

Park Wood

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

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

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

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

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GLOSSARY

MAP

1. SITE DETAILS

Park Wood

Location:	Waterlooville	Grid reference:	SU685103	OS	1:50,000	Sheet No.	196
Area:	3.39 hectares (8.38 acres)						
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order						
Internal Designations:	N/A						

2. SITE 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 National Landscape 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 0.2ha 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 with the conservation of the wood and by promoting its care and protection through events which are well attended by the local community.

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.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In the long-term (50 years plus) Park Wood will continue to be characterised by its specimen and veteran tree population 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 of predominantly native trees and shrubs including birch and hazel which will provide a diverse understorey, with patches of coarse vegetation, ancient and mixed woodland ground flora beneath the canopy.

The canopy will evolve largely through natural processes, with minimal silvicultural intervention (i.e. felling, thinning and coppicing) to supplement these processes where feasible and beneficial, as determined by a 5-yearly woodland ecological condition assessment. Gaps created from tree removal (e.g. tree safety works), natural failure or senescence will provide space and light for naturally regenerating trees such as beech, oak, yew, sycamore (or planted native trees where this is required as a stipulation of the Tree Preservation Order). Consequently, the wood will have varying stages of scrub succession, temporary open space on ride edges, and areas of minimum or non-intervention to support both woodland edge communities and old-growth habitat niches in the understorey.

Invasive non-native species such as cherry laurel will be controlled and will not be threatening the woodland ecosystem.

Dead or dying trees will only be felled if they pose a safety risk and where possible the resulting wood will be stacked within the wood to increase dead wood habitat. Where dead trees do not pose a safety risk they will be left to provide valuable standing deadwood habitat and 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.

Herbivore impact (e.g. deer browsing) will not be preventing succession and establishment of native trees and understorey from natural regeneration, or resulting in significant losses of established trees (e.g. by ring-barking from squirrels) following appropriate assessment and management to prevent a detrimental impact, if required.

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

The Friends of Park Wood will continue to support the Trust, with the surrounding community inspired to enjoy and value the wood as an important local site of nature conservation

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 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 as a stop-over site for travellers 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 (sub-cpts 1b and 1c), all of which are included within this key feature.

Veterans of a variety of tree species including yew, oak and beech are the most prominent and defining characteristic of the wood, providing both visual and ecological interest. Birch, and sycamore are also present in small irregular stands or as individual specimens from natural regeneration, with ash at less than 2% canopy cover following natural decline or removal in the previous plan period (2020 - 2025) due to ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxinea*). Occasional Scot's pine, lime, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, elm and poplar are also present, with many mature examples. There is a diverse understorey of trees and shrubs including hazel, holly, hawthorn, cherry, elder, rowan, field maple, goat willow and box.

There are some gaps in the canopy following past tree removal and the loss of ash and these are providing space and light for natural regeneration of oak, ash, beech, yew and sycamore. 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), supplemented with understorey re-growth in previously coppiced areas. The area that previously comprised the walled garden in the east of sub-cpt 1a has seen the least intervention in recent years, currently providing a denser, largely undisturbed area almost central to the wood.

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. Invasive non-native species are almost absent following past clearance and ongoing control, however, the occasional plant (e.g. cherry laurel) re-colonises from surrounding gardens.

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 sub-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
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
Herbivore impact: Squirrels are causing occasional damage to trees, but are having a negligible impact on the overall condition of the wood. Deer are absent due to this being a small site surrounded on all sides by roads and properties, with regular disturbance from visitors. Invasive non-native 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. Natural succession of trees and coarse vegetation in open areas such as the glades and canopy gaps. Ash dieback: At its peak ash totalled less than 5% of the total canopy cover of the wood, so the loss of this species is not anticipated to be detrimental to the overall ecology of the wood.
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 and Ireland sourced and grown (UKISG) 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. Invasive non-native species such as cherry laurel will 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 with short-term successional habitat from path cuts, tree safety works and coppicing if required following a 5-yearly woodland ecological condition assessment.

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

To maintain the ecological integrity of the woodland during this plan period. This will be achieved through the following:

- Assessment of invasive non-native species (e.g. cherry laurel and rhododendron) in 2025 and 2027 and removal if required to safeguard the native ecosystem.
- Annual maintenance of ditches throughout the site and scrapes in sub-cpt 1a.
- Completion of a woodland condition assessment in 2029 to inform the next management plan review.

4.2 f2 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 WT access category B - Moderate usage sites. 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 Tree Side 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 Tree Side Way entrance on the west boundary. There is a permissive path network of approximately 1km 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 since they formed in 2000. Throughout the year their designated wardens carry out regular patrols and litter picks, and the group deliver conservation tasks when required and 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
Factors Causing Change
Fly tipping of green waste and invasive species encroachment from neighbouring properties occurs on occasion. The moderate number of visitors brings both positive and negative effects including anti-social behaviour, littering, dog fouling, fires, desire lines and trampling of ground flora, as well as local support for the wood and the Trust.
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 moderate 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 value and visit the wood for quiet recreation.
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: • Monthly monitoring of the site by designated FOPW wardens with litter picks if required. • One annual path cut with entrance maintenance. • Annual infrastructure inspections and maintenance as required. • 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 2027 and 2029 as part of the whole site woodland condition assessment to inform the next management plan review.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks	Monthly
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
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
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks	Monthly
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	February
2027	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks	Monthly
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2028	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks	Monthly
2029	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2029	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2029	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks	Monthly
2030	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	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, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
Oak, beech, yew the most prominent species due to the numerous mature, ancient and veteran specimens, with birch, sycamore, ash, occasional Scot's pine, lime, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, elm and poplar. Hazel, holly, hawthorn, cherry, elder, rowan, field maple, goat willow and box understorey. 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. Ash dieback disease is present within the compartment, affecting ash of all age classes 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	0.4	Oak (pedunculate)		Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	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 wildflowers, 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	Oak (pedunculate)		Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
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 relatively recently 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 sub-compartment is now a semi-open glade with grasses and wildflowers, 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 London Road. 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.						

Ancient Woodland

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

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

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

Ancient Woodland Site

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

Beating Up

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

Broadleaf

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

Canopy

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

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

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

Conifer

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

Continuous Cover forestry

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

Coppice

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

Exotic (non-native) Species

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

Field Layer

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

Group Fell

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

Long Term Retention

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

Minimum Intervention

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

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

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

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

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

Origin & Provenance

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

Re-Stocking

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

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

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

Sub-Compartment

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

Thinning

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

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

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

Weeding

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

Windblow/Windthrow

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



Registered Office:

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

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