

The UK Woodland Assurance Standard

Second Edition

(Amended November 2008)

LIST OF AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT

Approved by the Steering Group: 10th September 2008

Effective date: 26th November 2008

Notes

For convenience the page numbers cited refer to those used in the published version of the Second Edition (2006)

The fully amended UKWAS standard is available on www.ukwas.org.uk as a download in pdf format and for online use in html format

FOREWORD (PAGE 3)

Additional text inserted:

Additional Foreword (November 2008)

This amended version of the Second Edition of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard has been specifically developed to make the standard more accessible for managers of small and / or low intensity managed woodlands. It was developed by the UKWAS Steering Group with the support of a Small Woods Task Group and was again informed by responses to a public consultation exercise.

The principal change is the introduction of a new Small and Low Intensity Managed ('SLIM') woodland category: this incorporates the previous Small Woodland category of 100 hectares or under and extends it to include woodlands being managed in a low intensity manner using a definition based on harvested volumes. As part of future revisions the Steering Group will look for further opportunities to better cater for small woods, especially for very small woods of 10 hectares or under.

A list of the text changes is available on www.ukwas.org.uk.

Peter Wilson FICFor FRICS CEnv
Executive Chairman

INTRODUCTION (PAGES 5-9)

Application to different sizes of woodland (page 8)

Original Version (deleted text shown in italics and bold)

Application to different **sizes** of woodland

The level and complexity of management needed to meet the requirements of the certification standard will depend on the size and type of the woodland being audited. In particular, small woodlands will not be expected to need the same level of documentation or management systems and procedures as are used for larger woodland areas or by management companies.

Certification authorities will take account of the size of the woodland and the scale and intensity of management and operations. ***To help define this within the certification standard, the means of verification include specific types of evidence for 'small' woodlands. These are woods of 100 ha in size or less. The intention is to produce means of verification more appropriate to these woods as opposed to large woodlands which are over 100 ha in size.***

Amended Version (new text shown in italics and bold)

Application to different **scales** of woodland **and intensities of operation**

The level and complexity of management needed to meet the requirements of the certification standard will depend on the size and type of the woodland being audited. In particular, small woodlands **or those subject to low intensity management** will not be expected to need the same level of documentation or management systems and procedures as are **normally** used for larger **or more intensively managed** woodland areas or by management companies.

Certification authorities will take account of the size of the woodland and the scale and intensity of management and operations.

See the glossary for a detailed definition of Small and / or Low Intensity Managed (SLIM) woodland.

Interpretation and revision of the standard (page 9)

Changes to final paragraph only:

Original Version (deleted text shown in italics and bold)

The Steering Group has agreed that it is important to find ways of making certification to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard more accessible for owners and managers of small woods (100 ha and under). It has supported research into adapting auditing procedures for small woods, and it will continue to explore ways of reducing the cost and time involved in certifying small woods.

Amended Version (new text shown in italics and bold)

The Steering Group has agreed that it is important to find ways of making certification to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard more accessible for owners and managers of small woods (100 ha and under) **and those subject to a low intensity of management**. It has supported research into adapting auditing procedures for small woods, and it will continue to explore ways of reducing the cost and time involved in certifying small woods **and those subject to a low intensity of management**.

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Section 1: Compliance with the law and conformance with the requirements of the certification standard

Changes to Means of Verification headings:

“Woodlands over 100 ha” changed to “**Non-SLIM woodlands**” in the following sections:

1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.5; 1.2.1

Section 2: Management planning

Changes to Means of Verification headings:

“Woodlands over 100 ha” changed to “**Non-SLIM woodlands**” in the following sections:

2.3.5

“**All woodlands**” changed to “**Non-SLIM woodlands**” in the following sections:

2.3.2

“**Woodlands 100 ha and under**” changed to “**SLIM woodlands**” in the following sections:

2.1.1; 2.3.2; 2.3.3; 2.3.5

Text changes:

Section 2.1.1 (Guidance column – latter paragraphs only)

Original Version (deleted text shown in italics and bold)

The documentation might be:

- For *smaller* woodlands *where no felling is planned, and for other woodlands where only protective (i.e. care and maintenance) operations are involved*: a brief statement of intent and an annotated map; *for smaller woodlands where planting and/or replanting is*

Amended Version (new text shown in italics and bold)

The documentation might be:

- For *low intensity managed woodlands*: a brief statement of intent and an annotated map
- For *other woodlands*: a plan covering a 20 year period and incorporating an

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<p><i>planned: management planning documentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">For <i>larger woodlands where significant amounts of felling are proposed</i>: a plan covering a 20 year period and incorporating an assessment at the landscape level. <p>The management planning documentation should cover all elements of the requirement but may refer to other documents as appropriate, including permissions where required from applicable regulatory and licensing authorities.</p> <p>MP</p> <p>BAP</p>	<p>assessment at the landscape level.</p> <p>The management planning documentation should cover all elements of the requirement but may refer to other documents as appropriate, including permissions where required from applicable regulatory and licensing authorities.</p> <p>MP</p> <p>BAP</p>
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Section 2.2.2 (Guidance column – final paragraph only)

<p>Original Version (deleted text shown in italics and bold)</p> <p>In <i>small</i> woodlands, or where timber production is not a primary objective, area rather than volume predictions are acceptable in planning and monitoring.</p> <p>MP</p>	<p>Amended Version (new text shown in italics and bold)</p> <p>In <i>SLIM</i> woodlands, or where timber production is not a primary objective, area rather than volume predictions are acceptable in planning and monitoring.</p> <p>MP</p>
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Section 2.3.6 (Guidance column – final paragraph only)

<p>Original Version (deleted text shown in italics and bold)</p> <p>For <i>smaller</i> woodlands, the public summary should be made available for inspection locally on request.</p>	<p>Amended Version (new text shown in italics and bold)</p> <p>For <i>SLIM</i> woodlands, the public summary should be made available for inspection locally on request.</p>
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Section 3: Woodland design: creation, felling and replanting

Changes to Means of Verification headings:

“Woodlands over 100 ha” changed to “Non-SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:

3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.2.1; 3.2.2; 3.2.3

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Text changes:

Section 3.1.1 (Means of Verification column)

Original Version (deleted text shown in italics and bold)	Amended Version (new text shown in italics and bold)
<p>All woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management planning documentation. <p>Woodlands over 100 ha:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design plans• <i>Documented environmental impact assessment where such has been requested by the FC or DARD and documented environmental appraisals for all other circumstances.</i>	<p>All woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management planning documentation• <i>Documented environmental impact assessment or 'Appropriate Assessment' where such has been requested by the FC or DARD.</i> <p>Non-SLIM woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Design plans</i>• <i>Documented environmental appraisals.</i>

Section 3.3.2 (Requirement column– final paragraph only)

Original Version (deleted text shown in italics and bold)	Amended Version (new text shown in italics and bold)
<p>The requirement in relation to open space does not apply to <i>woodlands of less than 10 ha.</i></p>	<p>The requirement in relation to open space does not apply to <i>very small woodlands (i.e. 10 ha or under).</i></p>

Section 4: Operations

Changes to Means of Verification headings:

<p>“Woodlands over 100 ha” changed to “Non-SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:</p> <p>4.1.1; 4.1.2; 4.2.1; 4.2.3; 4.2.4; 4.3.2</p> <p>“Woodlands 100 ha and under” changed to “SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:</p> <p>4.1.1; 4.1.2; 4.2.3; 4.2.4</p>
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Section 5: Protection and maintenance

Changes to Means of Verification headings:

“Woodlands over 100 ha” changed to “Non-SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:

5.1.1; 5.1.2; 5.1.3; 5.1.4; 5.2.2; 5.2.3; 5.2.5; 5.4.2; 5.5.1; 5.5.2; 5.5.3

“Woodlands 100 ha and under” changed to “SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:

5.4.2; 5.5.1; 5.5.2

Section 6: Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity

Changes to Means of Verification headings:

“Woodlands over 100 ha” changed to “Non-SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:

6.1.1; 6.1.2; 6.1.3; 6.4.1

“Woodlands 100 ha and under” changed to “SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:

6.1.2; 6.1.3

Text changes:

Section 6.2.1 (Guidance column – 3rd paragraph only)

Original Version (deleted text shown in italics and bold)	Amended Version (new text shown in italics and bold)
In very small woodlands, natural reserves may consist of groups of, or individual, over-mature trees.	In very small woodlands (<i>i.e. 10 ha or under</i>) natural reserves may consist of groups of, or individual, over-mature trees.

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Section 7: The community

Changes to Means of Verification headings:

“Woodlands over 100 ha” changed to “Non-SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:

7.1.1; 7.2.3; 7.4.1; 7.4.2

Section 8: Forestry workforce

Changes to Means of Verification headings:

“Woodlands over 100 ha” changed to “Non-SLIM woodlands” in the following sections:

8.1.1; 8.1.2; 8.2.1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS (PAGES 50-52)

Amended entries:

Small woodland <i>(previous)</i>	An individual wood of 100 ha or under in size.
Small woodland <i>(amended)</i>	An individual woodland of 100 ha or under in size; a small woodland of 10 ha or under is sometimes referred to as a 'very small woodland'.

Woodland (footnote only) <i>(previous)</i>	<i>Also see Small woodland.</i>
Woodland (footnote only) <i>(amended)</i>	<i>Also see Small woodland, Low intensity managed woodland and SLIM woodland.</i>

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New entries:

Appropriate Assessment	Appropriate assessment (AA) is the process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Habitats and Species Directive.
Low intensity managed woodland	Woodland management units are classed as being managed in a low intensity manner when: a) the rate of timber harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) ¹ within the total production woodland area of the unit AND either b) the annual harvest from the total production woodland area is less than 5,000 cubic metres or c) the <i>average</i> annual timber harvest from the total production woodland is less than 5,000 m ³ / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits. <i>Note: where Woodland Management Unit-specific estimates of mean annual increment are unavailable or impractical regional estimates of growth rates for specific woodland types may be used.</i> <i>Also see 'Small woodland' and 'SLIM woodland'.</i>
Non-SLIM woodland	A woodland that is not classed as Small and / or subject to Low Intensity Management ('SLIM'). <i>Also see 'Small woodland' and 'Low intensity managed woodland'</i>
SLIM woodland	A woodland that is classed as Small and / or subject to Low Intensity Management ('SLIM'). <i>Also see 'Small woodland' and 'Low intensity managed woodland'</i>
Very small woodland	<i>See Small woodland.</i>

APPENDIX (PAGES 53-56)

No changes

Further information is available at www.ukwas.org.uk.
