

Ancient Woodland Site

The site appears to have been woodland for several centuries (and thus probably for millennia), and is certainly unlikely to have been converted to farmland in the last couple of centuries.

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

The trees and other plant species within an ancient woodland site appear to have arisen naturally rather than having been planted and are predominantly (>80%) native to the site and surrounding area.

Clearfell

Woodland management system where tree cover is removed. This traditionally occurs when the growing canopy reaches its point of maximum mean annual increment, i.e. the trees' rate of growth then starts to decline. The management area is then prepared for either re-planting or allowed to regenerate naturally using the seed source already present in the soil.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland consisting of a fairly even mixture of broadleaf and conifer species.

Native (and honorary-native)

The trees making up the woodland are part of England's natural (or naturalised) flora. Determined by whether the trees colonised Britain without assistance from humans since the last ice age (or in the case of 'honorary natives' were brought here by people but have naturalised in historic times); and whether they would naturally be found in this part of England.

Natural Regeneration

The process of allowing a cleared area of woodland to regenerate naturally through the germination and development of seeds found within the soil on site. These areas may still require some protection from overbearing plant species and mammal browsing. Some enrichment planting may also be necessary or desirable in areas where natural regeneration is showing limited success or in order to diversify the species range of the woodland.

Plantation on an Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)

The trees within an ancient woodland site appear to have been planted. These species may or may not be native to the site and surrounding area.

Shelterwood System

Woodland management system whereby the forest canopy is maintained at one or more levels without clear felling, generally being no single interruption of tree cover of more than 0.25 hectares with a maximum of 2 interruptions of this size per hectare. Opportunities to enhance existing areas of natural regeneration will be taken along with increasing woodland edge habitat by scalloping ride and road edges for the benefit of biodiversity.

Yield Class

The maximum average rate of volume increment which a particular stand can achieve per hectare.