents of Waterlooville, providing benefits to both mental and physical health and an opportunity to understand and appreciate the history of their surroundings. The Friends of Park Wood supporter group also offers the chance for local residents to gain an increased sense of community by socialising with like-minded neighbours and to play an active role in the conservation of the wood and support of the Trust. Extensive transport and access links to the wood also provide opportunities for occasional visitors from further afield.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
The high footfall within the wood sometimes results in anti-social behaviour including littering, den building,

and occasionally damage to infrastructure and fires.

Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping of green waste and invasive species encroachment from neighbouring properties occurs on occasion.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Park Wood will provide a safe and enjoyable woodland experience for visitors, with the existing network of accessible footpaths, entrances, infrastructure and signage maintained to suit the high level of use. Visitors from further afield will have an interesting stop-off point as part of a visit to the area, and local residents will treasure the wood as a peaceful place to walk, picnic, or soak up the sights and sounds of nature. The wood will strengthen community spirit by providing opportunities via the Friends of Park Wood for those who wish to be more active and engaged in the conservation and use of the wood.

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

To provide a safe, enjoyable woodland experience for visitors. This will be achieved through the following within the plan period:

- A minimum of one annual path cut with entrance maintenance throughout the plan period, with supplementary cutting of encroaching bramble, bracken and branches to maintain access by the FOPW if required.
- Weekly litter picks and disposal of litter from bins.
- Weekly monitoring of the site by designated FOPW wardens.
- Annual infrastructure inspections and maintenance.
- Annual tree safety inspections and remedial works as required in line with the Trusts Tree Risk Management Policy.
- An assessment of access infrastructure and signs in 2024 as part of the whole site woodland condition assessment.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	2.52	Mixed broadleaves	1900	High forest	Archaeological features, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
This is a very varied compartment with oak, beech and yew the most prominent species due to the numerous mature, ancient and veteran specimens. Ash, birch, and sycamore are also present in small irregular stands or as individual specimens from natural regeneration. Occasional Scot's pine, lime, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, elm and poplar are also present. Oak, ash, beech, yew and sycamore are all regenerating, with sycamore the most frequent. Ash dieback is present within the compartment, affecting ash of all age classes present. The understorey is equally diverse with hazel coppice, holly, hawthorn, cherry, elder, rowan, field maple, goat willow and box all present. Hazel, hawthorn, goat willow, field maple, cherry, holly, and elder are all regenerating, some (particularly holly) from previously coppiced stumps. Coarse vegetation is also present in patches, with bramble and bracken prevalent where there are gaps in the canopy. Ancient woodland ground flora is abundant, with bluebell, wood anemone, lesser celandine and butcher's broom well represented, while other woodland plants are also present. Remains of the brick footings of the Georgian walled-garden are visible, to the east of the compartment (near the west boundary of compartment 1c). Some shallow scrapes that were dug in 2016 and connect to the surrounding ditch network are located east of sub-compartment 1b, adjacent to the south boundary.							
1b	0.40	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees	Tree Preservation Order
This sub-compartment is adjacent to the south boundary and was historically a small grazed field. It is now a semi-open glade with grasses and wild flowers, with a spacious stand of previously thinned oaks that bridge the gap between the main wood and the tree-lined periphery adjacent to the Wallis Road properties that back onto the wood. Tree species on the periphery of the glade include oak, sycamore, ash, poplar and elm. Ash dieback is present within the sub-compartment, affecting ash of all age classes present. This area can be seasonally wet and therefore goat willow is more abundant than elsewhere in the wood. Orchids and							

twayblades have previously been recorded here.							
1c	0.47	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees	Tree Preservation Order
This sub-compartment is adjacent to the east boundary and was historically a predominantly open area as evidenced by the young age classes of trees that have colonised in relatively recent years and one open grown veteran oak at the southern end which has always had space to grow into. The majority of the southern half of the compartment is now a semi-open glade with grasses and wild flowers, including common spotted orchids, with a small spacious stand of previously thinned oaks. The northern half is a denser stand of oak, sycamore and ash natural regeneration which helps to buffer and screen the busy A3. There is a wooded periphery on all sides of the sub-compartment adjacent to the A3 London Road and the Queens Road and Wallis Road properties that back onto the wood to the north and south. Tree species in these areas include oak, sycamore and ash. Ash dieback is present within the compartment, affecting ash of all age classes.							

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. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.
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