

Statfold Wood

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

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

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

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat
 - 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland
 - 4.3 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Statfold Wood

Location:	Ashwater	Grid	reference:	SS390019	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	190
Area:	22.79 hectares (56.32 acres)								
External Designations:	N/A								
Internal Designations:	N/A								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Statfold Wood is a 23-hectare site of culm grassland, planted broadleaf woodland, and a small area of wet secondary woodland situated adjacent to the River Claw. It is located 3 miles south-east of the town of Holsworthy in West Devon, near the village of Hollacombe and approximately 1 mile south of the A3072 and west of the B3218. The site was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1990 and 14.7 hectares were planted with native tree and shrub species between 1993 and 1995.

Statfold Wood is in a shallow 'basin' of low-grade agricultural land, surrounded by commercial conifer plantations, and a few broadleaf woodlands. It lies within The Culm National Character Area (NCA No149) which extends from northeast Cornwall across Northwest Devon to Exmoor and southwards to Dartmoor and is characterised by heavy clay soils. The Culm is naturally sparsely wooded across its upper plateaus but often densely wooded in the small but steep sided river valleys that extend inland from the coast.

Culm Grassland (6.8ha) is a type of species-rich moorland, unique to North Devon and North Cornwall. It is formed where heavy clay overlies carboniferous rock, resulting in boggy, acidic land with a wide variety of flora, which is rich in habitats for many endangered species. The grassland is grazed annually by cattle in late-summer and supports a notably species-rich sward. The 1993-95 planted, native broadleaf woodland (14.7ha) is bounded by well-developed hedges, wet ditches, and a small area of semi-natural wet woodland (1.27ha) in the south-eastern corner. The site therefore offers a number of valuable habitat types and is rich in wildlife, with a strong red and roe deer population and a high number of bird of prey species represented locally.

The site has an access point at its northeast corner and along the southern boundary, both leading off the adjacent lanes. Access in the north is via a stile into the Culm Grassland and in the south via a kissing gate through the deer fence into the woodland with a further kissing gate through the deer fence linking the two areas. There is parking for two cars at each. Within the wood access is along wide grassy rides which are level, or gently sloping, however given the nature of the Culm measures the ground tends to be almost permanently wet.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

A vibrant and rich remnant of Culm grassland of high conservation value. It will have a wide range of culm grassland species with intermittent clumps of scrub habitat, willow and heathland plants that will sustain strong bird, animal and insect populations. The rich NVC M23/M24 sward, scrub and adjacent wood edge habitats will provide valuable foraging benefits, nesting areas, and species rich habitat for local wildlife as well as maintaining its attractive appearance for visitors, and any invasive non-native species will be controlled.

Statfold Wood helps to deliver the Trust's outcomes of creating new native woodland and enhancing woodland biodiversity as well as helping to provide and enhance public access to and appreciation of woodland habitats. The secondary woodland and the mature wet woodland will be managed to establish a predominantly native broadleaved species high forest woodland through a continuous cover management regime to create and maintain a healthy, sustainable, predominantly native species woodland with a diverse species, age and size structure, and a steady accumulation of standing and fallen deadwood. It will support a rich under-storey of woodland shrubs and flora and combined with its wide grassy rides, mature hedges, river, and adjacent semi-natural grassland as well as woodlands on adjacent land will act as a refuge and support biodiversity in the wider landscape. Any invasive non-native species will be controlled. Deer fence retained for as long as metal mesh remains deer-proof.

Statfold Wood will be a natural space valued and enjoyed by local users through welcoming, accessible entrances and a network of paths, all maintained to a good level of quality and safety. The Trusts duty of care to visitors will be addressed through ongoing tree safety, tree health checks, litter picks, management of misuse of the site, and appropriate site risk assessment regimes, which may require remedial works as required.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description
<p>6.81 Ha of semi-natural Culm grassland. Culm grasslands are a rare type of habitat peculiar to North Devon and North Cornwall. Its important for wildlife but also to hold water, filter pollution and retain carbon. The flora tends to be dominated by purple moor grass and rush pasture with wildflowers including; devil's bit scabious, birdsfoot trefoil and a number of species of orchids. Some scrub is an important element of the habitats contained within the culm. Statfold Wood is British NVC community M23 - <i>Juncus effusus/acutiflorus</i>-<i>Galium palustre</i> rush pasture dominant, with areas of M24 - <i>Molinia caerulea</i>-<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>, and patches more akin to MG6 (<i>Lolium perenne</i> - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> grassland) one of the mesotrophic grassland communities.</p> <p>Originally comprising of 9 small fields with hedgerows, the land was drained, ploughed and amalgamated into a single field for arable and then grassland production pre-Woodland Trust ownership. Both proved unsuccessful and many Culm grassland species recolonised the land. This recolonization occurred to such a degree particularly at the northern section of the site that the land was felt to be sufficiently representative of semi-natural culm grassland and left unplanted when the WT took on ownership in 1990, and has been managed as Culm Grassland since.</p> <p>The 6.9ha are grazed annually by cattle with low intensity stocking under a Farm Business Tenancy. By 2013 the quality of the culm sward/species had improved to a condition where Devon Wildlife Trust(DWT) declared it as an exemplar area of Culm Grassland habitats.</p> <p>Yellow rattle, devil's bit scabious, black knapweed, marsh valerian and birdsfoot trefoil are common, with a number of orchid species including heath spotted, common spotted, and southern marsh orchids. Purple moor grass, rushes and scrub are scattered throughout and a wide range of bird, animal, and insects are present throughout the varied sward mosaics.</p>
Significance
<p>Culm Grassland is a habitat unique to North Devon and North Cornwall, and is a fragmented and threatened habitat and is listed in the Devon Habitat Action Plan. The modernisation of agriculture, with government grants for draining land destroyed over 92% of this valuable habitat since the mid-20th century.</p> <p>Culm Grassland is also a species community that can be found in the Purple Moor and Rush pasture Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat in England.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities: Work with DWT to allow green hay harvesting to support the improvement of other Culm grassland areas across Devon and Cornwall.</p>

Work with expanding near-by beaver populations to provide potential habitat for expanding species through pond creation, wetting, and fence re-alignment.

Constraints: Wetness of ground means machinery cannot always access site if needed.

Factors Causing Change

Natural Succession to scrub, wet woodland, willow suckering, and other coarse vegetation.

Loss of grazing - Mowing rather than grazing may create some difficulty in maintaining the currently rich and variable sward depth and it may colonise to predominantly rush/coarse grassland as a result.

Deer population increases may lead to some areas of the site being over browsed which may adversely affect floristic values.

Fire damage.

Establishment of Non-native invasives e.g Himalayan balsam introduced via flood events or flytipping of garden waste.

Rising/lowering water table leading to the meadow becoming wetter or drier which may affect flora.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A vibrant and rich remnant of Culm grassland of high conservation value. It will have a wide range of culm grassland species with intermittent clumps of scrub habitat, willow and heathland plants that will sustain strong bird, animal and insect populations. The rich NVC M23/M24 sward, scrub and adjacent wood edge habitats will provide valuable foraging benefits, nesting areas, and species rich habitat for local wildlife as well as maintaining its attractive appearance for visitors. , and any invasive non-native species will be controlled.

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

Manage Culm grassland by -

- Maintain stock fenced boundaries of Culm area to enable grazing to continue (Cpt3a)
- Manage the grassland via annual low-intensity cattle grazing July-Oct (Cpt3a).
- Control noxious weeds (Cpt3a).
- Monitor encroachment of willow and gorse scrub and control as necessary to maintain open grassland condition. Maximum scrub cover should be approx. 10% of total culm area, control by cutting to reduce to acceptable level then allow deer browsing to control regrowth (Cpt3a)
- Liase with DWT about potential green hay cuts (Cpt3a)
- Maintain drinking area in the water course to provide adequate water supply for stock and install solar pump and water trough away from river edge to minimise pollution of watercourse through siltation etc (Cpt3a).

Beaver enhancement opportunities -

- Set back the fence alongside the River Claw to reduce the impact of flooding and waterlogging on fenceposts, and allow beaver dams to come out into the floodplain (290m of fence, gates, materials + labour). If they colonise, fence additional area of wet woodland later in plan period (150m fence, gates, materials and labour).
- Install new solar pump and trough – New fenceline will fence out cattle from river, so installation of a solar pump and water trough for cattle in field will allow continued grazing of Culm grassland habitat and improve water quality of river by removing cattle from river edge (pump, trough, pipe and installation)
- Introduce aspen trees into riparian zone - important native tree species particularly favoured by beavers, and add some more willow from cutting willow rods onsite and plant suckers (200 whips, recycled shelters, stakes and labour)

- Build small pond in the side stream

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Two areas of native broadleaf secondary woodland (consisting of Cpt 1a and 2a)

1a. Approximately 1.3ha of wet woodland - A small area of land located at the southeast corner of the wood. The history of past management is uncertain but the ground is uneven with raised drier 'mounds' containing oak, beech and downy birch spread across the more natural flat and seasonally wet areas are predominantly goat willow. The willow tends to be large and of multi-stemmed/coppice type form which has often collapsed to form a tangled canopy structure. Ground flora is patchy and mainly consists of fern and tussock grasses with bramble on drier areas. Its boundary with the road is of an outgrown hedge of predominantly beech with some willow. It was excluded from the deer fenced area access is possible via a gate in the fence or over the roadside hedge.

2a. Approximately 14.5ha predominantly native broadleaf woodland planted 1993-95 within a 6ft deer fence. Oak, ash, rowan, birch, hazel, holly, aspen, rose, etc. planted at a variable 1100/ha density. The site originally comprised 9 small fields with hedgerows. The land was drained, ploughed and amalgamated into a single field for arable and then grassland production pre-Woodland Trust ownership. Both proved unsuccessful and many Culm grassland species recolonised the land, particularly at the northern section which left unplanted when the WT took on ownership in 1990, and has been managed as Culm Grassland since, the south of the site is now native broadleaf woodland.

Much of the area was ploughed pre-planting to produce higher drier planting positions and for the furrows to carry water down slope into the retained culm grassland area. The woodland canopy established well, especially in the ash, aspen, hazel and shrub groups despite early heavy vole damage. The oak established much more slowly and took at least 10-12 years to break through the clays and put on good extension growth, but this variation in growth rates has resulted in a varied age and size as well as ground flora structure. Combined with the culm retention next to it, some culm species growing within the woodland, the grassland on the tracks and glades and the adjoining wet woodland this forms a very valuable matrix of woodland and associated habitats.

The deer fence around the secondary woodland will be retained until such times as its repair and maintenance becomes too costly in order to allow the woodland within to develop naturally and without the browsing pressures of the local deer population.

Significance

The woodland creation site adds a substantial area of native BL woodlands and associated habitats to an area landscape which contains predominantly improved grassland and coniferous woodlands. The wood helps to deliver the Trust's aims to create new native woodland and enhance woodland biodiversity as well as helping to deliver new native lowland broadleaf woodland which is a national, regional and local habitat action plan target.

Wet Woodland habitat is also a national and region action plan habitat. The area offers an additional type of woodland habitat to the broadleaf wood and culm grassland adjacent and therefore enhances the biodiversity of Statfold. This

helps the Trust deliver its aims to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of semi-natural habitats on its properties.
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer damage, • Squirrel damage • Wind damage • Impacts of tree pests and diseases such as, Ash Dieback. • Colonisation of Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and other non-native invasive species, which may wash downstream during floods or be spread by garden waste tipping. • Rising/lowering water table - may change species and structure of woodland to a more wet woodland type • Collapse/removal of deer fence will allow deer and possibly cattle to enter and browse/graze woodland and flora
Long term Objective (50 years+)
<p>Statfold Wood helps to deliver the Trust’s outcomes of creating new native woodland and enhancing woodland biodiversity as well as helping to provide and enhance public access to and appreciation of woodland habitats. The secondary woodland and the mature wet woodland will be managed to establish a predominantly native broadleaved species high forest woodland through a continuous cover management regime to create and maintain a healthy, sustainable, predominantly native species woodland with a diverse species, age and size structure, and a steady accumulation of standing and fallen deadwood. It will support a rich under-storey of woodland shrubs and flora and combined with its wide grassy rides, mature hedges, river, and adjacent semi-natural grassland as well as woodlands on adjacent land will act as a refuge and support biodiversity in the wider landscape. Any invasive non-native species will be controlled. Deer fence retained for as long as metal mesh remains deer-proof.</p>
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>To ensure continued existence of the woodland and to allow it to develop naturally and healthily with good structural diversity and species composition with natural regeneration of broadleaf trees, some mature trees, a rich shrub layer and developing ground flora. There are no interventions planned for the woodland in this plan period, other than small scale ride-side coppicing, and work for tree safety in the plan period.</p> <p>Rides and internal pathways will be managed by rideside coppicing annual where needed to ensure it allows light and air movement along the paths to benefit wildlife, increase and allow the spread of ground flora, in addition to improving public access.</p> <p>Manage deer fence in a deer proof condition for as long as possible to maintain the deer exclusion zone and allow woodland to develop as naturally as possible without browsing impact. Remove fence once it has deteriorated beyond serviceable life. NOTE - In agreement with neighbour to the west the WT allowed them to use the west section of fence as part of the deer fence around their broadleaf woodland planting and therefore this shouldn’t be removed without</p>

consulting them first.

4.3 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Statfold Wood contains a mixture of grassland and woodland habitats that provide multiple walking options for visitors.

The wood has a field gate, pedestrian kissing gate, and lay-by parking for two cars located at its southernmost point, and a field gate and stile entrance for the grassland to the northern most point, as well as parking for one car. The track into the grassland heads southwards through the Culm grassland area (Cpt 3a) giving walkers a chance to enjoy the open species rich grassland before entering the woodland creation area (Cpt2) via a kissing gate in the deer fence, where there are multiple linear and circular walking routes within the deer fence. All paths and tracks are naturally surfaced and grassy and can be wet and muddy in wet weather right throughout the year.

Significance

While the local area is quite well served by accessible woodland Statfold does, however, give a small number of local walkers an opportunity to enjoy a quieter and more natural and native broadleaf woodland area and the deer fence has been used by some dog walkers who feel they are safer in letting their dogs run off lead and not have issues with worrying stock in a rural setting.

Opportunities & Constraints

Wet and heavy clay ground conditions can make walking difficult for less-abled visitors.
Cattle grazing the Culm can be off-putting to some visitors

Factors Causing Change

Raised water table may mean tracks become more permanently wet and make access difficult
Canopy closure of woodland over tracks will reduce ability for surfaces to dry out and again affect accessibility
Cattle congregating around gates can poach soils and make access difficult and unwelcoming for first few metres into wood.
Gates through deer fence can look off-putting and substantial barriers.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Statfold Wood will be a natural space valued and enjoyed by local users through welcoming, accessible entrances and a network of paths, all maintained to a good level of quality and safety. The Trusts duty of care to visitors will be addressed through ongoing tree safety, tree health checks, litter picks, management of misuse of the site, and appropriate site risk assessment regimes, which may require remedial works as required.

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

The short-term objective is to maintain the site as easily accessible, attractive, well maintained, and safe woodland.

The path network and entrances should remain in good condition and appropriate for level and type of use and in accordance with access category C.

Entrance furniture will be maintained to keep them welcoming and in good condition to allow access to walkers.

Litter will be regularly collected to maintain a welcoming feel to the site, and other anti-social activity will be monitored and managed as appropriate.

Ensure visitor safety via ongoing monitoring regime of tree health and infrastructure, and remedial works as necessary.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	April

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.27	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	
<p>Small area of seasonally wet ground with Mature Oak and, Downy Birch on drier parts and Goat willow in the wetter areas. Generally unmanaged in the past the woodland has developed naturally with willow typically collapsing and re-growing where it lies. As it is also outside the deer fence the area is difficult to access for management. There is a small gate through the fence but there appears to be no public access</p>						
2a	14.65	Mixed native broadleaves	1994	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	
<p>Woodland creation site planted in two phases in 93/95 with mixed native BL species within a 6ft deer fence. Oak, ash, rowan, birch, hazel, holly, aspen, rose, etc. planted at a variable 1100/ha density. The area is seasonally wet and was ploughed before planting for drainage. The plough furrows stop at the northern end of the planting and do not extend into the culm retentions at the north end of the property. While mostly eroded, now, water still follows the plough lines and makes the ground very wet in places. Short and unsuccessful history of agriculture, many Culm grassland species prior to this prevail and rides are rich in ground flora. The trees have generally established well in most places. Some trees still struggle due to the wet conditions and low fertility of the soils but this gives the woodland a varied size and density structure. The area is currently still deer fenced to reduce the damage to these smaller trees that the large local population of Red deer might have on them. Access is via two management gates in the north and south of the wood and along a 'circular' grassy ride of 5/10m width.</p>						
3a	6.81	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Management factors (eg grazing etc), Mostly wet ground/exposed site	
<p>6.81 Ha of semi-natural Culm grassland. NVC community M23 - <i>Juncus effusus/acutiflorus</i>-<i>Galium palustre</i> rush pasture dominant, with areas of M24 - <i>Molinia caerulea</i>-<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>, and patches more akin to MG6 (<i>Lolium perenne</i> - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> grassland) one of the mesotrophic grassland communities. Dominated by purple moor grass and rush pasture with wildflowers including; yellow rattle, devil's bit scabious, black knapweed, marsh valerian, birdsfoot trefoil, meadow thistle, and a number of species of orchids inc. southern marsh, common spotted and heath spotted orchids.</p> <p>Previously an area of the ex-agricultural land until 1980's, which due to seasonal wetness and unproductiveness</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>reverted quickly back to its Culm grassland origins. The area has been sympathetically grazed in late-summer since circa 2000 when it was re-fenced and a long term lease was agreed with a local grazier. Due to this management the area has developed into a high-quality example of semi-natural Culm grassland</p>						

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.