



America 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

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

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

SUMMARY

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

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	America Wood
Location:	Shanklin
Grid reference:	SZ567820, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 196
Area:	10.98 hectares (27.13 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

America Wood is a 10.98ha (27 acre) site located on the west border of Shanklin, two kilometres from the east coast of the Isle of Wight. The wood is one of five sections of the America Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) totaling an area of 21.4ha (53 acres). The SSSI incorporates adjoining private land that forms a corridor of predominantly ancient woodland with some wood-pasture, grassland and riparian valleys through Lower Greensand. It is cited as the best known example of this woodland type found on the Isle of Wight by Natural England.

Much of the surrounding parish is documented as being grazed heathland up to the late 18th Century. English Nature (now Natural England) believe that America Wood may have been part of a complex of extensive rough grazing grounds of Apse Heath, and the lack of any substantial earthworks around the wood appears to support this. The overall lack of understorey, along with a number of mature oak pollards (many of which are outside of WT ownership, north of the wood but within America Wood SSSI) and trees of an open-grown nature indicate that America Wood may have been managed as wood-pasture and heathland in the past. However, if this is the case, then it appears to have been a considerable time since the wood was managed in this way due to the presence of a younger generation of trees now covering much of America Wood.

The Woodland Trust acquired the 10.98 hectares in 1985. The majority of the wood (8.46 ha) appears to be of ancient origin, with two separate areas of secondary woodland roughly central to the wood, totaling 2.52ha. The ancient area is dominated by mature and over-mature pedunculate and sessile oak with downy and silver birch. In addition to oak and birch, the secondary woodland areas also include sweet chestnut including some notable mature specimens, and occasional ash and sycamore. Ancient and veteran trees are present within the SSSI but are limited to single figures within Trust land.

There is little understorey through much of the site, however, hazel is the most dominant species where understorey is found, with holly, rowan, elder and cherry also present. Swathes of bluebell emerge in spring, before the ground is largely dominated by bracken and bramble later in the year. Other ancient woodland plants such as anemone, wood sorrel and pignut are also present in lower numbers.

Much of the wood is gently sloping or undulating, with damp, shady areas forming in the low-lying valley floors and drier plateaus on the higher ground, some of which are relatively exposed above the lower lying arable fields and pasture that surround much of the wood. The west boundary of the Trusts land is marked by a small northward flowing stream which travels the length of the whole SSSI. There are numerous springs on the valley sides and the stream provides a humid habitat for a relatively rich lichen and moss flora.

Red squirrels are notable in the wood, while deer appear to be absent as is the case for the majority of the island.

Pedestrian access to the wood is well catered for via public footpaths and bridleways; however, parking availability is extremely limited in close proximity to the wood.

2.2 Extended Description

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3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

America Wood has no parking nearby and can only be accessed by public footpaths or bridleways. A bridleway runs north-south from Ninham down to the A3020 with another branch veering east towards Shanklin. Footpaths enter the wood from Apse Heath on the west side and Shanklin to the east.

Within the wood there are maintained permissive footpaths. These are mostly bare earth and liable to become muddy in wet weather. Some are steep in places. There are 2 small bridges over streams.

Nearest Bus Stop : Whiteley Bank Crossroads on A3020. Accessible from Newport and Shanklin on Southern Vectis Route No. 2 (Information from www.islandbuses.info 0871 2002233). From there walk 1 mile east along A3020

Nearest Station : Shanklin 1 mile

Nearest Public Toilet : Shanklin Esplanade (1 mile) (disabled facilities) (Information from www.iwight.com May 2007)

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In 50 years' time America Wood will remain characterised by the dominant oak stands, complemented by a diverse assemblage of habitats including mixed broadleaf stands, pockets of dense understorey, swathes of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) ground flora and riparian habitat. Mature and over-mature trees will remain abundant, with a proportion of notable specimens present to supplement and succeed an existing and sustainable veteran tree population. A minimum of 25% of the site will comprise mixed native understorey including hazel, holly, rowan and elder.

Careful consideration has been given to the long-term development of the site as woodland as opposed to wood-pasture. Although it appears that the wood may have been managed as wood-pasture for a period of time, the 1864 6 inch OS map shows conifers planted in the northern half of the wood, suggesting that any grazing is likely to have stopped before this date, and the majority of the wood appears to have been sustained with purely broadleaf cover without timber production or harvesting due to poor access. Sweet chestnut is also likely to have been planted, possibly around the same time.

An ecological survey carried out in 2003 could not support the hypothesis that America Wood was wood-pasture for much of its history and English Nature (now Natural England) confirmed that there is no strong conservation case for pursuing wood pasture management on this site. The consensus is that any significant interventions or change in management are likely to be disproportionate to any gain, and could even alter the habitat continuity and characteristic appearance of the wood for which it has become known. On that basis, the wood will be managed with minimal intervention with emphasis on sustaining the mature and over-mature stands and increasing the veteran and ancient tree population to provide conditions for specialist species which depend on this rare habitat for their survival e.g. saproxylic invertebrates (those invertebrates that are dependent on dead or decaying wood or dependent on other organisms that are themselves dependent on dead wood).

The semi-open structure of the majority of the wood will be largely self-sustaining due to the vast cover of bracken and bramble in late season which suppresses the majority of vegetative growth. However, swathes of ancient woodland ground flora (predominantly bluebell which is known to have a level of symbiosis with bracken) will emerge in spring, prior to the peak growth of coarse vegetation. Paths will provide a variety of edge habitats including patches of mixed ASNW ground flora (e.g. anemone and wood sorrel), bracken glades, bramble thickets, shady areas with ferns and mosses and occasional patches of exposed sand which support invertebrates.

Where it is safe to do so, standing and fallen deadwood will be retained in large sections, and windthrown trees left whole if possible, to provide deadwood habitat. Windthrow of trees will provide space and light to encourage natural regeneration of oak by creating canopy gaps and exposing bare soil with little vegetative competition.

Natural regeneration of birch, sweet chestnut, sycamore and understorey vegetation will sustain the mixed broadleaf stands. In 2017 ash comprised less than 5% of the total canopy cover and as a result of ash dieback (which was first recorded at the site in 2017) is diminishing and will no longer be a long-term canopy component. Due to the low numbers of ash and the gradual progression of the disease, ash dieback is not considered to be a threat to the overall condition of the site and

affected trees will only be removed for risk management where required.

Sycamore will be recruited and managed to ensure it does not dominate other species and habitats and will be retained at a low density (less than 15% total woodland cover) to maintain diversity following the loss of ash trees to ash dieback in accordance with 'Managing woodland SSSIs with ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) - Joint advice from Natural England and the Forestry Commission' 2019.

The riparian corridor on the west boundary and damp low-lying valley floors will be non-intervention areas unless safety or access issues require management.

There will be a moderate number of visitors each year who will have access to the majority of the wood via signed entrances and a network of maintained but largely natural paths, with bridges to facilitate access in the wetter areas. This will be a tranquil site for quiet recreation activities and thriving wildlife.

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

America Wood is characterised by its dominance of pedunculate and sessile oak stands, with downy and silver birch over undulating valleys of acidic peat to peaty silt soils over Cretaceous Lower Greensand bedrock (ferruginous sands and sandrock beds). Swathes of bluebell dominate the ground in spring, with mixed ancient woodland ground flora on ride and stand edges (including wood anemone, wood sorrel, pignut and Solomon's seal) subsequently overtopped with bracken and bramble through summer.

There is a scattered understorey of hazel and occasional holly and elder throughout, however, the overriding impression is of open space beneath a largely closed canopy of mature and over-mature open-grown oaks. The dominant age class is estimated at 150 years with many characterful trees forming ecological niches from weathering and ageing (e.g. cavities and dead wood). However, dead wood is not as plentiful as would be expected with such an abundance of mature and over-mature trees, but where it occurs it is typically in large sections or whole trees, mainly from wind-throw, some of which are remnants of damage from the storm of 1987. Clearance of dead wood that pre-dates the Trusts ownership is documented and this is likely to account for its relative scarcity.

A younger generation of mixed broadleaves including oak, sweet chestnut and ash are distributed unevenly around the site and supplement the oak stands. Ash constitutes less than 5% of the total canopy cover and is limited to the extremities of the wood as isolated individual trees or small stands. Ash dieback decline symptoms are evident in all ash age classes present and tree safety works to manage the risk to visitors from affected trees began in 2017. Sycamore is the most recent colonist with a young age class and natural regeneration present, most notably in the south of the wood.

The largest sweet chestnut stands occupy the two secondary woodland areas indicated on the ancient woodland inventory map, though on site they are well-integrated into the wood and are only discernible by species composition due to the maturity of the stands and the presence of some large specimen trees.

True ancient and veteran trees (i.e. those that are atypical due to ecological features and/or age beyond the norm of the over-mature trees and stands present) are rare, and amount to single figures within Trust land. Currently four veteran and notable trees are recorded on the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory and include pedunculate oak and sweet chestnut with girths of up to 4.5m.

There are some dense swathes of understorey, mainly on the periphery, which are estimated to occupy a total of approximately 25% of the site. These are mostly concentrated in the north east, and south areas of the wood, particularly beneath the more open ash stands. Hazel is typically the most abundant species in those areas, with some elder and rowan. Holly is also present in groups or as large individual trees and there are also large specimen wild cherries in one area near the east boundary in the north of the wood.

Paths edges are varied with patches of ASNW ground flora, bracken glades, bramble thickets and patches of exposed sand present throughout the majority of the oak dominated stands. Path edges through the northern and southern ends of the wood support ferns and mosses where the lower lying ground nears the stream corridor, with the actual riparian corridor on the west boundary itself and damp low-lying valley floors throughout the wood the most abundant areas for these plants.

Significance

Ancient woodland occupies only approximately 4% of the Isle of Wight and supports more threatened species than any other habitat in the UK. It is one of the Trust's aims that there should be no further loss of ancient woodland. As America wood is both ancient and has the long-term continuity of mature, over-mature and veteran trees, it is particularly valuable for providing rare habitat niches for specialist species, particularly fungi and lichen, to survive and regenerate. America Wood is also locally significant as the main unit of the SSSI and as one of few remaining woodlands of this type on the Isle of Wight. It also provides habitat for the red squirrel, a 'near threatened' species in England.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Management access for operations is extremely limited and requires advance planning and communication with neighbouring landowners.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback is present, with ash of each age class present showing decline symptoms.

Sycamore is colonising the wood naturally and is a suitable substitute for ash following losses from ash dieback, without having to introduce trees by planting.

Sycamore and holly have the potential to become invasive.

Climate change and disease resilience of the oak stands is likely to be low due to the overall uniformity of its structure and dominance of only two species (pedunculate and sessile oak).

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The oak stands will be managed with minimum intervention with emphasis on sustaining habitat continuity through retention of mature and over-mature trees in significant numbers, and ensuring the recruitment of future veteran trees to supplement the existing population. Existing veterans and a cohort of successors will be secured with appropriate specialist tree management practices such as halo thinning or retrenchment works if essential for their survival.

Standing and fallen dead wood, including whole wind-thrown trees, large sections from natural failure of over-mature or veteran trees (e.g. from storm damage) and from tree safety operations will be retained where safe to do so.

The existing assemblage of additional habitats and age classes of trees that supplement the older trees and stands, including a minimum of approximately 25% understorey cover, will be sustained through natural regeneration and minimum-intervention. Such intervention includes recruiting and regulating sycamore regeneration levels to ensure sustained diversity (e.g. following the loss of trees to ash dieback) without detriment to existing habitats through dominance and suppression, using Natural England guidelines (see Long-term Policy).

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

To safeguard the continuity of oak stands and veteran tree population, and manage the development of supplementary habitats. This will be achieved through the following:

- An assessment of existing veteran trees and successors in 2021 to identify any works required to secure their recruitment and long-term retention, with monitoring as part of the 2024 woodland condition assessment.
- Retention of standing and fallen dead wood where safe to do so.
- A 24 monthly summer assessment of the progress of ADB and the recruitment of suitable natural regeneration of future canopy trees as part of planned tree safety inspections.
- Recruitment or removal, where appropriate, of sycamore natural regeneration in 2021, with monitoring as part of the 2024 woodland condition assessment to maintain levels to a maximum of 15% total woodland cover.
- Completion of a woodland condition assessment (WCA) in 2024 to inform the next management plan review.

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

America Wood is located on the west border of Shanklin, a popular seaside resort and parish on the east coast of the Isle of Wight with a population of approximately 21,000 residents. The wood is situated between Apse Manor Road and Upper Hyde Farm Lane approximately 10 to 12 miles south of the ferry terminals at Cowes or Fishbourne for visitors from the mainland.

The wood is classified as WT access category B, a moderate usage site with 5 - 15 people using one entrance per day.

There are few opportunities to park close to the woodland, with limited roadside space at nearby roads. However, pedestrian access is well catered for via a series of public rights of way which lead to and through the wood. These include a bridleway which runs north-south through the wood from Ninham down to the A3020 Shanklin Road, with an offshoot south to Upper Hyde Farm Lane on the outskirts of Shanklin. In addition two public footpaths run east to west between Apse Manor Road to the west of the wood and Shanklin to the east.

There are six pedestrian access points located at SZ56868241/SZ56898239 (north end), SZ56858200/SZ56848193 (central east boundary), SZ56818165 (south end), SZ56698200 (central west boundary). These all lead directly into the wood with only one equestrian friendly gate on the bridleway at the northeast entrance, and the majority of the entrances are marked with wooden welcome signs.

In addition to the public rights of way there are maintained permissive paths in the north half of the wood. All of the paths are largely natural and therefore can be very muddy during autumn and winter or following rainy spells, however, there are three bridges that facilitate access through the wetter areas and across ditches in the north, centre and south of the wood.

Borthwood Copse is another publically accessible woodland, managed by the National Trust, approximately 9 miles north of America Wood, at Alverstone Rd, Sandown PO36 0JS. It is an area of approximately 60 acres of ancient oak and beech woodland with sweet chestnut and hazel coppice and bluebells. The woodland is one of few examples of working coppice with standards on the Isle of Wight.

Significance

America Wood is cited as the best example of its type on the Isle of Wight and has been noted for its aesthetic and ecological value, due to its abundance of large characterful old trees. The lack of vehicle access to the wood and corresponding moderate visitor numbers means that the wood is a tranquil place for quiet recreation and is well suited to observing wildlife, with the highlight being the red squirrels which are often present at the wood. These attributes offer an invaluable refuge for local residents and an interesting stop-off point for visitors from further afield.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To engage with any additional local residents that express an interest in becoming volunteer Woodland Wardens.

Constraints:

There is a lack of parking close to the woodland and therefore visitors from further afield are advised to park in Shanklin or to visit the wood from holiday accommodation during a long-stay. Visitors are advised to walk to the wood and plan their visit by consulting a Rights of Way map in advance. The woodland is openly accessible, with multiple entry points and rights of way leaving little opportunity to regulate anti-social activities such as motorcycling or the creation of ramps for off-road cycling, which have occurred in the past.

Factors Causing Change

Fire could be extremely detrimental to the woodland in high summer due to the openness beneath the canopy, extensive bracken cover and retention of dead wood.

The up-turn in UK residents staying closer to home for holidays and the population increase in the south of England could result in an increase in visitors to Shanklin and to the wood.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Entrance infrastructure will be maintained to cater for the frequency of visitors to the site. Footpaths will remain largely natural, but suitable infrastructure (e.g. bridges) will facilitate access through some of the more challenging areas of the site to provide a safe, enjoyable and varied woodland experience for visitors. The site will be well used and appreciated by local residents and should retain its largely natural aesthetic.

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

To provide a safe, enjoyable and varied woodland experience for visitors. This will be achieved through the following:

- Strimming of rides once a year.
- An upgrade of entrance infrastructure and signs in 2021.
- Annual infrastructure inspections and maintenance.
- Annual monitoring for evidence of any anti-social behaviour impacts (e.g. littering, bike ramps, fires).
- 24 monthly tree safety inspections in line with the Trusts Tree Risk Management Policy and remedial works as required.
- An assessment of access infrastructure in 2024 as part of the whole site woodland condition assessment.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	10.98	Pedunculate/common oak	1600	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site		Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order

This compartment is comprised of 8.46ha of ancient woodland and 2.52ha of secondary woodland as indicated on the ancient woodland inventory map.

The majority is dominated by mature W10 oak/birch woodland, with individual trees or stands of sweet chestnut, ash, and young sycamore elsewhere. A group of 5 oaks have been planted on the western side at the widest point of the wood, with one tree established and dominant.

Ash dieback is present and affecting ash of all age classes present.

Understorey is generally sparse throughout much of the oak/birch stand, but is prolific in some areas of the periphery, with hazel typically the most abundant species, with holly, elder, rowan and wild cherry also present.

Ground flora is dominated by bluebells in the spring which is replaced by the dense bracken and bramble later in the summer, with patches of mixed ASNW ground flora in some stands and path edges and mosses and ferns present in shady areas.

A stream denotes the west boundary and the associated banks provide damp, shady habitat for mosses and ferns, and the occasional goat willow.

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.