

# Durfold Wood

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

## Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

# Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](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.

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

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

## The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

## Location and Access

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

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

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

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

# The Management Plan

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

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Durfold Wood

Location:	Dunsfold Grid reference: SU987326 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 186
Area:	17.56 hectares (43.39 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Durford Wood is situated between the villages of Chiddingfold and Plaistow, in the Surrey Low Weald, 12 miles south of Guildford. The wood was purchased in 1989 with a major donation from Johnson Wax. The wood is situated in the National Character Area 121, the Low Weald, which is a broad, low-lying clay vale wrapping around the northern, western and southern edges of the High Weald. The Low Weald is predominantly agricultural, supporting mainly pastoral farming. Densely wooded areas exist across the landscape with a high proportion of ancient woodland. The Low Weald NCA contains 29,118 ha of woodland, 16% of the total area, significantly of this 14,193 ha is ancient woodland.

Durford Wood is part of the greater Chiddingfold Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated as the largest oak woodland found on Weald Clay and for its significant butterfly and moth populations, including the wood white butterfly. This mature forest borders three quarters of Durford Wood boundary with the remaining quarter neighbouring improved grassland and 20th century farm outbuildings near the car park. Chiddingfold Forest was once part of the Shillinglee Estate but is now sub-divided and under various ownerships, predominantly the Forestry Commission. Adjoining this area of woodland is the Surrey Hills Area of Great Landscape Value, designated by Surrey County Council for its scenic value, nestled between the South Downs National Park and the Surrey Hills Area Of Natural Beauty.

Durford Wood is an ancient woodland site with acid soils, the woodland is dominated by oak and sweet chestnut, the area is of great wildlife interest. Only a few mature trees remain in the wood with most of the oak and chestnut dating back to around the 1950's. Many of oaks are now suffering from chronic oak decline (COD), the effect of which is significant across the wood and the wider Chiddingfold Forest. Parts of the wood have been coppiced in the past while other areas have been clear-felled and now have the appearance of secondary woodland. There was also a small area of conifer (0.5ha) which has been gradually restored to secure broadleaf woodland,

The acid soil restricts the number of typical woodland wildflowers expected with bramble and bracken dominating open ground along with patches of heather and bilberry. Wild service tree is present and regenerating well across the site. In the woodland glades and path edges, common cow wheat, toad rush, foxgloves, wood sage, various ferns and St John's wort spp. can be found. The woodland habitats support populations of bats, dormice and tawny owls.

Situated on clay and having flat terrain, Durford Wood has poor drainage (improved via a series ditches and culverts) and is usually wet throughout the winter months which can make access difficult. A narrow access strip leads to the wood from the car park. Permissive footpaths run along the woodland ride system which links with a Public Right of Way across the southern boundary, which in turn joins the Sussex Border Path. There are further Rights of Way just north of the woodland's boundary.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

The management of this site encompasses several criteria of The Woodland Trust's management approach. The site will be:-

- Managed to maintain intrinsic key features and reflect those of the surrounding landscape
- Managed to provide free, welcoming, accessible and safe public access for quiet, informal recreation
- Managed to retain heritage and cultural value, and old-growth / ancient trees will be retained for as long as possible

In fifty years' time, Durfold Wood will be a mixed broadleaf high forest, with a canopy diverse in species and age.

A minimal intervention approach will be deployed where possible, allowing natural processes to shape the woodland so that it contains a diverse range of tree species across the age range. The only planned silvicultural operations will be associated with the removal of diseased trees and a small-scale operation to remove regenerating western hemlock in compartment 1b (0.18 hectare). Other individual trees will be made safe on the grounds of tree safety. The effect of tree disease will lead to a decline in the abundance of oak and sweet chestnut, contributing to important deadwood habitat both standing and fallen, of particular benefit for invertebrate and fungal communities. Regenerating species including silver birch, rowan, holly and hazel and importantly wild service tree, will thrive in the newly formed canopy gaps and will become more prevalent. As the woodland matures, some broadleaved trees will be left to reach old age and decline naturally, these trees will only be felled if they pose a significant tree safety risk. Observations will be carried out to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland. Other pests and diseases, including deer numbers will be monitored and managed where necessary.

The public's enjoyment of the woodland will be sustained by maintaining an accessible and safe network of paths and rides. Entrances, car park, signage and benches will be maintained. The access provision will be monitored to ensure provision is adequate to the site usage as the local population increases. This will be achieved through a managed path and entrance network and regular safety inspections of site infrastructure and of higher risk tree zones.



## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

#### Description

Durfold Wood is an established, previously actively managed, ancient semi natural woodland on the Weald Clay, classified under NVC as W16 oak with birch and bilberry. Historically, numerous water courses were built to divert water offsite, however the woodland is starting to dry out with many of the water courses not holding water outside of the very wettest periods of the year. Almost all paths through the wood were laid straight. The greatest period of management activity probably occurred during the First and Second World Wars. Various management techniques were applied throughout this time to the different compartments. There are areas of former hazel coppice with oak standards, areas where standards (mainly oak and sweet chestnut) have been selectively felled, areas of sweet chestnut and oak coppice, and areas of regenerated broadleaves following clear felling. The last period of significant activity was during the 1950s/60s when the most recently established oaks and sweet chestnut and conifers were planted and the existing oaks and sweet chestnut were coppiced

During its ownership the trust has been removing non-native species such as Turkey oak, various conifers including Norway spruce, western hemlock and European larch, and invasive rhododendron. The Trust has also widened rides with large scallops in some places to enhance the diversity of the woodland ground flora. Following years of gradual Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) restoration, selected conifers have been retained as feature trees for visual and historical interest. The wood is homogeneous with the surrounding woodland blocks, apart from a Scots pine plantation along the southerly eastern ride. Overall, the structure and species composition of the wood is fairly diverse.

The presence of wild service trees throughout the woodland suggests the site has been consistently wooded for centuries and as such it supports a rich biodiversity. Many oaks and sweet chestnuts are in continued decline and as a result the amount of standing and fallen deadwood has increased since the last plan period, a trend likely to continue. Combined with the past PAWS restoration and ride widening works, many areas of the canopy have opened up, changing the light levels reaching the woodland floor. These areas are now mostly dominated by bracken and bramble, with patches of bilberry abundant in the south east of the site, and bryophytes in damper areas along the western edge. Woodland ground flora includes, cow wheat, wood avens, foxgloves, St John's wort spp., wood sage, hard fern, wood sage and toad rush. Understory tree species include hazel, hawthorn, birch, rowan, elder and increasingly holly in small thickets in the central northern area of the wood.

The wood has a fluctuating population of dormice and the 50 dormouse boxes throughout the wood are surveyed regularly by local volunteers. the woodland is of importance to bats with populations of Bechstein's and Barbastelles known to be present. Brown long eared bats have also been found in dormouse boxes.

#### Significance

Durfold Wood is within the Chiddingfold Forest SSSI which constitutes the largest virtually continuous block of oak woodland in Britain on Weald Clay, totalling 545.5 hectares. Durfold Wood is characteristic of the wider native oak woodland. Although the wood has few trees older than 80-100 years, it harbours healthy wildlife populations with a mix of woodland habitats – high forest, woodland glades, open rides, holly thickets, and sweet chestnut and hazel coppice. In the wider forest, there are important Lepidoptera populations including wood white, grizzled skipper, forester and drab looper (to name a few), all of which are UK BAP priority species, now only found in localised areas of the southeast. Although Durfold Wood is unlikely to become a permanent stronghold of these populations due to its poor drainage making it unsuitable for most butterfly food plants, it could provide a steppingstone, linking populations to other more suitable areas. Durfold is also recognised as an important woodland habitat for local bats supporting several rarer species including Bechstein's, Barbastelle's and brown long eared bats.

#### **Opportunities & Constraints**

Constraints: wet conditions in the winter restrict access.

Opportunities: liaise with the FC and FR over chronic oak dieback and how best to manage its effect across the forest block – current FC management is to maintain the woodland as high forest, reinstate sweet chestnut and hazel coppice.

#### **Factors Causing Change**

Invasive species (rhododendron and holly)

Dieback of oaks and sweet chestnut

Increased deer and rabbit browsing preventing the development of regenerating species

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

Durfold Wood will be maintained and enhanced by encouraging the continuation of the existing mixed-age, mixed species broadleaved woodland. Active management of rides and glades within the wood will encourage diversity in the ground flora, with a graded woodland edge benefiting the local Lepidoptera populations.

Other broadleaf species such as wild service tree, rowan, silver birch, hazel and holly will become more frequent as the current dominant oak and sweet chestnut succumb to disease creating gaps in the canopy and significant dead-wood habitats. In some areas where the oak and sweet chestnut dieback is concentrated, small areas of semi-permanent open ground may develop, dominated by bracken and bramble.

The wood will be free from damaging effects of invasive non-native species (INNS) such as western hemlock, Sitka spruce and rhododendron. A few conifers may be retained for visual and historical interest.

Coppice management of hazel and sweet chestnut stands will support habitat diversity and encourage species reliant on coppice rotation.

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

During the next 5-year plan period management will be undertaken to control and monitor invasive species and improve the structural diversity of the wood with the aim of supporting rare fauna and flora.

- Rhododendron scattered over 0.7ha in the north-west corner of the site will continue to be eradicated by the end of the plan period.

- Continue with the ride management programme across the site. Scrub in previously opened areas will be cut biennially and bracken controlled through whipping and mowing annually to enhance ground flora and encourage suitable Lepidoptera habitat. Total area to be kept open will be 0.92ha. Glades should have a minimum canopy gap of 20m.

- The ancient woodland components of the site will not be threatened by the presence of the remaining conifer component. The last 0.18 ha of western hemlock is to be removed by February 2024.

- The dieback of oak and sweet chestnut will be monitored midway through the plan period and every five years as a part of the Woodland Condition Assessment annually to ensure that canopy gaps do not exceed 20% of the total woodland area.

- The impact of deer and rabbit browsing on tree and ground flora regeneration will be monitored every 5 years to ensure that natural regeneration of native species is not adversely impacted. This monitoring will include a Herbivore Impact Assessment at the mid point of the plan period (late winter 2025), and a further Deer Impact Assessment towards the end of the plan period (late winter 2027) this will assist in informing management decisions associated with impacts of deer and rabbits and subsequent requirement for control of these populations.

## 4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

### Description

Durfold Wood has a Woodland Trust access category B (Moderate usage sites. Regular usage, 5 – 15 people using one entrance per day) The nearest urban areas are Chiddingfold and Plaistow, Chiddingfold is 3.5 miles to the West and has a population of circa 3000 residents, whilst Plaistow is only 2 miles distant and has a population of circa 2000. Durfold Wood is a popular dog walking site. Corner Copse, another Woodland Trust site is 2 miles to the SW in Ifold. Durfold wood is a part of the greater Chiddingfold Forest, much of which is a SSSI, most of this woodland is managed by Forestry England, which allows recreational access. Butterfly Conservation and Sussex Wildlife Trust also own and manage land within the complex, which is again open for recreational access.

Informal public access is managed by the Woodland Trust through notices in the car park off of Fisher Lane (car park is limited to 5 bays), the information board in the north-east main block and by the two small Woodland Trust signs at either end of the public bridleway in the extreme south of Durfold Wood. The network of rides gives easy access to most parts of the wood. Most of the rides are straight but scalloping and widening has added visual interest. Routes through the wood are well defined and link in well with the local footpath and bridleway network. The main north-south ride near the western boundary and the southern public bridleway connect to the Sussex Border Path. Note the track running the length of the site's eastern boundary is private and not PROW; however, there have been issues in the past with the public using the track.

<p>The majority of ditches and streams are culverted under the rides but there are also two sleeper bridges, one in the north and one at the extreme south western corner.</p>
<p><b>Significance</b></p>
<p>Durford Wood is part of a larger tract of oak woodland known as Chiddingfold Forest. People can walk and enjoy nature in Durfold Wood, away from roads and linking in to a long distance footpath (the Sussex Border Path). The site is a regular destination for local dog walkers and nature enthusiasts. The population of dormice and installed boxes also draws in volunteer recorders from the Surrey Dormouse Group.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b></p>
<p>Constraints: Wet areas on paths are leading to path creep; some east to west paths lead to a dead end as the Woodland Trust does not own or have access rights to the neighbouring access track along the eastern boundary that once connected these rides; seclusion of the site invites occasional fly tipping within the car park.</p> <p>Opportunities: volunteer and Butterfly Conservation staff involvement in ride management and improvement as part of Butterfly Conservation Trust's Wood White Project.</p>
<p><b>Factors Causing Change</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes in vegetation along rides as footfall increases.</li> <li>- Use of site by horse-riders / unauthorised vehicles.</li> <li>- Populations are increasing locally likely leading to higher visitor numbers, which in turn could have a detrimental impact on woodland flora.</li> <li>- Fly tipping.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b></p>
<p>The path network will be kept safe for quiet, informal recreational pedestrian access to the woodland. Whilst maintained for accessibility and safety the site will not be over-managed with excessive infrastructure and signage. Management will have to react to any increased footfall as the local population grows to ensure increased visitor numbers does not lead to biodiversity loss.</p>
<p><b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b></p>
<p>Low-key public access will be maintained over the plan period by regular maintenance and safety inspections, appropriate for the numbers of visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approximately 2500m of paths and rides will be maintained annually to allow continued access across the whole site. This will include strimming/flailing ride edges and appropriate tree safety work, identified by Zone B safety inspections</li> </ul>

every 2 years.

- Infrastructure such as gates, signs, information boards, culverts and footbridges will be inspected annually and maintained or replaced as necessary A replacement footbridge will be installed in the SW corner of the woodland, this will be completed by Sept 2023

- The car park will be maintained annually by controlling vegetation to maintain visibility from the lane to discourage fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	August
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2022	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	February
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
2022	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	February
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	May
2023	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
2025	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	March
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	February
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	16.27	Oak (pedunculate)	1960	High forest	Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Area of Landscape Value, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>An established, previously managed, mixed broadleaf woodland on Wealden Clay.</p> <p>Main canopy species is pedunculate oak over a predominantly sweet chestnut and hazel understory. Other understorey tree and shrub species include birch, hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, aspen and holly. The ground flora is dominated by bracken, bramble and grass spp. Infrequent species, dotted across the site, include, aspen, wild service, crab apple and beech. Deadwood is frequent and increasing throughout the wood, both standing and fallen. Dormice boxes are spread across the site.</p> <p>Within the woodland block there are a few notably distinct areas.</p> <p>The northern part of the wood includes the long hard core access strip from the car park. The hedgerow on the west of the access track was laid in 2003. Oak still dominates the thin canopy with young broadleaves (rowan, hawthorn, birch, sweet chestnut, beech and hornbeam) forming the understorey. The ground flora is dominated by bramble and grass spp., the odd patch of open ground remains. There are notable amounts of western hemlock seedlings. In the north west corner of the wood there are clumps of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>.</p> <p>To the south of this block and sub-compartment 1b, is an area of open ground caused by fires, dominated by bracken with a small birch thicket, clumps of holly, remnant sweet chestnut and oak coppice and a stand-alone aspen. A water course runs through the southern corner. Across this eastern stretch of the wood, the ground flora is dominated by bramble and bracken with patches of bilberry.</p> <p>Along the western ride, damper conditions allow the bryophytes to become more frequent in “moss lawns” along the water courses along with hard fern.</p> <p>Following the west-east rides, scallops have created new open areas along the rides giving an open feel to the wood. These areas are mostly are dominated by bracken and bramble. In the northern central part of the wood there is an area; approx. 1ha is size, which is dominated by a holly understorey. Bryophytes and ferns form the majority of the suppressed ground flora.</p> <p>Towards the most southerly end of the site, the wood has a more unmanaged feel and here is where the wild service trees are found. Here is where the bridleway crosses the site.</p>						
1b	1.02	Sweet chestnut	1980	Coppice		

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Coppice of predominately sweet chestnut, last coppiced in the 1980s. Stools being to collapse and crowns are thin with noticeable dieback. Smaller block of hazel in the northern part of the sub-compartment which has been worked more recently. Planted in greater density compared to sweet chestnut. A few oak standards have been retained. Sparse ground flora.						
1c	0.18	Birch (downy/silver)	2012	PAWS restoration		
This PAWS area has been restored through a thinning operation in 2012. Conifers included 30 year old larch, Norway and Sitka spruce, western hemlock and Douglas fir. A few remnant conifers remain for historical and visual interest – a single western hemlock, a few Norway spruce and a small patch of a dozen stunted sitka spruce. Birch, rowan and holly saplings are recolonising the cleared ground. Bramble and bracken dominate the ground flora.						

### **Ancient Woodland**

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

### **Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland**

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

### **Ancient Woodland Site**

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

### **Beating Up**

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

### **Broadleaf**

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

### **Canopy**

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

### **Clearfell**

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### **Compartment**

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

### **Conifer**

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

### **Continuous Cover forestry**

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

**Coppice**

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

**Exotic (non-native) Species**

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

**Field Layer**

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

**Group Fell**

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

**Long Term Retention**

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

**Minimum Intervention**

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

**Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

**National vegetation classification (NVC)**

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

**Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

**Natural Regeneration**

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

**Origin & Provenance**

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

**Re-Stocking**

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

**Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

**Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

**Stand**

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

**Sub-Compartment**

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

**Thinning**

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

**Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes**

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

**Weeding**

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

**Windblow/Windthrow**

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

**Registered Office:**

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

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