



Moat Wood

Management Plan

2020-2025

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 (operations@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:	Moat Wood
Location:	South Street, East Hoathly
Grid reference:	TQ516159, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 199
Area:	9.99 hectares (24.69 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Moat Wood is a 10ha (25 acre) ancient semi-natural woodland on the south-western edge of the village of East Hoathly in East Sussex. It was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1999 with the aid of significant donations from local people and the parish council (the Trust ownership does not include the whole wood).

The wood takes its name from a medieval moat at the centre of the site. The feature, which is partly filled with water for most of the year, surrounds a square island covered with mixed coppice. The moat and its surroundings (Subcpt 1b) were designated a Scheduled Monument in 2000 and a subsequent regular programme of work has allowed the feature to be much more visible to visitors. The wood had a full archaeological survey undertaken in 2005/06 (Bannister, 2006). Other historic features present on the site include banks, ditches and a causewayed track.

Moat wood is typical of ancient woodland in the East Sussex Low Weald, an area of low lying, mainly pastoral agriculture and woodland on heavy clay soils. Woodland accounts for 16% of this landscape with almost half being ancient (defined as existing since at least 1600AD). The majority of the canopy of Moat Wood is dominated by mature oak, grown as high forest, with a mixed species understorey. This canopy was drastically opened up by the storm of 1987 and subsequent clearing operations. These cleared areas are now dominated by a mixture of natural regeneration and coppice re-growth, particularly of hornbeam, along with a few surviving planted oaks. There is an area of wet and boggy alder carr (Subcpt 1c), a rare habitat for

Sussex. A small area of the wood contains the remnants of a crop of Scots pine, planted in 1969 (Subcpt 1e). Prior to 1987 the pine covered a larger area which was subsequently restocked with broadleaved trees (Subcpt 1d). The ground flora contains many ancient woodland indicator species including bluebell, wood anemone and common cow-wheat, which is unusually prolific in this wood. The wood is well known locally for its large population of adders.

The wood provides an important amenity for the local population with two access points from South Street. It is crossed by a public footpath which leads to the wider countryside after crossing the A22.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General location:

Moat Wood is situated on the SW edge of the village of East Hoathly, near Uckfield, East Sussex. There are 2 entrances in to the wood off South Street and one off the A22.

General overview of paths & entrances:

The entrance closest to the village is reached via the public footpath off South Street. The Trust's ownership starts approx 200m from the road. There is a another entrance approx 300m further along South Street towards the A22 where a wide kissing gate leads directly into the wood. There is also a stile leading into the wood on the public footpath on the western side of the wood off the A22. Rides connect all these entrances and allow a short circular walk. The site is level but the ground is frequently waterlogged during wet weather.

Parking:

There is no car park but cars may be parked in the lay-by close to the entrance nearest to the village.

Public Transport:

Nearest train station: Uckfield, approx 5½ miles away.

Nearest bus stop: Paines Farm, East Hoathly, adjacent to southern entrance to wood. There are several services a day from Lewes and Uckfield. Information obtained from Traveline website on 18/1/2007.

Further information on public transport can be obtained from Traveline: www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk or tel: 0870 608 2 608).

Public Toilets:

Nearest public toilets: Luxford Field car park, Uckfield, approx 5½ miles away. Disabled facilities accessible with a RADAR key and baby-changing facilities. Open: 8am-6pm. Information obtained from Wealden District Council website on 18/1/2007 (www.wealden.go.uk).

Other information:

The wood has a large population of adders so dogs and children should be kept under control.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The majority of the wood will be managed under a policy of minimum silvicultural intervention i.e. no operations such as coppicing, thinning or felling will take place. This will allow the mature oaks that form the canopy to develop veteran tree characteristics in the very long term and the understorey to mature. There will be a degree of self-thinning of all species that will increase the amount of standing and fallen deadwood habitats in the wood that are currently lacking. Gaps in the canopy will also be created by tree diseases and subsequent windblow. Some of the mature oak is currently affected by chronic oak decline and ash is affected by ash dieback. Both of these diseases will have an ongoing effect on the woodland structure and composition over time.

Some intervention will take place to maintain the diverse structure of the wood that currently exists. This will be in the form of small-scale coppicing of glades and scallops along rides and by short-rotation coppicing around the moat. The Scots pine in Subcpt 1e will be thinned at least once more to favour the existing broadleaves within the crop and to remove any threat to the ancient woodland components such as ground flora. Up to 20% of the canopy will remain as pine in the long term.

The coppice regrowth around the moat will be re-cut on a short cycle (2-5 years) to maintain open views of the feature. Growth within the moat itself and on the island banks will be cut at the same time. Periodic intervention on the island will also be necessary to maintain canopy cover and protect the feature from damage caused by windblown trees.

Low key, local public access will continue, supported by regular annual maintenance of rides, paths and entrance infrastructure. Signage and access infrastructure will be kept to a minimum.

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 Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Moat Wood is ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) with the majority equating to National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W10b: oak/bracken/bramble woodland (wood anemone subcommunity). The site has a partial, mature pedunculate oak canopy over a coppiced and naturally regenerated understorey of species such as hornbeam, birch, hazel, holly, sycamore and sweet chestnut. Large parts of the wood were replanted with broadleaves after the storm of 1987. Planted species include oak, ash, wild cherry and non-native Norway maple. Much of this has subsequently failed and been succeeded by natural regeneration of species such as hornbeam and birch. Ancient woodland indicator ground flora species such as bluebell, wood anemone and common cow-wheat occur frequently throughout the wood along with honeysuckle, bramble and bracken.

There is an area of alder carr (Subcpt 1c) equating to NVC W5: alder/greater tussock sedge woodland which includes areas of open water and islands carpeted with sphagnum moss. Tree cover here is dominated by birch and alder, both coppiced and as maiden trees. Other species include sycamore, holly, yew, alder buckthorn and sallow. Important ground flora in this part of the wood includes greater tussock sedge (*Carex paniculata*) and cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*).

Subcpt 1e contains the remains of a Scots pine plantation planted in 1969 and which previously extended into Subcpt 1d. This area, classified as a planted ancient woodland site (PAWS), also includes mixed broadleaves including oak, ash, sweet chestnut wild cherry and sycamore. The pine has been thinned twice in the last 20 years and now covers approximately 50% of the canopy of this area.

Significant historic woodbanks occur along parts of the SW and NW boundaries of the wood and trees species on them include wild service tree. In addition to the moat other historical features include internal woodbanks, ditches, ponds and other excavations and a causewayed track. Archive evidence for the wood goes back to the 14th century. See Moat Wood Archaeological Assessment by Dr Nicola Bannister (2006) for full inventory and descriptions.

The underlying geology is Cretaceous Tunbridge Wells Sand with stagnogleyic argillic brown earth soils which are slowly permeable and seasonally waterlogged. The land has a gentle slope from west to the east, with an average height of 50m OD. Water drains from the moat to the north and then north-east towards the neighbouring Decoy Pond. The wet area of Subcpt 1d drains to the south-east via a culvert under South Street.

Significance

The area of ancient woodland in the UK has been reduced to about 2% cover across the UK, particularly over the last 50 years, by development, conversion to agriculture and replanting with conifers.

Parts of Moat Wood that are outside of the Trust's ownership are threatened by unmanaged conifer plantations in one area and attempts to remove all vegetation prior to submitting a planning application in another. It is one of the main principles of the Woodland Trust to protect, maintain and restore this species-rich habitat.

Moat Wood sits within the well-wooded Low Weald and is part of a habitat network of ancient woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: -

To maintain an attractive and diverse area of ancient woodland close to a local community.

To work with neighbouring woodland owners to remove threats to ancient woodland components within their ownership.

Constraints:-

Wet ground conditions limit the use of machinery within the wood.

The area within the Scheduled Monument must be managed with the consent of Historic England

Factors Causing Change

Tree diseases affecting key broadleaved species such chronic oak decline, ink disease (*Phytophthora* spp) in sweet chestnut and ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*).

Deer browsing of coppice regrowth and natural regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Moat Wood will be a diverse broadleaved woodland dominated by native tree species including oak, hornbeam, birch and alder. There will be maturing oaks in the canopy with some beginning to show veteran tree characteristics such as dead limbs, decay and cavities. There will be much fallen and standing deadwood as the trees self-thin or succumb to disease. Gaps in the canopy will be formed by the death, collapse or windblow of large individual trees or groups of trees. These will fill with natural regeneration and regrowth from uprooted trees. Some species such as sweet chestnut and ash may no longer be present in any numbers due to disease and will be succeeded by species such as hornbeam, birch and sycamore.

Structural diversity in the wood due to natural processes will be supplemented by management operations such as short-rotation coppicing around the moat and along ride edges.

The Scots pine in Subcpt 1e will cover no more than 20% of the canopy and will not pose a threat to the ancient woodland components within the stand. Canopy species are likely to include oak, hornbeam, sycamore and wild cherry.

The site will be free of invasive non-native species (INNS) such as cherry laurel and *Lonicera nitida*.

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

Over the plan period (2020-25) the objectives are: to maintain the structural diversity of the wood; to maintain the moat; to reduce any threats from the Scots pine to ancient woodland components. This will be achieved by the following:-

- Annual programme of 2-zone ride management on a total of approx. 1200m of rides over the plan period (Subcpts 1a and 1e).

- Thin to waste Scots pine Subcpt 1e (0.7ha) in 2021.
- Ensure current very low levels of INNS (<0.1ha) are being controlled: cherry laurel Cpt 1a and 1c; *L. nitida* Cpt 1c.
- Woodland condition assessment of whole site (including PAWS in Subcpt 1e) to inform management plan review in 2025.

5.2 Archaeological Feature

Description

The medieval moat which gives the wood its name comprises of a square island, 35m across, surrounded by a ditch up to 19m wide and 1.3m deep, partially filled with water. The ditch in turn was surrounded by an outer bank up to 6m wide and 1m high, which survives around the western corner. The SW section has been largely infilled.

The island is covered with sweet chestnut and hornbeam coppice and the outer bank with mixed coppice and oak standards. The moat ditch has been colonised by willow and alder which is regularly coppiced.

This type of moated site is likely to have been a prestigious domestic or religious settlement containing timber-framed buildings and been built between 1250 and 1350. The moat was intended to have been a status symbol rather than a means of defence. The site will contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to the original use and abandonment of the settlement.

The moat was designated a Scheduled Monument by English Heritage in 2000. Since then the Woodland Trust has undertaken a programme of regular tree clearance around the moat and island, originally approved by English Heritage (now Historic England). This allowed the public better access to and visibility of the moat. It has also lessened the risk of damage to the site by windblown trees.

The moat is the most significant of the site's 33 historic features listed in the archaeological assessment carried out by Dr Nicola Bannister in 2005/06. Other features include boundary banks and ditches, trackways, excavations, a saw-pit and culverts, ranging in date from medieval to the 19th century. The site is well recorded in the archives with the earliest evidence from the late 14th century.

Significance

There are around 6000 moated sites known in England, mostly built between 1250 and 1350. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside.

The East Hoathly site is well preserved and will contain evidence relating to its original use and abandonment. There are other moated sites nearby in Waldron, Laughton and Buxted.

Most ancient woodlands have a wealth of archaeological features, preserved due to the lack of disturbance that comes from clearance for agriculture and subsequent ploughing. Many of these features relate to the historic use of the site such as saw-pits and boundary banks.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:-

To provide access to an important local historical feature.

Constraints:-

Sediments in the moat should not be disturbed by felled or windblown trees.

No vehicular access within the scheduled area.

Winter waterlogging.

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of birch, willow, holly etc and coppice regrowth.
Windblow of larger trees and coppice stools.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The moat will remain as a central feature of the wood, easily visible to visitors. There will be no loss of its historical importance due to disturbance by management activities, windblow or illegal activities. Its legal protection as a Scheduled Monument will be maintained.

Tree cover will be maintained so as to not obscure the feature but to suppress excessive undergrowth and be windfirm as far as is possible.

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

To maintain the moat in good condition, free from damage by windblow and illegal activities, and to maintain visibility for the visiting public. This will be achieved by:-

- Short rotation coppicing (approx 3 years) of the outer banks, moat ditch and island banks. The sections to be maintained on an annual basis will be determined by the amount of growth.
- Periodic thinning of the tree canopy of the island (approx. every 5 years) to maintain stability of coppice stools.
- Promotion of some coppice stems on the SW and SE sides to canopy trees in order to reduce growth of surrounding trees and bramble etc in the future.

5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

The wood is on the edge of the village of East Hoathly (parish population: 1600) and is used mainly by local residents, particularly for dog walking. It is classed as a WT access category B site: regular usage, 5 – 15 people using one entrance per day. There are obvious circular walks within the wood which can be accessed from the village by 2 entrances off South Street. The total length of paths within the site is approximately 1200m.

The wood is crossed by a public footpath which links it to open countryside to the south-west after crossing the A22. This footpath is 250m from the Wealdway long-distance footpath which passes through the village to the north.

The paths and rides within the wood are unsurfaced and frequently muddy due to the underlying geology and soil type. Although small, the site has the additional interest of the moat and displays of spring flowers typical of ancient woodland.

Other Woodland Trust sites nearby include Kiln Wood at Blackboys and Views Wood and Lake Wood in Uckfield.

Significance

The wood provides a valuable recreational amenity for the village whose residents raised funds towards its purchase and initial management costs. Woodland access is also available in the small section of Moat Wood to the north, owned and managed by the parish council, although direct access between the sites is difficult.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities: -

To maintain low-key public access to an area of wildlife-rich ancient woodland close to a village centre.
To work with neighbouring woodland owners (where agreed) to link the site with woodland to the north owned by the parish council and privately.

Constraints:

Public access can lead to disturbance of wildlife and damage to the habitat and archaeological features. Anti-social behaviour has been an issue at times in the past.

Factors Causing Change

Increases in housing in East Hoathly have led to an increase in visitor numbers and subsequent impacts on the wood. More housing is likely in the short term.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Moat Wood should continue to be used and valued by the local community and others for quiet, informal recreation. While visitor numbers are likely to increase it is expected that they will still fall with WT access category B: 5-15 visitors per day. The impact of visitors to the wood should not threaten its wildlife or archaeology. Infrastructure and signage will be kept to a minimum.

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

To maintain all paths, signs and gates in a safe condition to provide for the current level of usage (WT access category B). This will be achieved by:-

- Annual maintenance of 1200m of paths and rides - strim in July.
- Annual ride-edge management (see ASNW KF objective).
- Replace culvert under public footpath (2020).
- Tree safety survey along maintained paths (Zone B) every 2 years combined with an annual assessment of ash dieback across the site.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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Currently unavailable due to GDPR restrictions.

APPENDIX I: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
Ia	5.12	Oak (pedunculate)	1990	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Two storied high forest with partial oak canopy over mixed broadleaved understorey of coppiced, planted and natural regeneration origin. Woodbank on NW boundary with rare wild service tree. N boundary with wood outside WT ownership, waterlogged with seasonal stream, willows and planted poplars. Ground flora includes bluebells and wood anemones.</p>							
Ib	1.10	Mixed broadleaves	2000	Coppice	Archaeological features	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This subcpt is dominated by a medieval moat which is a Scheduled Monument. It consists of a square island surrounded on 3 sides by a water-filled ditch with an outer bank in some places. The ditch on the SW side is less well defined and is usually dry. Tree cover is similar to Subcpt Ia but with willow and alder in the moat ditch. From 2000 onwards the outer banks and ditch have been coppiced on a short cycle.</p>							
Ic	1.37	Birch (downy/silver)	1950	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This subcpt contains an area of wet woodland (alder carr and sphagnum moss bog) dominated by birch and alder coppice. It is bounded by a bank and ditch to the NE and SW side and a large ditch to the N.</p>							
Id	1.63	Mixed broadleaves	1990	Min-intervention	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation

						People with woods & trees	Order
<p>P90 mixed broadleaved restocking following 1987 windblow of Scots pine crop. Species include oak, ash, wild cherry and Norway maple with natural regeneration of birch, hornbeam, hazel, sycamore and willow.</p>							
le	0.71	Scots pine	1969	PAWS restoration	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Tree Preservation Order
<p>P69 Scots pine with mixed broadleaves in the canopy and understorey. The wood-bank forming the boundary of the wood has mixed species coppice on it. The ground flora is dominated by bramble except along the ride where there are extensive bluebells and stitchwort.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2021	le	Thin	0.60	33	20

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.

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.