



# Westcott Wood

## Management Plan

2020 – 2025

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## Management

# 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	Westcott Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Moretonhampstead
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SX785871, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 191
<b>Area:</b>	5.72 hectares (14.13 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	National Park, Planted Ancient Woodland Site

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Westcott Wood is a small, ovate shaped Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) situated on a steep, north facing slope amongst the hilly, wooded valley systems of Dartmoor National Park's north-eastern fringe. Predominantly formed of a non-native, commercial coniferous species plantation of Douglas fir, western hemlock and Sitka spruce, with a canopy component of sessile oak, and remnant ancient woodland features also present. The site is adjacent to the B3212 Moretonhampstead to Exeter road which borders Westcott's northern boundary, from here the topography slopes steeply upward to the south where it adjoins a flatter area of fields and broadleaf woodland. The nearest village is Doccombe; 1 kilometer to the west of the site. A public footpath leads from the highway through the wood eastwards towards the small hamlet of Westcott. The site

possesses significant local landscape character value in its immediate valley setting of pastoral fields and small woodlands. Situated within the Dartmoor National Character Area (150), Westcott forms part of the Teign Valley Ancient Woodland complex in the wider landscape, and is in close proximity to the popular visitor destination of Steps Bridge. Soils are free draining acidic loams, with low fertility, over a granite bedrock. The wood also features large glacially formed granite boulders and protrusions in some of the plantation areas. The area of mixed conifer broadleaf woodland adjacent to the road is believed to have been open, secondary woodland and rough pasture fields as recently as the early 20th century prior to commercial conifer planting. There is a recently clear-felled area with restocked native broadleaf tree species adjacent to the remaining conifer stands, demarcated by a utility power line which enters the wood perpendicular to the road. The area is identified as a national high priority zone for ancient woodland restoration and the conservation of brown hair-streak butterfly habitat. The site has a diverse range of remnant native, ancient woodland flora concentrated around linear features such as rides, historic wood bank features and areas of broadleaf woodland, where light levels are able to penetrate to the herb layer. This remnant floral seedbank indicates the sites historic status as an 'ancient woodland', appearing also as woodland on the first ordnance survey maps, as early as the 1840s. Westcott wood has low annual visitor numbers, and is mainly enjoyed by local residents who visit the site on foot due to limited parking for a single vehicle in front of the main gate, accessible from the road. The wood has 450 meters of rough forest track with a stony, hard surface which can be uneven places, and climbs at an incline of 20 meters over its total length of 300 meters

## 2.2 Extended Description

Westcott Wood is a small, ovate shaped Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) situated on a steep, north facing slope amongst the hilly, wooded valley systems of Dartmoor National Park's north-eastern fringe. Predominantly formed of a non-native, commercial coniferous species plantation of Douglas fir, western hemlock and Sitka spruce, with a canopy component of sessile oak, and remnant ancient woodland features also present. The site is adjacent to the B3212 Moretonhampstead to Exeter road which borders Westcott's northern boundary, from here the topography slopes steeply upward to the south where it adjoins a flatter area of fields and broadleaf woodland. The nearest village is Doccombe; 1 kilometer to the west of the site. A public footpath leads from the highway through the wood eastwards towards the small hamlet of Westcott. The site possesses significant local landscape character value in its immediate valley setting of pastoral fields and small woodlands. Situated within the Dartmoor National Character Area



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## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Westcott wood has two primary access points, in the north-west and south-east corners respectively. The north-west entrance is the main access point, adjacent to the B3212 Mortonhampstead to Exeter road, with a 12ft vehicle gate, a pedestrian access point and pull-in space with capacity for a single vehicle to park, but poor visibility for safely reverse parking. The road has no pavements to and from the nearest bus stop, therefore it is recommended for pedestrian safety that the footpath network is used to access the wood. The secondary, south-eastern entrance point to the site is accessible via a field gate on the route of a public footpath leading from the hamlet of Westcott. Although the walk through the woodland is relatively short, it does provide a quiet, enjoyable woodland experience, with walking access over a stony, rough forest track with a natural, unmodified surface.

### Public Toilet Facilities

The nearest public toilets are located in the nearby town of Moretonhampstead, approximately 4 miles from Westcott wood, in Court Street Car Park. Further information can be found on the Teignbridge District Council website:

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/community-and-people/clean-teignbridge/public-toilets/>

### **Public Transport**

The nearest bus stop is in the village of Doccombe approximately half a mile from the site on the main route between Exeter and Moretonhampstead. For more information, see the 'Visit Dartmoor' website:

<https://www.visitdartmoor.co.uk/key-information/travel-information/train-and-bus-connections/>

## **3.2 Access / Walks**

Westcott wood has two primary access points, in the north-west and south-east corners respectively. The north-west entrance is the main access point, adjacent to the B3212 Mortonhampstead to Exeter road, with a 12ft vehicle gate, a pedestrian access point and pull-in space with capacity for a single vehicle to park, but poor visibility for safely reverse parking. The secondary, south-eastern entrance point to the site is accessible via a field gate on the route of a public footpath leading from the hamlet of Westcott. The wood has 450 meters of rough forest track with a stony, hard surface which can be uneven places, and climbs at an incline of 20 meters over its total length of 300 meters

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Westcott wood will be gradually restored from PAWS to a predominantly native broadleaf woodland, with a multi-aged, multi-species high forest structure, in line with the Woodland Trust's guidance on restoring ancient woodland sites. By slowly and methodically thinning out non-native conifer species, and encouraging natural regeneration, the site will be restored to a woodland structure more representative of local character, Upland Oak Ancient Semi-natural woodlands (ASNW), 'Atlantic rainforest' W11, W16/17 NVC category woodland type, with main canopy and understory species comprised of sessile oak, beech, sycamore, birch, holly, hazel, elder, and willow. The wood will once again feature a rich diversity of ancient woodland ground flora, and support thriving ecosystems of native woodland species including invertebrates, birds, mammals and fungi. Pressures to the woodland's ecological integrity and ability to regenerate such as deer, grey squirrel, disease and non-native invasive species will be controlled through active management and a resilient range of predominantly native, broadleaf tree species with local genetic provenance will be encouraged. Rides and glades will be managed to facilitate maximum biodiversity within the woodland, this component will be less than 10% of the overall site, enrichment planting may be used to ensure the site has a strong diversity of native, site adapted tree species, and a robust understory of shrubs for wildlife habitat. The tranquil character of the woodland will be retained by facilitating low key recreation for primarily local visitors and the small number of tourists who utilise the right of way path network.

## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

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

### 5.1 Ancient Woodland Site

#### Description

Predominantly planted Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga meneziesii*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), and western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) conifer plantation (P1961) on a previously cleared NVC W11, W16/17 upland Oakwood, ancient semi-natural? woodland site. Remnant pre-plantation sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) trees with veteran features and pockets of ancient woodland flora are present throughout the site, particularly in areas with greater understory light levels. Other ancient woodland features such as species rich, historic wood banks with old, broadleaf standards (including some ash *Fraxinus excelsior*) and pre-plantation deadwood can be found demarcating woodland compartments throughout. There are small areas of retained sessile oak canopy with ancient woodland ground floral assemblages including bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetocella*) and dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), these areas also feature some beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with predominantly sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) regeneration and some hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice stools in the understory, subject to high levels of deer and squirrel browsing damage. An area of temporary open ground exists in the form a clear fell and restock (P2000), planted with a mix of native, broadleaf species (predominantly oak and ash) with protection. Some natural regeneration can also be found in this compartment, comprised of hazel, rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and birch (*Betula pendula*). The soils are free-draining, acidic loams with low to moderate fertility.

#### Significance

Upland oak woodland or 'Atlantic rainforest' is recognised as an internationally rare and important woodland habitat type, particularly for the lower plant assemblages it supports. Ancient Woodland is a nationally rare ecological resource, both its conservation and restoration form two of the fundamental objectives of the Woodland Trust. The Dartmoor National Park (DNPA) management plan 2020 - 2025 and the DNPA Habitat Action Plan both identify ancient woodland restoration of PAWS sites as a priority goal for supporting

their biodiversity objectives. Westcott wood is within 1.2km of Dartmoor's largest ancient woodland restoration project, Fingle Woods, and 0.5km of the Teign Valley SSSI, ancient woodland complex, designated for its status as upland oakwood, which presents an opportunity for landscape-scale expansion and connectivity of this important area of habitat to the wider Dartmoor wooded valleys area.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunities:

- Well established timber stands with history of good silvicultural management present an economic source of timber income to help fund restoration operations.
- Proximity of site to larger areas of ancient woodland present opportunity to increase biodiversity and resilience in relation to Lawton Principles.
- Low public use of site presents greater opportunities for focusing on ecological restoration.

#### Constraints:

- Less than optimal access infrastructure for large timber vehicles and machinery, within the site and including the wider timber access network.
- Potential visual impact to landscape character
- Historic, non-scheduled archeological features such as wood banks have potential to be damaged or disturbed by operations.
- Large granite boulders and protrusions within plantation areas restricts ease of access to timber.
- Large number of remnant, pre-plantation oak trees within stands presents challenge in regard to felling and extracting timber.
- High deer and squirrel numbers reducing the woods ability to regenerate.
- Small size of the wood and proximity of whole site to public footpath and road limits the feasibility of deer control.
- Conifer canopy producing prolific seed source, potentially outcompeting broadleaf regeneration.
- Small size of site reduces effectiveness of ecological restoration in relation to Lawton Principles.

### Factors Causing Change

- Pests and diseases will cause issues by increasing tree mortality and reducing growth rates. Although there is only a small proportion of ash in the wood, 'Ash Die Back' disease

will likely result in the loss of 80–95% of all ash trees, which will compromise the survival of species dependent on the specific biophysical properties of this species, such as specialist Lichens that rely on its specific bark PH. The loss of the unique dappled light levels produced by an ash canopy in favor of a more shading sycamore or beech canopy will have a negative impact on ancient woodland ground flora. Ash also has the most important leaf litter for building soil fertility and structure which will also translate to a net long term loss for the health and regeneration of the wood.

- Non-native tree regeneration, particularly shade tolerant western hemlock will compete with native broadleaf regeneration, and will dominate if not effectively managed, compromising long-term ancient woodland restoration efforts.
- Stand stability reduction due to thinning in combination with increased frequency of winter storms due to climate change will present greater risk of wind damage to individual trees.
- Rough vegetation encroachment due to thinning, clear-felling and increased light levels in the understory.
- Deer and squirrel browsing pressure increasing due to landscape-scale lack of management, leading to reduction in tree regeneration and damage to growing tree stock, particularly palatable species such as beech and sycamore.
- Non-native invasive species being introduced such as laurel, rhododendron and Himalayan balsam could compromise ancient woodland restoration efforts if left unmanaged. Japanese knotweed and Cotoneaster already present within the wood in small areas.

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The PAWS areas of the site will be managed under a continuous cover forestry, single tree selection system with a long term goal of a high forest, broadleaf structure predominantly of sessile oak, with a strong understory element of native species adapted to site conditions such as hazel, rowan, blackthorn and hawthorn. A multi-age structure with a resilient diversity of mostly native, broadleaf tree species with local provenance genetics will be aimed for to maximize resilience to climate change and diseases. Restoration of the PAWS areas to broadleaf woodland will be aimed to be completed within 30 years. Standing and fallen deadwood volumes within the wood will be increased, with a minimum aim of 20 cubic meters per hectare. Future veteran trees will be retained and managed to produce a cohort of ancient trees on site, maximizing habitat quality for associated flora and fauna.

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

1. CCF selection thinning at 20% – 30% of basal area to increase light levels and move PAWS area towards restored ancient woodland status in line with Woodland Trust guidelines. Heavier intensity thinning on tracksides to begin increasing light levels and creation of ride, to improve habitat quality, particularly for brown hairstreak butterfly.
2. Halo-thin around remnant pre-plantation oaks within the PAWS areas to increase their chances of survival and increase habitat quality for associated floral and faunal species.
3. Erect two deer exclosures and monitor impact of deer on broadleaf tree regeneration within the wood.
4. Carry out after-care on planted and regenerated trees in the clear fell and restock area.
5. Cut and treat non-native invasive species, Japanese knotweed and cotoneaster with aim of eradication from site.
6. Plant blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) underneath powerline to improve habitat and egg laying opportunities for brown-hairstreak butterfly. Creates opportunity for regular management of blackthorn in line with power line related scrub control, producing fresh shoots and leaves periodically.

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

Westcott wood has two primary access points, in the north-west and south-east corners respectively. The north-west entrance is the main access point, adjacent to the B3212 Mortonhampstead to Exeter road, with a 12ft vehicle gate, a pedestrian access point and pull-in space with capacity for a single vehicle to park, but poor visibility for safely reverse parking. The secondary, south-eastern entrance point to the site is accessible via a field gate on the route of a public footpath leading from the hamlet of Westcott. The wood has 450 meters of rough forest track with a stony, hard surface which can be uneven places, and climbs at an incline of 20 meters over its total length of 300 meters

### Significance

Free, open access for everyone to all Woodland Trust sites, and connecting people with woods and trees is a fundamental objective of the organisation. The Dartmoor National Park management plan 2020 – 2050 also outlines open access provision for the general public as a key objective. The site also forms part of the local footpath network and is bisected by a public right of way. The wood is an important resource for local residents as a recreational resource contributing to health and wellbeing.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunities:

- Low visitor pressure presents opportunity to maintain the site as a quiet recreational resource for local residents.

#### Constraints:

- Accessing the wood via the road entrance presents a hazard due to limited and difficult parking provisions, and a lack of pedestrian pavement.
- The woods location is on an isolated section of the public footpath network, making it difficult to access for a larger number of visitors on Dartmoor.
- Far larger, more popular areas of recreational woodland such as Fingle Woods are close by, and in the wider Teign valley area, which is likely to draw the majority of potential visitors.

### Factors Causing Change

- Changing social trends: Increasing visitor pressure due to external advertisement of the



public footpath, encouraging its use and access to the countryside. Higher use can lead to erosion of paths, creation of unofficial paths or 'desire lines' through sensitive areas of flora, and increase of nitrogen input from dogs.

- Tree disease: Ash Die Back presents an additional tree safety issue by increasing the likelihood of mortality of the few ash trees on site to occur before 2024 - impacting on roadside and trackside safety.
- Increases in winter rainfall and storm frequency due to climate change potentially increasing erosion of paths within the wood.
- Increases in drought conditions in summer and storm frequency in winter due to climate change increasing chance of 'summer limb drop' and wind blow events, particularly in beech, contributing to tree safety issues.

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

A locally valued accessible and attractive informal link through the countryside along the public rights of way network, providing a recreational resource with associated health benefits within walkable distance of Doccombe and Westcott. The path network and access infrastructure are safe, fit for purpose and in well-maintained condition. The main users of the site are local residents, in particular dog walkers.

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

- Maintain current access infrastructure and paths to ensure continued safety, accessibility and enjoyment for local user groups of the wood.

## 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 Constraints	Management	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.69	Mixed native broadleaves	2000	High forest			Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	National Park, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Clearfell (1999) and restock area (P2000), planted with a mix of native, broadleaf tree species including predominantly oak and ash with guard and stake protection. Natural regeneration of tree species is rare but includes douglas fir, sitka spruce, hazel, rowan, ash and birch. Ancient woodland ground flora is present in variable density across the sub compartment, as is rough vegetation such as bracken on upper slopes and bramble on lower slopes, holly regeneration is present but tightly browsed to the ground by deer. Japanese knotweed is present on the eastern boundary encroaching from neighboring properties. A historic wood bank forms the eastern and northern boundaries with the road and features large standards of ash, beech and oak, with elder and hazel coppice stools. A power line (10kv) intersects this area from sub compartment 1b to the road, there is also a line spur across to the residential property in the adjacent land to the east of the site. Very little standing or fallen deadwood present.</p>								
1b	2.34	Douglas fir	1961	PAWS restoration			Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	National Park, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>W11a in the PAWS areas, W10e on lower slopes that were previously acidic wood pasture. A mixed species, even aged conifer timber plantation of Douglas Fir (P1961) and Sitka Spruce (P1961) with occasional remnant oak, beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut standards, particularly closer to the road and northern boundary. Poor understory</p>								

predominantly comprised of hazel and holly under broadleaf standards, natural regeneration is occasional, concentrated around more heavily thinned areas with greater levels and includes western hemlock (from sub compartment 1c) Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, beech and sycamore regeneration. Remnant ancient woodland flora survives most strongly on more open ride edges and includes dog's mercury, wood sorrel, primrose, bluebell and various rush, sedge and fern species, with occasional bracken and bramble throughout. Very little standing or fallen deadwood present.

1c	2.70	Western hemlock	1961	PAWS restoration	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	National Park, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Even aged, single species Western hemlock (P1961) conifer timber plantation with sparse to no understory, natural regeneration or ground flora. Highly shaded understory with dense western hemlock needle carpet. The sub compartment does have a frequent abundance of remnant pre-plantation oak trees, currently suppressed by the canopy light levels (however haloing work was carried out in 2015), and some lichens, bluebells and wood sorrel on woodland edges where light levels are higher - high abundance of common bryophyte species throughout. Steep, north-east facing slope with difficult extraction for timber machinery due to felled and ring-barked western hemlock, gullies and granite protrusions. Very little standing or fallen deadwood present.

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	1b	Thin	2.30	183	421.15
2017	1c	Thin	2.70	57	153.02
2019	1c	Thin	2.70	37	100
2020	1c	Thin	2.70	37	100
2021	1c	Thin	2.70	37	100
2022	1b	Thin	0.69	145	100
2022	1c	Thin	2.70	37	100
2023	1c	Thin	2.70	37	100
2024	1c	Thin	2.70	37	100
2025	1c	Thin	2.70	37	100
2030	1b	Thin	0.69	145	100
2035	1b	Thin	0.69	145	100

## 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.

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