

**UKWAS Third Edition - Consultation Draft**

*(December 2010)*

# United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard

## **UKWAS Revision 2009-2011: Consultation Draft**

**December 2010**

**Please make comment by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 using the Consultation Feedback Form available from [www.ukwas.org](http://www.ukwas.org)**

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# The UK Woodland Assurance Certification Standard

## Third Edition (Consultation Draft)

Approved by the Steering Group: xxxxxx

Effective date: xxxxxx

### Background Note:

The full revision process and timetable is set out in a process document – see

<http://www.ukwas.org.uk/assets/documents/UKWAS%20REVISION%20PROCESS%202009-2011%20%20Standard%20Setting%20Process%20document.pdf>.

This Consultation Draft was informed by a comprehensive Issues Paper prepared by the UKWAS Steering Group in 2009 – see

[http://www.ukwas.org.uk/assets/documents/UKWAS%20Revision%202009-11%20Issues%20Paper%20\(Web%20Version\).pdf](http://www.ukwas.org.uk/assets/documents/UKWAS%20Revision%202009-11%20Issues%20Paper%20(Web%20Version).pdf).

The draft revisions presented in this Consultation Draft have been developed by a Drafting Group and the UKWAS Steering Group in meetings as listed below and were confirmed by the UKWAS Board on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010:

Drafting Group meetings: 12<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Steering Group meetings: 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Changes to the text of the certification standard are shown thus:

Deleted text: ~~blue text with strike through~~

Inserted text: red text

This Consultation Draft includes annotations to list and explain the changes (green ink) with some points noted for further discussion (red ink).

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### FORMAT AND DESIGN OF PUBLISHED STANDARD

This is a text version of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard for use as a working document. The fully designed and published version of the current standard may be viewed on-line in a pdf formatted version designed for downloading and printing for use as a paper document ([http://www.ukwas.org.uk/assets/documents/UKWAS%20Second%20Edition%20\(Amended%20November%202008\)%20Web.pdf](http://www.ukwas.org.uk/assets/documents/UKWAS%20Second%20Edition%20(Amended%20November%202008)%20Web.pdf)) or in an html formatted version designed for use on-line or for selective printing ([http://www.ukwas.org.uk/standard/certification\\_standard/index.html](http://www.ukwas.org.uk/standard/certification_standard/index.html)).

The Steering Group would welcome your views on how these designs might be improved.

#### The Steering Group's initial view is:

- To retain the current bespoke UKWAS format and section order.
- To seek opportunities through improved design to better emphasise the importance of text references to additional information sources – Management Planning, Biodiversity Action plan, Forest Reproductive Material Regulations and References.

#### Would the following be helpful?

- Inclusion of a “How to use” section at the beginning of the certification standard indicating different functionality, including how to use the different electronic and conventional formats.
- Inclusion of a section/ table showing the division of responsibilities for different aspects of certification between the UKWAS Steering Group, certification bodies, certification schemes and accreditation services i.e. a “Who does what” section.
- Inclusion, in electronic formats, of interactive electronic links to information sources and documents listed in the Appendix references – this might draw on the approach adopted in the revised UK Forestry Standard and help to ensure that links are kept up to date.

#### What publication formats do you find most useful?

The UKWAS (second edition) (2006) was made available as a paid-for paper document costing £10 and free on [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk) in two electronic formats – pdf and html. The amended version (2008) was only available in the electronic formats.

- Is publication as a paid-for paper document necessary and what would you be prepared to pay for a copy?
- Which electronic formats, including any additional formats, would be most useful?

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**Further information is available at [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk).**

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### **Foreword**

The launch of the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) in June 1999 represented a unique coming together of organisations with an interest in sustainable forestry. Their work in developing a certification standard for sustainable woodland management had put the UK at the forefront of the global forest certification movement. Today, the UKWAS process continues to attract international interest and we frequently receive international visitors wishing to learn whether our experience might be helpful to them in formulating their own national processes.

Seven years on, it is clear that the working group which prepared the standard produced a first class piece of work. The standard has proved robust and durable and there have been remarkably few points on which further clarification was required by its users. Moreover, forest certification is now an established part of the UK forestry scene and the UKWAS is the certification standard of choice. There can be no doubt that the UKWAS has contributed to raising the standard of woodland management across the United Kingdom.

This second edition has again been developed by a multi-stakeholder steering group whose work was informed by responses to a public consultation exercise. It incorporates various changes reflecting our greater understanding of some complex issues plus necessary updates and clarifications. I am convinced that it will prove to be as robust as the first edition and that it will continue to serve a vital role in enabling producers to demonstrate their good credentials to consumers.

**Peter Wilson FICFor FRICS CEnv**  
**Executive Chairman**

### **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 changes made is available on [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk)



## **Introduction**

### **1. Background and purpose**

#### **Design note:**

There is confusion amongst some users over who does what in the certification process. Comments are sought on whether it would be helpful to include a table showing the division of responsibilities for different aspects of certification between the UKWAS Steering Group, certification bodies, certification schemes and accreditation services.

#### **Notes on changes to the text:**

Minor clarifications and amplifications to improve the text including:

- Amplification - full name of nation state to which the certification standard applies
- Amplification - elaboration of existing text to include mention of PEOLG as this is the base document for PEFC certification.
- Amplification - elaboration of existing text to include mention of 'international agreements' plus glossary definition
- Clarification throughout the certification standard - the term 'certification schemes' adopted in preference to 'certification programmes' reflecting common usage.
- Clarification throughout the certification standard - the term 'certification standard' adopted in preference to 'standard' for consistency throughout the document and to avoid any confusion with the governmental UK Forestry Standard.

The international timber products market ~~is increasingly demanding~~ frequently demands assurance about the quality and environmental and social impacts of woodland management. One way to provide this assurance is through independent verification against a published certification standard which defines appropriate and effective management. In forestry, this process is widely known as sustainable forest management certification or simply forest, or woodland, certification.

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The UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) is a certification standard which sets out the requirements which woodland owners and managers and certification ~~authorities~~ **bodies** can use to certify woodland management in the United Kingdom **of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)**. The **certification standard** is the product of an inclusive and transparent process which has involved a balanced representation from the UK forestry and environmental community. It has been designed to ensure that it reflects the requirements of the Government's UK Forestry Standard and through this the **General Guidelines guidelines** adopted by European Forestry Ministers at Helsinki in 1993, ~~and~~ **the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines (PEOLG)** subsequently adopted at Lisbon in 1998 **and other relevant international agreements**. A list of certification ~~schemes~~ **programmes** that use the **UK Woodland Assurance Standard standard** as the basis for certification in the UK can be found on [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk) ~~the UKWAS website~~.

The UKWAS recognises that one of the strengths of UK woodland management is its diversity. Therefore, there is broad scope within the **certification** standard for owners and managers to decide on appropriate objectives for ~~their~~ **each** woodland. The **certification** standard generally prescribes what must, overall, be achieved but leaves it to the owner/manager to decide how this is best done in each situation.

### 2. Use of the **certification** standard

#### Notes on changes to the text:

Minor clarifications and amplifications to improve the text including:

- Amplification - reference to use of this standard in conjunction with a chain-of-custody certification to facilitate on-product labelling of forest products
- Amplification - reference to use of this standard in conjunction with Woodland Carbon Code to demonstrate sustainable forest management.
- Clarification throughout the standard - the term 'certification body' adopted in preference to 'certification authority' reflecting common usage.

This certification standard has been designed primarily for use in the certification of UK woodlands by independent certification ~~authorities~~ **bodies to demonstrate that a woodland is sustainably managed. The certification standard can be used in conjunction with a separate chain-of-custody certification standard to provide traceability and so facilitate on-product labelling of forest products from sustainably managed sources; full details are available from the relevant certification schemes.** It may also be used in conjunction with an ISO 14001 environmental management system to provide performance targets **or in**

conjunction with the Woodland Carbon Code to demonstrate that a forest-carbon sequestration project is managed in accordance with the principles of sustainable forest management.

Full conformance with the certification standard is voluntary. However, an independent third-party evaluation by an accredited certification ~~authority~~ **body** (sometimes referred to as a 'certification ~~authority-body~~', '**conformity assessment body**' or 'certifier') is necessary to confirm conformance, in order to obtain a certificate. No woodland owner or manager is required by law or regulation to undergo such an audit. However, it should be noted that some requirements of the certification standard are also required by law, and so must be complied with by all woodland owners/managers. Other requirements are a condition of the Forestry Commission and ~~Northern Ireland's~~ Forest Service grants and felling licences and must be complied with by all relevant licensees and grant-holders.

The structure of the certification standard relates to the way in which management is implemented in the woodland, addressing specific aspects of management or types of operation in turn.

The sections of the **certification** standard are as follows:

1. Compliance with the law and conformance with the requirements of the certification standard
2. Management planning
3. Woodland design: creation, felling and replanting
4. Operations
5. Protection and maintenance
6. Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity
7. The community
8. Forestry workforce.

**3. Structure of the **certification** standard**

**Notes on changes to the text:**

- Explanation provided on the status of the new advice notes for owners/ managers to be found in the guidance column in some sections of the certification standard.

The **certification** standard is set out as follows:

### **Requirements**

These are the compulsory elements of the **certification** standard. Woodland management must meet all relevant requirements and certification **authorities bodies** will check that each requirement is being met. 'Requirements' are generally stated as 'shall' implying they are compulsory elements of the **certification** standard. Where 'requirements' are stated as 'should' this implies that, although not compulsory elements, evidence of conformance is checked by the certification **authority body** and will contribute to overall conformance with associated requirements.

### **Means of verification**

These suggest the type of objective evidence - documents, actions or discussions – that the certification **authority body** should consider in order to verify that the requirement is being met. The verifiers suggested are not exclusive or exhaustive - certification **authorities bodies** will not always need to use all the verifiers suggested, and may seek verification in other ways.

### **Guidance notes**

These aim to help both the woodland owner/manager and the certification **authority body** to understand how requirements should be applied in practice. More information is provided to elaborate some requirements, the meaning of certain terms or phrases is explained, and examples of appropriate action are given.

Note 1: certification **authorities bodies** shall take full account of the 'guidance notes' given for each 'requirement' when assessing conformance with the **certification** standard

Note 2: the guidance note can include advice for owners/ managers on related matters which are outwith the direct scope of a forest management certification standard e.g. owners/ managers are advised to check the specific requirements of certification schemes in relation to chain-of-custody certification matters. Such information is provided as an advisory note only and shall not be considered by certification bodies when assessing conformance with the certification standard.

**4. Procedures for use of the certification standard**

**Notes on changes to the text:**

- Amplification – a new section included providing a detailed definition of Woodland Management Unit (WMU) added here (plus a short definition in glossary) – the definition is consistent with the Forest Stewardship Council's Forest Management Unit (FMU) definition and is intended to provide helpful clarification for managers and certification bodies. N.B. The term 'woodland management unit' is already used in section 3 of this Introduction in relation to Area Specificity but is undefined.
- Consequential changes relating to WMU application and scale issues have been made.
- The aim in these new and revised sections is (1) to define clearly what a WMU can be, and (2) to ensure clarity and flexibility in regard to WMU application in reality.
- Clarification throughout the standard - the term 'accreditation service' adopted in preference to 'accreditation authority' reflecting common usage.

**Discussion points:**

- WMU definition - due to the importance of this definition to the audit process, a specific question is included in the consultation paper seeking feedback particularly from CBs, state forest services, larger estates, group-scheme managers.

**Accreditation**

Certification ~~authorities~~ **bodies** shall be accredited to undertake independent woodland management certification using the UK Woodland Assurance Standard by a national or international accreditation ~~authority~~ **service** that operates in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 2004. Accreditation ~~services~~ **authorities** should normally demonstrate this through membership of the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL). Any accreditation ~~service~~ **authority** operating outwith the auspices of these representative bodies shall provide the UKWAS company with evidence of conformance with ISO/IEC 17011 2004. The accreditation ~~service~~ **authority**

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shall ensure that the certification **authority body** meets all the requirements of ISO/IEC Guides 62 and 65 as well as all the criteria which are explicitly part of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

The UKWAS company will challenge any use of UKWAS trademarks by certification **authorities bodies** not accredited in this way.

### Disputes procedures

Certification **authorities bodies** shall have a formal dispute management procedure which is open to all parties at any time, to deal with non-conformance and challenges (ISO/IEC Guide 62:2.1.4; Guide 65:4.5 and the specific rules of the accreditation **service authority**). This procedure shall be implemented when it has not been possible to resolve challenges regarding a decision made by the certification **authority body** in an assessment against this **certification** standard. Information on how a decision was made must be made available by certification **authorities bodies** on request in a way which does not breach commercial confidentiality.

If the UKWAS company is concerned with the way in which a certification **authority body** is using **the UKWAS UK Woodland Assurance Standard** it shall raise a dispute through the certification **authority body's** own procedure. If this approach fails to resolve the matter then the UKWAS company shall pursue it through the disputes procedure of the accreditation **service authority**. If this fails to resolve the matter it shall be taken up through the disputes resolution procedures of EA, IAF or ISEAL, as appropriate. If the UKWAS company remains of the opinion that the UK Woodland Assurance Standard is misused it shall legally challenge the use of UKWAS trademarks by the certification **authority body**.

### Area specificity

The areas to be certified under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard shall be individually identified and delineated woodland management units. The owners/managers of each unit shall have made a formal commitment to meet the requirements of this **certification** standard.

### Peer review

As parts of the certification process, auditing reports shall be subject to independent peer review by competent experts. Peer reviewers shall have access to all comments from the stakeholder consultations by the applicant and certification **authority body** together with an assessment of how they have been addressed.

### Periodic monitoring

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Certification to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard shall be subject to periodic monitoring and review. Certification is normally valid for up to five years and is subject to periodic surveillance to ensure continued conformance with the **certification** standard. Surveillance shall be undertaken at a frequency and sampling intensity appropriate to the scale and intensity of management of the site. This leaves scope for an alternative approach to be considered in relation to small and low intensity managed woodlands. The expectation should be of an annual review (ISO/IEC Guide 65), but an annual site visit may not be mandatory in all cases. Re-assessment shall be carried out at least every five years.

### Stakeholder consultations

Certification to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard shall provide an opportunity for, and take account of, inputs from stakeholders. Responsibility for undertaking consultation lies with the applicant in accordance with the requirements of this **certification** standard. The applicant shall invite consultees, through direct communication and public notification, to copy their responses direct to the certification **authority body**. Where this is undertaken as an integral part of a wider consultation, such as by a government department, there would be no requirement to present a copy to the certification **authority body**, provided that the information is available to the public. As part of the evaluation process, each time a certificate is issued or renewed, it shall be the responsibility of certification **authorities bodies** to assess and verify stakeholder comments using appropriate sampling, independent of the applicant's own procedure. Feedback shall be provided by the certification **authority body**, on request, to respondents on how their comments have been addressed.

### Transparency

The process of certification to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard is transparent and includes the production of an informative, publicly available summary for each certificate. The summary shall provide information on how and why the certification decision was made, to allow stakeholders to see for themselves what happened. This should include an explanation of how any areas of non-conformity with the requirements of the **certification** standard have been addressed to the satisfaction of the certification **authority body**, and a clear statement of any outstanding conditions which need to be addressed.

### Flexibility in meeting requirements

It is recognised that some woodland owners and managers may feel that certain requirements are not appropriate to their situation. Some flexibility to allow local adaptation may therefore be acceptable under the following conditions:

- Either it is not physically possible to achieve the requirement in the woodland or the approach taken is an equally or more effective way of achieving the objectives intended by the certification standard

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- The impacts of the action are carefully monitored.

The certification **authority body** carrying out the audit will make a professional judgement as to the acceptability of the flexibility, and may consult appropriate specialists or the UKWAS Steering Group (see section 5: Interpretation and revision of the **certification** standard).

### Timing for full implementation of the requirements relating to woodland structure and layout

A special feature of woodland management is its long-term nature. Decisions made in the past have a strong influence on the woodlands of today.

Therefore, when assessing conformance with the certification standard, certification **authorities bodies** will not evaluate woodlands solely on the present structure and layout, but will consider the plans for management in the short, medium and long term.

Where present structure and layout fail to meet the requirements, woodland owners/managers will need to demonstrate through management planning documentation, design plans and on-going activities in the woodland that they are taking active measures to achieve conformance with the requirements. They will also need to demonstrate that there is a time frame for achieving full conformance based on sound management principles. Further guidance on how non-conformities are dealt with can be obtained from certification **authorities bodies or group scheme managers**.

### The woodland management unit

**Note: The aim in these new and revised sections is (1) to define clearly what a WMU can be, and (2) to ensure clarity and flexibility in regard to WMU application in reality.**

*N.B. The term 'woodland management unit' is already used in section 3 of this Introduction in relation to Area Specificity but is undefined.*

The woodland management unit (WMU) is the area to which the management planning documentation relates. A WMU is a clearly defined woodland area, or areas, with mapped boundaries, managed by a single managerial body to a set of explicit objectives which are expressed in a self-contained woodland management plan.

For management planning, a single fully integrated plan or an overarching strategic plan plus a number of detailed plans covering management sub-divisions can be appropriate. For example, a single, large WMU can be divided into several management sub-divisions each having its own management plan. Conversely, several smaller management areas can be consolidated into a single, large WMU having a single integrated management plan covering the whole



area managed by the managerial body. It is not a requirement that all the woodland area within a WMU be contiguous; a WMU may consist of a number of separate sites or woodland areas.

For example, a WMU can be a privately owned estate incorporating several areas of woodland that are managed within a consolidated management plan; several separate ownerships managed within a consolidated management plan; a community-managed forest; a management subdivision of a national forest service covered by a consolidated management plan. Owners/ managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.

Note: The terms woodland management unit and forest management unit are synonymous.

### **Application of the certification standard to different scales of woodland management unit 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 management unit being audited. In undertaking their assessment, certification bodies 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. In particular, small For some requirements, SLIM woodlands or those subject to low intensity management will are 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.~~

### **Scale of application of the requirements**

Many of the requirements in the ~~UK Woodland Assurance Standard~~ certification standard, particularly those relating to woodland design, woodland operations and conservation, relate to proportions of the overall woodland area. For example, to meet requirement 6.2.1, 15% of the total area must be managed with biodiversity as a major objective. In applying such requirements, an appropriate scale must be decided which allows the woodland owner/ manager to achieve the requirement in ~~the a~~ way that is best suited to the nature of the woodland. This is particularly important for:

- ~~Large woodland blocks~~ Non-SLIM woodlands, particularly those plantations in which a single species predominates ~~single-species plantations~~
- Holdings which are under common management but are physically fragmented (for example, ~~in~~ on estates with several discrete areas ~~blocks~~ of woodland).

~~In large blocks of woodland, it~~ It is acceptable to meet some requirements by concentrating management in one area provided that:

- All plans for implementing a requirement unevenly within the ~~block~~ WMU are based on good practice which aims to ~~meet~~ fulfil the purpose of the requirement
- Wherever appropriate, management is based on a design plan.

In holdings under ~~a~~ common management ~~but~~ which are physically fragmented it will normally be acceptable for the requirements to be met over the ~~holding~~ consolidated WMU as a whole, not in each individual ~~block~~ management sub-division provided that:

- ~~All~~ The holdings in the ~~woodland blocks~~ consolidated WMU are located in the same landscape unit
- Plans for implementing requirements unevenly in different ~~blocks~~ management sub-divisions are based on good practice which aims to ~~meet~~ fulfil the purpose of the requirement
- Wherever appropriate, management is based on a design plan.

Other cases may arise which are not covered by this guidance. Such cases will be assessed by the certification ~~authorities~~ bodies on a case-by-case basis and, if necessary, referred to the UKWAS Steering Group (refer to paragraph 5 below).

### **Parkland and hedgerow trees**

Parkland and hedgerow trees may be included in a certificate provided that the owner/manager has a written policy and plans for managing them.

## **5. Interpretation and revision of the certification standard**

### **Notes on changes to the text:**

Minor amplifications to improve the text including:

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- Elaboration: reference to task & finish groups
- Elaboration: revision history included
- Elaboration: updating of SLIM policy.

### Discussion points:

- SLIM woodland - definition of 'small' woods: a specific question on whether the 100 ha threshold should be changed is included in the consultation paper seeking feedback on whether the definition of 'small' should be changed from its current 100 hectares.

The first edition of this **certification** standard was developed by a broadly based Technical Working Group and launched in May 1999.

A not-for-profit company, "United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)", was established in 2003 to own and manage the **certification** standard. The company is limited by guarantee (company number SC199337) and is managed by its members; its objectives are *"to own, interpret, develop and promote a certification standard for forest management in the United Kingdom on behalf of United Kingdom forestry and environmental communities, and bodies which represent the interests of people working in woods and forests or using them for the purpose of recreation, for the general benefit of people"*.

UKWAS members appoint a broadly based Steering Group which has responsibility for interpreting the **certification** standard and ensuring its periodic revision to take account of experience from its application and new information that arises. The Steering Group **sets up task-and-finish groups with specific mandates to provide advice on specific topics and** appoints ~~an~~ **a standing** Interpretation Panel to provide it and users of the **certification** standard with advice on its interpretation ~~of the standard~~. **Following a full revision, a second edition of the certification standard was published in November 2006 and further amended in November 2008 following additional review to take the fullest account of the needs of those managing small and/or low intensity managed woods. This second third edition of the certification standard has again** been developed by the Steering Group through a formal revision process – see [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk) for the **standard-setting process document**.

**Any further necessary** corrections or revisions **necessarily made** to the **certification** standard **prior to its next full revision** will be incorporated into the electronic versions available ~~in HTML format~~ on the UKWAS website. A list of all the changes made since publication **of this edition** will be maintained on the **UKWAS** website and users of the printed version are recommended to check this on a regular basis.

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The Steering Group ~~has agreed that it is important to find ways of~~ places a high priority on making certification to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard ~~more~~ as accessible as possible for owners and managers of small woods (100 ha ~~and or~~ under) and those subject to a low intensity of management. It ~~supported~~ continues to support 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**

### **Key**

The following abbreviations have been used throughout the text to highlight sources of additional information:

#### **MP Management Planning**

Examples of a process and structure for developing management planning documentation are made available on the UKWAS website. The examples posted are not definitive and following the guidance provides no guarantee of achieving certification.

#### **BAP Biodiversity Action Plan**

Check against the relevant Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) or Species Action Plans (SAPs) in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP). The UKBAP is available at [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk).

#### **FRM Forest Reproductive Material Regulations**

Check the publication, Recent Changes to the Control of Forest Reproductive Material (2003) (Forestry Commission Information Note 53), which describes the arrangements in Great Britain. Details of the arrangements in Northern Ireland may be obtained from the Forest Service.



### **References**


See the Appendix for references which give further guidance.

#### **Design note:**

- Opportunities will be sought to better highlight these additional information sources through improved design.


1. Compliance with the law and conformance with the requirements of the certification standard

|            | REQUIREMENT  | MEANS OF VERIFICATION   | GUIDANCE  | REVISION NOTES   |
|------------|--|---|---|--|
| 1.1        | Compliance and conformance   |   |   |  |
| <b>1.1</b> | The owner/manager shall establish and maintain woodland management practices, the requirements of which are described in the whole of sections 1 to 8 of this <b>certification</b> standard. |   |   |  |
| 1.1.1      | There shall be compliance with the law, <b>agreements and contracts</b> . There shall be no substantiated outstanding claims of non-compliance related to woodland management.               | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence of non-compliance from audit</li> <li><b>Evidence of correction of any previous non-compliance.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A system to be aware of and implement requirements of new legislation.</li> </ul> | <p>Certification is not a legal compliance audit. Certification <b>authorities bodies</b> will be checking that there is no evidence of non-compliance with relevant legal requirements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management and employees understand and comply with all legal requirements relevant to their responsibilities</li> <li>All documentation including procedures, work instructions and</li> </ul> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <p>To ensure comprehensive cover of legal compliance issues in 1.1.1 some elements moved here from 1.1.2 and other points added.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement and guidance elaboration – ‘agreements’ and ‘contracts’ added.</li> <li>Elaboration: additional MoV – evidence of correction of previous non-compliance.</li> </ul> |

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|       |   |   | <p>contracts meet legal requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No issues of legal non-compliance are raised by regulatory authorities or other interested parties.</li> </ul>    |  |
| 1.1.2 | <p>There shall be conformance with the spirit of any relevant codes of practice, <del>or</del> guidelines <del>or</del> agreements.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence of non-conformance from audit</li> <li>Evidence of correction of any non-conformance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A system to be aware of and <del>implement</del> conform to <del>requirements of new legislation</del> codes of practice and guidelines <del>and</del> agreements.</li> </ul> | <p>The Appendix provides further information on guidelines and codes of practice.</p> <p>Conformance with the spirit means that the owner/manager is aiming to achieve the principles set out in relevant codes of practice, <del>or</del> guidelines <del>or</del> agreements and that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management and employees understand and comply with all legal requirements relevant to their responsibilities</li> <li>All documentation including procedures, work instructions and contracts meet legal</li> </ul> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement and guidance – move ‘agreements’ to 1.1.1 as is an aspect of legal compliance.</li> <li>MoV elaboration: additional verifier – evidence of correction of non-conformance.</li> <li>MoV correction: delete incorrect reference to ‘legislation’ and align text with the requirement.</li> </ul> |

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|       |   |  | <p>requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No issues of legal non-conformance are raised by regulatory authorities or other interested parties.</li> </ul> <p><b>BAP</b></p>                               |                 |
| 1.1.3 | Legal ownership or tenure can be proved.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A signed declaration detailing nature and location of tenure documentation.</li> </ul>  | Legal ownership may be demonstrated by title deeds or solicitor's letter or long term unchallenged use.   |                 |
| 1.1.4 | In the case of a significant dispute, legal documents such as title deeds, a solicitor's letter or land registry records shall be produced. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title deeds</li> <li>Solicitor's letter</li> <li>Land registry records</li> <li>Use of dispute resolution mechanism.</li> </ul> | <p>Significant disputes would include, for example, land or tree crop ownership. Insignificant disputes would include, for example, maintenance of fencing.</p> <p>Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an entity from being certified.</p> |                 |
| 1.1.5 | The owner, manager or tenant shall be committed   | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signed declaration of</li> </ul>   | Examples of <del>such</del> declarations of <b>commitment</b>   | <b>Changes:</b> |



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|  | <p>to conformance to this certification standard and has declared an intention to protect and maintain the <b>woodland management unit and its</b> ecological integrity <del>of the woodland</del> in the long term.</p> | <p>commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dissemination of the requirements of this certification standard to the forest workforce.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public statement of policy.</li> </ul> | <p>are available from the UKWAS website.</p> <p><b>The forestry workforce should be informed of the aim of the certification standard and, to the degree that is relevant, of the practical implications for them in carrying out their work functions. This might be done through, for example, meetings or briefings and the provision of appropriate written material.</b></p> <p>If a substantial failure has led to withdrawal of a woodland certification to this standard in the past, then substantial changes in ownership, policy commitment and management regime should have been implemented or a two-year track record of conformance established.</p> <p><b>Advice to owners/</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement – revised as never envisaged that woodlands might be removed hence the focus on ‘the ecological integrity of the woodland’ rather than ‘the WMU’ itself. The revised primary focus is on protecting and maintaining the WMU. See also 3.5.1.</li> <li>• Additional Guidance and MoV – informing workforce of the aims and practical implications of certification.</li> <li>• New advisory note in Guidance – refers owners/ managers to certification scheme requirements relating to adjustment of the area within the WMU. <i>N.B. Status of ‘advisory note’ clarified in Introduction (section 3) as advice only and will not be subject to audit.</i></li> </ul> |
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|       |  |  | <p><b>managers</b></p> <p>Certificate holders may be subject to additional requirements from their certification scheme relating to the adjustment of the area in the woodland management unit. Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.</p> <p><b>MP</b></p> |  |
| 1.2   | Protection from illegal activities   |  |  |  |
| 1.2.1 | <p>The owner or manager shall take all reasonable measures to stop illegal or unauthorised uses of the woodland which could jeopardise fulfilment of the objectives of management.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The owner/manager is aware of potential and actual problems</li> <li>• Evidence of response to actual current problems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of a pro-active approach to potential and actual problems.</li> </ul> | <p><b>MP</b></p>   |  |

2. Management planning

|       | REQUIREMENT  | MEANS OF VERIFICATION   | GUIDANCE   | REVISION NOTES  |
|-------|--|---|--|---|
| 2.1   | Documentation  |   |  |   |
| 2.1.1 | <p>All woodlands <b>in the WMU</b> shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall incorporate:</p> <p>a) A long-term policy for the woodland.</p> <p>b) Assessment of relevant aspects of the woodland resource.</p> <p>c) Identification of any special characteristics and sensitivities of the woodland and appropriate treatments.</p> <p>d) Set and prioritise objectives.</p> <p>e) Rationale for management prescriptions.</p> <p>f) Outline planned felling</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Appropriate maps and records.</li> </ul> <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term management objectives will suffice to meet (a).</li> </ul> | <p>Assessment and mapping of the woodland resource should include appropriate aspects of physical, silvicultural, ecological, <del>archaeological</del> <b>historic environment</b>, social and landscape issues and any special characteristics (see lists from pages 19-22, UK Forestry Standard), and demonstrate consideration to neighbouring landowners. Relevant UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs) <b>and Red Data List species</b> should be taken into account.</p> <p>The documentation and level of detail associated with the planning process</p> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the standard: where context permits the term 'historic environment' replaces 'archaeology' – HE is a broader term and in common usage e.g. the UKFS historic environment guidelines will replace previous archaeology guidelines. References to archaeology are retained when more appropriate. HE added to glossary.</li> <li>• Guidance elaboration - guidance is not intended to be exhaustive but useful to add Red Data List as not necessarily all covered by HAPs and SAPs.</li> <li>• Guidance elaboration - additional text referring specifically to 'a fire management plan, a deer management plan, an integrated pest management strategy, a research policy, project plans' as reference documents that may be cited in management planning documentation. Provides a basis for informing the management planning process e.g. may help to justify establishing Research Plots.</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>and regeneration over the next 20 years.</p> <p>g) Rationale for the operational techniques to be used.</p> <p>h) Plans for implementation, first five years in detail.</p> <p>i) Appropriate maps.</p> <p>j) Plans to monitor, at least those elements identified under section 2.3.2 against the objectives.</p> <p>k) Specific measures to maintain or enhance those areas identified under section 6.1.1 considering areas where either the extent of these areas or their sensitivity to operations may be unknown.</p> |  | <p>should be appropriate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The size of the woodland</li> <li>• Its environmental and social sensitivity</li> <li>• The intensity of management</li> <li>• The likely impact of the operations planned</li> <li>• Context in the landscape</li> <li>• UKBAP priority woodland and non-woodland habitats and species.</li> </ul> <p>The documentation might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For low intensity managed woodlands: a brief statement of intent and an annotated map</li> <li>• For other woodlands: a plan covering a 20 year period and incorporating an assessment at the landscape level.</li> </ul> <p>The management planning documentation should cover all elements of the</p> |  |
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|       |  |   | <p>requirement but may refer to other documents as appropriate, <del>including</del>; these might include a fire management plan, a deer management plan, an integrated pest management strategy, a research policy, project plans and necessary permissions <del>where required</del> from applicable regulatory and licensing authorities.</p> <p><b>MP</b></p> <p><b>BAP</b></p> |  |
| 2.1.2 | <p>While respecting the confidentiality of information, woodland managers shall, upon request, make publicly available <b>either</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management planning documentation, or</li> <li>• a summary of <b>the plan's</b> <del>its</del> primary elements including those listed in section 2.1.1.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Summary management planning documentation.</li> </ul> | <b>MP</b>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification of Requirement - to clarify that there is a choice between making available a full plan or a summary the text is amended by inserting “either” and introducing bullet points.</li> </ul> |
| 2.1.3 | <p>The management planning documentation shall be</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation.</li> </ul>  | <p>The review should be conducted in order to</p>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p>   |

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|       | reviewed every five years as a minimum.   |   | <p>assess whether any aspects of the management planning documentation require revising or updating taking into account, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring data (see section 2.3.4)</li> <li>• Advances in scientific research</li> <li>• Improved <b>technical and</b> forestry practice guidance</li> <li>• Results from surveys, research and consultation relating to the woodland covered by the management planning documentation.</li> </ul> <p><b>MP</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance elaboration – for accuracy, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet amended to read: Improved <i>technical and</i> forestry practice guidance.</li> </ul> |
| 2.2   | Productive potential  |   |   |   |
| 2.2.1 | <p>The planning of woodland management operations shall:</p> <p>a) Take fully into account the environmental, social and economic</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Financial records relating to the woodland resource</li> <li>• Budget forecasting, expenditure and potential</li> </ul> | <p><b>MP</b><br/><b>BAP</b></p>   |   |

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|               | <p>impacts of proposed operations.</p> <p>b) Aim to secure the necessary investment to maintain the ecological value of the woodland.</p>                     | <p>sources of funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field inspection.</li> </ul>  |  |   |
| <p>2.2.2.</p> | <p>Harvesting and restocking plans shall not jeopardise the long-term productive potential of the woodland and are consistent with management objectives.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compartment records</li> <li>• Growth and yield estimates</li> <li>• Production records or appropriate standing sale volume assessments and reconciliation with estimates</li> <li>• Demonstrated control of thinning intensity</li> <li>• Owner's/manager's knowledge</li> <li>• Field observation.</li> </ul> | <p>Examples of growth and yield estimates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average growth rates or yield class for major species on different site types</li> <li>• Predictions of thinning and felling yields for different crop types</li> <li>• Forecasts of areas to be subject to harvesting operations in future years.</li> </ul> <p>Accuracy of growth and yield estimates should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation.</p> <p>The resilience of the woodland and different species to climate change should be considered.</p> <p>It is recognised that in some circumstances (e.g. during</p> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance – an additional element covering climate change resilience.</li> </ul> |

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|       |   |   | <p>restructuring) the harvest level will exceed the increment.</p> <p>It is recognised that some management objectives, e.g. replacing conifers with broadleaves or creating additional open space, will reduce the productive potential of the woodland.</p> <p>In SLIM woodlands, or where timber production is not a primary objective, area rather than volume predictions are acceptable in planning and monitoring.</p> <p><b>MP</b></p> |                        |
| 2.2.3 | <p>Authorised harvesting of non-timber woodland products shall not permanently exceed, or diminish, the long-term productive potential of the woodland.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence from records and discussions with the owner/manager that quantities harvested are in line with sustainable growth rates and that there are no significant adverse environmental impacts.</li> </ul> | <p>Non-timber woodland products include foliage, moss, fungi, berries, seed, venison and other animal products.</p> <p>See also sections 5.1.3 in relation to protection from wild mammals, and 6.4 in relation to game management.</p> <p><b>MP</b></p>   |                        |
| 2.2.4 | <p>Harvesting and timber sales documentation shall enable all timber sold to be traced</p>  | <p>Evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harvesting output records</li> </ul>   | <p>The purpose of this clause is to ensure that timber can be traced back to the point</p>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> |



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|  | <p>back to the woodland of origin.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract documents</li> <li>• Harvesting contractors' invoices</li> <li>• Despatch or delivery notes</li> <li>• Hauliers' invoices</li> <li>• Chain of custody codes on all invoices and delivery documents.</li> </ul> | <p>of sale from the woodland (standing, at roadside or delivered). The responsibility of the owner/manager is limited to ensuring that timber removed from the woodland can be traced forward along the wood supply chain from the first point of supply.</p> <p>Where logs from other sources are being stored in the same area, appropriate records should be maintained to demonstrate the source and quantity of timber obtained from other woodland areas.</p> <p><b>Advice to owners/ managers</b></p> <p>Certification schemes may require certificate holders to provide additional information on sales documentation relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chain-of-custody certification, and</li> <li>• the use of certification scheme trademarks.</li> </ul> <p>Owners/ managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New advisory note in Guidance – owners/ managers advised that the standard can be used in conjunction with a chain of custody certification and to check the relevant certification scheme's requirements. <i>N.B. Status of 'advisory note' clarified in Introduction (section 3) as advice only and will not be subject to audit.</i></li> </ul> |
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|       |   |   | or group scheme manager.  |  |
| 2.3   | Implementation and revision of the plan   |   |   |  |
| 2.3.1 | <p>The implementation of the work shall be in close agreement with the details included in the management planning documentation. Any deviation from prescription or planned rate of progress shall be justified, overall objectives shall still be achieved and the ecological integrity of the woodland maintained.</p>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-correlation between the management planning documentation, annual work programmes and operations seen on the ground</li> <li>• Owner's/manager's familiarity with the management planning documentation and woodland</li> <li>• Documentation or owner's/manager's explanation of any deviation.</li> </ul>  | <p>Changes in planned timing of operations should be such that they do not jeopardise the ecological integrity of the woodland in the long term.</p> <p>Changes in planned timing may be justified on economic grounds if overall management practices continue to comply with the other requirements of this certification standard.</p> <p>Refer to section 3.4.1 for information about thinning, felling and regeneration plans.</p> <p>MP</p> |  |
| 2.3.2 | <p>a) The owner/manager shall consider what information to collect and record in order to monitor progress towards their management objectives and conformance with the requirements of this certification standard. A monitoring programme shall be implemented. Information shall be collected appropriate to the scale and intensity</p> | <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A documented plan for monitoring to be undertaken consistent with management objectives and baseline information.</li> </ul> <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of the owner's/manager's knowledge of the woodland; a pro-active approach to field observation and field notes, supplemented by available maps and reports, may be sufficient.</li> </ul> | <p>Monitoring should consist of a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision during operations</li> <li>• Regular management visits and systematic collection of information</li> <li>• Long-term studies, where appropriate, particularly on changes to the woodland ecosystem. Information from studies (particularly research programmes) carried out at one site</li> </ul>                                     |  |

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|       | <p>of management.</p> <p>b) Monitoring procedures shall be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</p> <p>c) As a minimum the following shall be monitored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic, environmental and social aspects</li> <li>• Harvesting yield</li> <li>• Woodland composition and structure</li> <li>• Flora and fauna (e.g. those in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan).</li> </ul> |  | <p>can be extrapolated and the results used to assist management of other similar sites. For more complex long-term studies it is often more important for woodland owners/managers to be aware of the results and conclusions of such studies than to try to replicate them in their own woodland.</p> <p>Detail of information collected is appropriate to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size of the enterprise</li> <li>• Intensity of operations</li> <li>• Objectives of management</li> <li>• Sensitivity of the site.</li> </ul> <p>Monitoring should include means to identify any significant changes, i.e. those likely to have sufficient impact to alter existing ecosystems or endanger the flora and fauna present, in particular any rare species.</p> <p><b>MP</b><br/><b>BAP</b></p> |  |
| 2.3.3 | Monitoring records shall be kept and be in a form which ensures that they are of use  | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented monitoring records</li> </ul> | <b>MP</b>   |  |

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|       | over the long term.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information from studies in similar woodlands</li> <li>Analysis of information collected.</li> </ul> <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field notes based on the owner's/manager's observation of the woodland may be sufficient.</li> </ul> |  |  |
| 2.3.4 | Monitoring data shall be analysed and the findings taken into account by management, particularly during revision of the management planning documentation.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring records</li> <li>Management planning documentation</li> <li>Discussions with owner/manager.</li> </ul>  | Expert advice should be sought where necessary and taken into account.<br><b>MP</b>  |  |
| 2.3.5 | For areas and features of particular significance, as identified under section 6.1.1, annual monitoring shall be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance these areas. | <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring records</li> <li>Management planning documentation.</li> </ul> <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with owner/manager.</li> </ul>  | Annual monitoring should be appropriate to the assessed threat to the conservation value of the site. If the assessed threat is low, an annual visit, noting the general condition of identified features and input back into the management planning documentation is sufficient. For greater threats, annual fixed point observations may be more appropriate or more specialist assessment may be required. |  |
| 2.3.6 | A summary of monitoring results shall be produced, as a minimum, at the end of   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of the summary</li> <li>Evidence of response to requests.</li> </ul>  | The summary should include information on work completed and other major   |  |


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|  | <p>each five-year period and made publicly available if requested.</p> |  | <p>changes in the woodland.<br/>                 A summary of the main information collected should be made available to any interested party who asks for it. The owner/manager may make a reasonable charge for making the summary available.<br/>                 Sensitive data e.g. sites of species protected by law and confidential commercial information can be kept confidential.<br/>                 For SLIM woodlands, the public summary should be made available for inspection locally on request.</p> |  |
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3. Woodland design: creation, felling and replanting

|       | REQUIREMENT  | MEANS OF VERIFICATION   | GUIDANCE   | REVISION NOTES |
|-------|--|---|--|----------------|
| 3.1   | Assessment of environmental impacts  |   |  |                |
| 3.1.1 | <p>The environmental impacts of new planting and other woodland plans shall be assessed before operations are implemented, in a manner appropriate to the scale of the operations and the sensitivity of the site.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Documented environmental impact assessment or 'Appropriate Assessment' where such has been requested by the FC or DARD.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> | <p>Depending on scale and sensitivity the assessment of environmental impacts may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief environmental appraisals for planting or felling which might affect sites recognised for cultural, landscape, hydrological or ecological value</li> <li>• Ecological assessments</li> </ul> |                |

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|-------|--|--|--|--|
|       |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design plans</li> <li>• Documented environmental appraisals.</li> </ul>   | <p>of ancient semi-natural woodland and projections of their response to management and natural processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific assessments for unusual and/or extensive operations</li> <li>• Specialist advice on impacts of woodland operations on rare or vulnerable species or special sites</li> <li>• Specialist advice on the impact of woodland operations on <b>archaeological historic environment</b> sites and landscapes</li> <li>• Checks against relevant UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs).</li> </ul>  <p><b>BAP<br/>MP</b></p> |  |
| 3.1.2 | The impacts of woodland plans shall be considered at a landscape level, taking due account of the interaction with adjoining land and other nearby | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Discussions with the</li> </ul> | In particular, planning including layout and design of woodland should take into account the following factors and action should be taken if required:   |  |


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|  | <p>habitats.</p> | <p>owner/manager.</p> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design plans.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The character of other woodland in the area</li> <li>• Needs or impacts of animals (both wild and domestic) which use both woodland and surrounding land</li> <li>• Impacts on flora in the woodland and on surrounding land</li> <li>• Scale and pattern of open land</li> <li>• Habitats which are continuous from inside to outside the woodland (e.g. watercourses)</li> <li>• Woodland margins as transitional habitats</li> <li>• Linking open space within the woodland with similar habitats outside</li> <li>• The spread of invasive species into or out of the woodland</li> <li>• Impacts on natural features (e.g. wetlands, rock exposures, drainage patterns)</li> <li>• Nature of historic landscapes and links with similar <del>archaeological</del> <b>historic environment</b> sites outside the woodland</li> <li>• Relevant UK Biodiversity</li> </ul> |  |
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|       |  |   | <p>Action Plan Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs).</p> <p><b>BAP</b><br/><b>MP</b></p>   |  |
| 3.1.3 | <p>The results of the environmental assessments shall be incorporated into planning and implementation in order to minimise adverse impacts.</p>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Discussions with owner/manager</li> <li>• Field observations.</li> </ul>  | <b>MP</b>   |  |
| 3.2   | Location and design  |   |   |  |
| 3.2.1 | <p>New woodlands shall be located and designed in ways that will maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the wider landscape.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Field observation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design plan.</li> </ul> | <p>In particular, new woodlands should contribute to the conservation of neighbouring semi-natural woodland and other habitats.</p> <p>Endangered habitats and sites for endangered species as given in the UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans should be avoided.</p> <p>Where appropriate and possible, use natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone (native species) or region of provenance (non-native species).</p> |  |




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|       |   |   |  <p>FRM<br/>BAP<br/>MP</p>  |  |
| 3.2.2 | New planting shall be designed in such a way as to ensure the creation over time of a diverse woodland. | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Field observation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design plan.</li> </ul> | <p>A diverse woodland may be achieved through one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of a diversity of species, clones and provenances</li> <li>• Planting mixed stands</li> <li>• Variation in site types and growth rates</li> <li>• Management designed to avoid need for felling over a very limited period</li> <li>• Phased planting</li> <li>• Retention of open ground</li> <li>• Design and creation of wind firm edges</li> </ul> <p>The general aim should be to create a woodland that is sufficiently diverse to allow achievement of the felling rates given in section 3.4.2.</p> <p>MP</p> |  |
| 3.2.3 | Even-aged woodlands shall be gradually restructured to diversify ages and habitats.                     | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Maps</li> </ul>  | <p>Restructuring should be planned and implemented in accordance with FC Practice Guide Forest Design Planning - A Guide to Good Practice.</p>   |  |

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|       |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field observation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design plan.</li> </ul>   | <br><b>MP</b>  |   |
| 3.2.4 | Where appropriate, contact shall be made with the owners of adjoining woodlands to try to ensure that restructuring of one woodland complements and does not jeopardise the management of adjoining ones.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter or other records of communication with the owners/managers of adjoining woodlands.</li> </ul>   | <p>It is recognised that the owners of neighbouring woodlands may not be known, and in such cases the owners/managers should be able to show that they have considered likely impacts on their neighbours.</p> <p><b>MP</b></p>   |   |
| 3.3   | Species selection   |   |   |   |
| 3.3.1 | <p>a) Species selected for new woodlands, natural regeneration and restocking shall be suited to the site and matched to the objectives.</p> <p>b) For new woodlands, native species shall be preferred to non-native. If non-native species are used it shall be shown that they will clearly outperform native species in meeting the objectives.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with the owner/manager demonstrate that consideration has been given to a range of species, including native species, in meeting management objectives.</li> </ul> | <p>Results of research into site suitability of different species <b>and their resilience to climate change</b> shall be used to assist species choice. Because of the uncertain effects of climate change, selecting a range of genotypes may be prudent.</p> <p>Where appropriate and possible use natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone (native species) or region of provenance (non-native species).</p> <br><b>FRM</b> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance elaborated to embrace climate change resilience as a factor in species selection.</li> </ul> |

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|       |  |   | <b>MP</b>  |  |
| 3.3.2 | <p>The proportions of different species in new planting, or planned for the next rotation of an existing plantation, shall be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where at least two species are suited to the site and matched to the objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt;65% primary species</li> <li>&gt;20% secondary species</li> <li>&gt;10% open space</li> <li>&gt;5% native broadleaf.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Where only one species is suited to the site and matched to the objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt;75% primary species</li> <li>&gt;10% open space</li> <li>&gt;5% native broadleaf</li> <li>&gt;10% other areas managed for biodiversity as a major objective.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The requirement in relation to open space does not apply to very small woodlands (i.e. 10 ha or under).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management planning documentation</li> <li>Field observation.</li> </ul> | <p>Refer to section 6.2.1 which gives the requirements relating to areas managed with biodiversity as a major objective.</p> <p>Additional open space and/or native shrubs can be provided instead of native broadleaved trees if they are not suited to the site.</p> <p>Open space with wildlife value contiguous with the woodland can be counted towards the requirement if it is managed as part of the woodland.</p> <p>Where appropriate and possible, use natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone (native species) or region of provenance (non-native species).</p>  <p><b>FRM</b><br/><b>MP</b></p> |  |
| 3.3.3 | Woodland areas shall be  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field inspection</li> </ul>  | The requirement restricting  |  |

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|  | <p>converted to areas used solely for Christmas tree production only where conversion is consistent with other requirements of this <b>certification</b> standard, including the need to leave open space, <b>and</b> in accordance with <del>the standard and</del> any approved FC or DARD management plan, or when clearance is required for non-forestry reasons such as a wayleave agreement. Christmas trees shall be grown using traditional, non-intensive techniques.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management records.</li> </ul> | <p>conversion relates to use for growing Christmas trees of less than 4 metres in height. The chemicals regime for Christmas trees must meet all the requirements of section 5.2. Examples of Christmas trees which may be covered by a certificate are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees (&lt;4 m in height) grown on areas within the woodland matrix used solely for Christmas tree production</li> <li>• Trees (&lt;4 m in height) grown on areas used solely for Christmas tree production which, although outwith the woodland, form part of the certification unit</li> <li>• Thinnings from forest tree crops</li> <li>• Tops from harvested forest tree crops</li> <li>• Trees grown by interplanting of forest tree crops</li> <li>• Mature trees (&gt;4 m height)</li> <li>• Trees which have regenerated onto, and have been harvested</li> </ul> |  |
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|       |  |  | <p>from, adjacent open land in the interest of maintaining its biodiversity or landscape value, and provided that the adjacent area is managed as part of the certification unit.</p> <p>Christmas trees grown as a horticultural or nursery crop cannot be covered by a certificate.</p>   |  |
| 3.3.4 | <p>a) Non-native plant (non-tree) and animal species shall only be introduced if they are non-invasive and bring environmental benefits.</p> <p>b) All introductions shall be carefully monitored.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented impact assessment of any introductions made after the first certification</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Field observation.</li> </ul> | <p>The requirement includes the re-introduction of once native animals not currently present within the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Use of non-native biological control agents such as <i>Rhizophagus grandis</i> may be desirable to control non-native pests.</p> <p>Game species may be introduced if managed in accordance with section 6.4.</p> <p><b>MP</b></p> |  |
| 3.4   | Silvicultural systems  |  |   |  |
| 3.4.1 | <p>An appropriate silvicultural system shall be adopted which is designed to meet the management objectives and which stipulates soundly-based planting,</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Field observations.</li> </ul>   | <p>The choice of silvicultural system should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silvicultural characteristics of the species</li> </ul>  |  |

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|  | <p>establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans.</p> <p>Where there is a range of options in windfirm conifer plantations, lower impact silvicultural systems shall be increasingly favoured where they are suited to the site and species.</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site limitations including potential growth rates and wind firmness</li><li>• Intended stem size and quality</li><li>• Current and future markets for timber products</li><li>• Impacts on the landscape and wildlife</li><li>• Age-structure and felling plan of nearby woodlands</li><li>• Ecological processes and natural disturbance regime for that woodland type</li><li>• Historical management practices</li><li>• Views of local people.</li></ul> <p>Thinning, felling and regeneration plans should cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Felling age or size</li><li>• Thinning type, intensity and frequency</li><li>• Species preferences and selection criteria</li><li>• Means of regeneration and desired species composition</li><li>• Scale of operations and rate of application (i.e.</li></ul> |  |
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|  |  |  | <p>areas and time periods).</p> <p>Lower impact systems can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Group selection</li><li>• Shelterwood or under-planting</li><li>• Small coupe felling systems</li><li>• Coppice or coppice with standards</li><li>• Minimum intervention</li><li>• Single tree selection systems.</li></ul> <p>Use of lower impact silvicultural systems in windfirm plantations may not be appropriate where there is evidence that clear-felling provides habitat that has a high value for biodiversity.</p> <p>Species and habitats which might justify such high-impact felling will normally be those included in UK Biodiversity Action Plans (HAPs and SAPs) or other widely recognised biodiversity priorities.</p>  <p><b>BAP</b></p> |  |
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| <p>3.4.2</p> | <p>Felling and restocking shall be in accordance with the principles and guidelines set out in the UK Forestry Standard and supporting guideline publications, including those on soil conservation and water.</p> <p>Where site factors favour coupe sizes over 5 ha in lowland plantations and 20 ha in upland plantations, all felling and restocking shall be in accordance with a felling design plan if these thresholds are exceeded.</p> <p>The rate of felling shall be subject to the following condition: in plantations over 20 ha, no more than 25% is felled in any five-year period unless all felling and restocking is based on a felling design plan.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Design plan.</li> </ul>                   | <p><b>MP</b></p> <p>Design plans should ensure that in large even-aged plantations the woodland improves in age structure through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescribing felling that is spread over a period of at least 20 years</li> <li>• Prescribing restocking which will provide options for further diversification and reduction in clearfell size at the end of the next rotation.</li> </ul> <p>Site factors favouring larger coupe sizes might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windthrow risk</li> <li>• Landscape scale</li> <li>• Current plantation design</li> <li>• <del>Archaeological</del> <b>Historic environment</b> features</li> <li>• Wildlife habitats.</li> </ul>  <p><b>MP</b></p> |  |
| <p>3.4.3</p> | <p>In semi-natural woodland (as defined in the glossary) lower impact systems shall be adopted as specified in the UK Forestry Standard. All felling shall be in</p>  | <p><b>All semi-natural woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager</li> </ul> | <p>Lower impact systems can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group selection</li> <li>• Shelterwood or under-planting</li> </ul>  |  |



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|       | <p>accordance with the specific guidance for that type of native woodland in the relevant Forestry Commission Forest Practice Guide.</p> <p>In semi-natural woodlands over 10 ha, no more than 10% shall be felled in any five-year period unless justified in terms of biodiversity enhancement or lower impact.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field observations.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small coupe felling systems</li> <li>• Coppice or coppice with standards</li> <li>• Minimum intervention</li> <li>• Single tree selection systems.</li> </ul> <p>For areas with UKBAP priority habitats and species, consider consulting with relevant species and habitat experts in statutory conservation agencies or NGOs.</p>  <p><b>BAP<br/>MP</b></p> |  |
| 3.5   | Conversion to non-forested land  |  |  |  |
| 3.5.1 | <p><del>Woodland identified in section 6.1.1 shall not be converted to non-forested land.</del></p> <p><del>Felling of part of a woodland and restoration of that part to non-forested land shall be carried out only where there is no evidence of substantial dispute and the new land use meets at least one of the following criteria:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>The new land use will be more ecologically</del></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition plan</li> <li>• Management planning documentation for area after felling</li> <li>• Records of planning process and discussions</li> <li>• Consultation with interested parties</li> <li>• Monitoring records</li> <li>• Environmental impact assessment process documentation.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Conversion to non-forested land should be planned and implemented in accordance with the UKFS Guidelines on biodiversity, landscape and historic environment.</b></p> <p><b>A transition plan should set out as a minimum the justification for conversion and a strategy for implementation, subsequent management and monitoring.</b></p> <p><del>This requirement relates to</del></p>  | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <p>This section of the standard has been the subject of repeated requests for clarification.</p> <p><b>Requirement &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification that conversion is only acceptable in exceptional circumstances and must deliver clearly defined biodiversity, landscape or historic environment benefits.</li> <li>• Four tests must be met for conversion to be acceptable. An additional test is included so that in assessing the benefits from conversion the comparison is not between the existing woodland</li> </ul> |


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|  | <p>valuable than the woodland in terms of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This shall be demonstrated by a transition plan which complies with the UK Forestry Standard and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard and includes monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new land use constitutes an improvement in the landscape</li> <li>• The new land use is required for cultural or archaeological maintenance or restoration.</li> </ul> <p>Conversion to non-forested land shall take place only in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The new land use shall be more valuable than any type of practicably achievable woodland cover in terms of its biodiversity, landscape or historic environment benefits, and conditions a, b, c and d</p> |  | <p>habitat restoration, landscape improvement or archaeological protection.</p> <p>Under current regulations an environmental impact assessment may be required before such conversions are implemented. Timber felled from such areas may be sold as sourced from a certified woodland. The subsequent management should integrate the deforested area with the rest of the woodland management planning documentation.</p> <p>This requirement does not relate to clearance for development such as roads and houses. Timber felled from areas cleared for construction which is not related to the management of the woodland may not be sold as sourced from a certified woodland.</p> <p>Planning consent or an approved Environmental Statement can provide sufficient evidence that</p> | <p>cover and the proposed new land use but between 'any type of practicably achievable woodland cover' and the new land use. Adapting the forest type therefore becomes the default option to deliver the biodiversity, landscape or historic environment benefits with conversion to non-forested land being the least favoured option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other text is redrawn to clarify, elaborate and better define the existing text rather than to change the intention of the requirement.</li> </ul> <p>Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new advisory note is included to clarify when timber can be certified. <i>N.B. Status of 'advisory note' clarified in Introduction (section 3) as advice only and will not be subject to audit.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>See also the related changes to Requirement 1.1.5 which is amended to clarify that the owner/ manager commits to 'protect and maintain the WMU and its ecological integrity in the long term'. This change is because it was never envisaged that woodlands might be removed hence the previous focus on 'the ecological integrity of the woodland' rather than 'the WMU' itself.</p> <p>A new advisory note in Guidance 1.1.5 refers owners/ managers to certification scheme requirements relating to adjustment of the area within the WMU.</p> <p><b>Discussion point:</b></p> |
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|  | <p>shall be met:</p> <p>a) The woodland is not identified as of high conservation value in section 6.1.1.</p> <p>b) There is no evidence of substantial dispute.</p> <p>c) Conversion and subsequent site management protect and substantially enhance at least one of the following:</p> <p>i. The status and condition of UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species and habitats.</p> <p>ii. Important landscape features and character.</p> <p>iii. Important historic environment features and character.</p> <p>d) The subsequent management of the converted area shall be integrated with the rest of the woodland</p> |  | <p>there is no substantial dispute.</p> <p>Deforestation to facilitate infrastructure or built development which is not integral to the management of the rest of the woodland cannot meet this requirement.</p> <p>See also section 6.1.3 in relation to <b>restoration</b> of small scale habitats within a woodland matrix.</p> <p><b>Advice to owners/ managers</b></p> <p>Only timber felled in accordance with this requirement can be certified.</p> <p>Owners/ managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.</p> <p><br/><b>MP</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should 'compensatory planting' be acceptable to mitigate conversion to non-forested land</li> </ul> |
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
4. Operations


|       | REQUIREMENT  | MEANS OF VERIFICATION   | GUIDANCE  | REVISION NOTES   |
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| 4.1   | General  |   |   |  |
| 4.1.1 | <p>The planning of woodland operations shall include:</p> <p>a) Obtaining any relevant permission and giving any formal notification required.</p> <p>b) Assessing and taking into account on and off-site impacts.</p> <p>c) Taking measures to protect special features, including adapting standard prescriptions where required.</p> <p>d) Measures to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of identified services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented permissions</li> <li>• Contracts</li> <li>• Discussions with owner/manager, staff and contractors.</li> </ul> <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of awareness of impacts and measures taken.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site-specific, documented assessment of impacts.</li> </ul> | <p>Particular attention should be given to ensuring that <del>the forestry workforce has field staffs, especially sub-contractors, have been well briefed.</del></p> <p>Contracts can be in writing or <del>the forestry workforce staff and contractors</del> may be given oral instructions where this is appropriate to the scale and sensitivity of the operation.</p> <p>Checks should be made against relevant UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs).</p> <p><b>BAP</b><br/><b>MP</b></p> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance - the term 'forestry workforce' adopted for consistency with other parts of the standard e.g. Section 8 (title) and 1.1.5.</li> </ul> |
| 4.1.2 | Implementation of operational plans shall be monitored by the manager or owner.  | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with owner/manager</li> <li>• Records of site visits.</li> </ul>  | Appropriate monitoring may range from regular supervision of active operations to internal audits of active and completed   |  |


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|       |   | <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a minimum, records of when operations were visited and observations, e.g. a field diary.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <p>Monitoring and internal audit records including completed checklists.</p>                        | operational sites.  |  |
| 4.2   | Harvest operations  |   |   |  |
| 4.2.1 | Harvesting operations shall conform to all relevant <b>FC forest practice</b> guidelines. | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field observations</li> <li>Discussions with the owner/manager and <b>employees forestry workforce</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring and internal audit records.</li> </ul> |    | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elaboration of requirement to specify that it relates only to FC forest practice guidelines</li> <li>MoV - the term 'forestry workforce' adopted for consistency with other parts of the standard (e.g. Section 8 (title), 1.1.5 and amended 4.1.1) and thus embracing contractors too.</li> </ul> |
| 4.2.2 | Timber shall be harvested efficiently and with minimum loss or damage.                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field observation.</li> </ul>  | <p>Harvesting should particularly seek to avoid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to soil and water courses during felling, extraction and burning</li> <li>Damage to standing trees during felling, extraction and burning</li> <li>Timber degrade.</li> </ul> <p>Thinning to waste may be appropriate in some circumstances.</p> |  |

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| 4.2.3 | Lop and top shall be burnt only where there is demonstrable management benefit, after full consideration of impacts.   | <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates awareness that impacts have been considered</li> <li>• Evidence of registration of exempt activity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented appraisal</li> <li>• Evidence of registration of exempt activity.</li> </ul> | <p>If lop and top is burned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location and density of fire sites should be carefully planned</li> <li>• Some lop and top should be left unburned as habitat except where it will result in pest or disease problems</li> </ul> <p>Burning on site must be registered as an exempt activity with the statutory environment protection agencies in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations 1994 (plus amendments).</p>  MP |   |
| 4.2.4 | Whole tree harvesting or stump removal shall not be practised where it is likely to have significant negative effects. | <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates awareness that impacts have been considered.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented appraisal.</li> </ul>   | <p>Significant negative impacts to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaching</li> <li>• Soil compaction</li> <li>• Nutrient loss.</li> </ul> <p>Operator safety should be considered.</p>  MP   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaboration of requirement to embrace stump removal too. (N.B. Revised deadwood volume targets in 6.2.1 now exclude stumps.)</li> </ul> |
| 4.3   | Forest roads   |   |  |   |
| 4.3.1 | For new roads, all necessary consents shall  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records of consents</li> </ul>   | Where new roads are planned, a documented  |   |

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|              | <p>be obtained.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental assessment where required.</li> </ul>  | <p>evaluation should be made to achieve a balance between timber extraction distances and road density, which takes into account the impact on the environment. Non-timber activities also need to be taken into account, e.g. access for sporting.</p>  <p>MP</p>  |  |
| <p>4.3.2</p> | <p>Roads and timber extraction tracks and associated drainage shall be designed, created, used and maintained in a manner that minimises their environmental impact.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented plans for the design and creation of permanent roads and tracks</li> <li>• Control systems for the creation and use of temporary tracks and extraction routes</li> <li>• Field observation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented maintenance plans.</li> </ul> | <p>Particular attention should be paid to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoiding features of archaeological historic environment, biological, geological or cultural value</li> <li>• Use of bridges, arches or culverts to cross watercourses</li> <li>• Ensuring that verges and ditches are created and managed to promote their habitat value</li> <li>• Materials used, especially rock type, are in keeping with the ecology of the woodland</li> <li>• Avoiding erosion and adverse impacts on water systems and wildlife habitats</li> <li>• Careful landscaping of</li> </ul> |  |

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|  |  |  | <p>roads, both internally and externally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of brash mats.</li> </ul>  <p>MP</p> |  |
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
## 5. Protection and Maintenance

|       | REQUIREMENT  | MEANS OF VERIFICATION  | GUIDANCE   | REVISION NOTES  |
|-------|--|--|--|---|
| 5.1   | Planning   |  |  |   |
| 5.1.1 | Planting and restructuring plans shall be designed to minimise the risk of damage from wind, fire, <b>invasive plant and animal species, and other</b> pests and diseases.             | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design plan.</li> </ul>   | <p>Evaluation should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robust planting design</li> <li>• <b>Climate change adaptation</b></li> <li>• Diversity of species, ages and distribution of open ground.</li> </ul> <p>MP</p>               | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement - elaboration to include invasive species.</li> <li>• Guidance - elaboration to cover climate change adaptation.</li> </ul> |
| 5.1.2 | Tree health and grazing impacts shall be monitored and results shall be incorporated into management planning together with guidance arising from national monitoring on plant health. | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner/manager is aware of potential risks</li> <li>• Evidence of unhealthy trees is noted and appropriate action taken.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented systems for assessing tree health</li> <li>• Notes or records of monitoring and responses to problems.</li> </ul> | <p>Plans and actions related to plant health ecology should be appropriate to the scale and composition of the woodland and to plant health hazards.</p>  <p>MP</p> |   |
| 5.1.3 | Management of <b>invasive</b>  | <b>All woodlands:</b>  | If management cannot   | <b>Changes:</b>   |



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|       | <p>plants and of wild mammals, excluding deer, shall be undertaken in co-ordination with neighbours where possible (see section 5.1.4 in relation to deer).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of potential problems and verbal description of appropriate action</li> <li>Justification given for not joining a wildlife management group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where there is a significant problem caused by wildlife, a documented plan (which may take the form of a contract or licence) for control.</li> </ul>  | <p>maintain populations at a level that ensures they are not causing ecological damage, then sensitive areas - including regeneration sites, coppice coupes and areas with vulnerable flora - should be protected from browsing and other damage.</p>  <p>MP</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement - elaboration to include invasive plants not just wild mammals</li> <li>Consequential elaboration of guidance – broadened to include protection of areas from ‘other damage’ not just browsing damage.</li> </ul> |
| 5.1.4 | <p>Management of wild deer shall be based on a written strategy which identifies the management objectives, and aims to regulate the impact of deer.</p>        | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of potential problems</li> <li>Description of appropriate action in the management planning documentation</li> <li>Justification given for not joining a deer management group</li> <li>Evidence of cull targets and achievements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where there is a significant problem caused by deer, a documented plan for control; this may take the form of a contract or licence.</li> </ul> | <p>This requirement may involve the setting of cull targets and should involve the membership of a Deer Management Group where appropriate.</p>  <p>MP</p>   |  |
| 5.1.5 | <p>A fire plan shall be developed as appropriate to</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with the owner/manager</li> </ul>   | <p>Fire plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsibilities for</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p>   |

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|   | the level of risk.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire plan as appropriate</li> <li>• In sites with high risk of fire, evidence of contact with the fire service and that their advice has been heeded.</li> </ul> | <p>action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact details</li> <li>• Emergency procedures.</li> </ul> <p>MP</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement - clarification that 'appropriate' is in reference to the level of risk.</li> </ul>  |
| 5.1.6   | Staff and contractors shall clearly understand and implement safety precautions, environmental protection plans and emergency procedures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with staff and contractors</li> <li>• Field observation.</li> </ul>  | <p>See also section 8.1.1.</p> <p>MP</p>   |   |
| 5.2   | Pesticides, biological control agents and fertilizers   |   |  |   |
| <p><u>Background to pesticide use in the UK</u></p> <p>In some countries with substantial woodland cover and well established forestry management practices the use of <b>chemical</b> pesticides (including herbicides and rodenticides) is not considered to be compatible with good woodland stewardship, or is prohibited because of actual and potential hazards. However, within the UK, the combination of an oceanic climate, the recent historical dominance of clearfell silvicultural systems and the desire to expand woodland cover, particularly on fertile lowland (often former agricultural) sites, may require the use of a limited range of <b>chemical</b> pesticides and/or fertilizers to establish trees rapidly.</p> <p>In addition, <b>chemical</b> pesticides, <b>fertilizers or biological control agents</b> may be needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control outbreaks of non-native pests on native and non-native tree species</li> <li>• Control locally damaging native pests on non-native tree species</li> <li>• Improve nutrient availability</li> <li>• Reduce local damage by native pests on native tree species</li> <li>• Control invasive vegetation for biodiversity conservation.</li> </ul> <p><del>The section on pesticides, biological control agents and fertilizers has been substantially revised to reflect the publication of comprehensive guidance on reducing the use of pesticides is available in (Forestry Commission Practice Guide 15 Reducing Pesticide Use in Forestry, 2004). This guide</del></p> |   |   |  | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General updating of chapeau text which provides the background to the specific requirements</li> <li>• For clarity – an explicit distinction is made between 'chemical pesticides', 'fertilizers' and 'biological control agents'(BCAs) throughout 5.2</li> <li>• Principle relating to minimising use moved to new requirement 5.2 so as to emphasise better this fundamental principle – new 5.2 now covers chemical pesticides and fertilizers but not BCAs since these are a key tool in reducing use of chemical methods.</li> <li>• Removal of reference to chemical flow charts on the website.</li> </ul> |

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~~provides managers with a decision support process, which explores the options for treating various threats to woodlands. A series of flow charts on the UKWAS website also provides guidance on decision making for various vegetation control scenarios. The section has also been restructured to cover the required chemical reduction strategy which incorporates compliance with legal and voluntary restrictions on pesticide application should pesticide use be necessary.~~

The UK forestry **industry sector** has been actively researching a number of alternatives to **chemical** pesticide use in specific areas and this work is ongoing.


Principles



~~Woodland owners and managers shall plan to minimise the use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilizers and endeavour to avoid their use. It is recognised that where there is no practicable alternative, in terms of economic, social and environmental costs, their use may be justified.~~

Woodland owners and managers should be mindful of the likelihood that the number of **chemical** pesticides approved for forestry use will decrease in future as existing products are re-evaluated at a European level. This gives added impetus for owners and managers to seek alternative methods of control.

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| 5.2   | Owners/ managers shall minimise their use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and endeavour to avoid their use where practicable. |  | Where there is no practicable alternative, in terms of economic, social and environmental costs, owners/ managers should provide justification for their use. | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principle relating to minimising use moved from chapeau so as to emphasise better this fundamental principle – new 5.2 now covers chemical pesticides and fertilizers but not BCAs since these are a key tool in reducing use of chemical methods.</li> <li>• Makes clear that minimisation is the key element with supporting strategy in 5.2.2 and basis for use in 5.2.3</li> <li>• ‘Biological control agents’ added to glossary.</li> </ul> |
| 5.2.1 | a) The owner/manager shall prepare and implement an effective  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written policy and strategy <b>or statement.</b></li> </ul> | Sites with special biodiversity attributes include:   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p>   |

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|  | <p><b>Integrated Pest Management Strategy</b> for minimizing the use of pesticides and biological control agents, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopts management systems that shall promote the development and application of non-chemical methods of pest and crop management by placing primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods where practicable</li> <li>• Takes account of the importance of safeguarding the value of sites with special biodiversity attributes (see also section 6.1.1) when considering methods of control</li> <li>• Demonstrates knowledge of the latest published advice and its appropriate application.</li> </ul> <p>b) The strategy shall</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All ancient woodland on the inventory of ancient woodland, and other known sites which meet the same criteria, distinguishing between the categories of the individual national inventories</li> <li>• Semi-natural features in plantations on ancient woodland sites</li> <li>• Valuable or diverse wildlife communities</li> <li>• Rare and vulnerable species</li> <li>• UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and Species</li> <li>• Breeding sites, feeding areas and habitats of notable species</li> <li>• Water courses, ponds and lakes</li> <li>• Wetland habitats</li> <li>• Lowland heath</li> <li>• Peatlands covered by the Forestry Commission's forests and peatlands policy</li> <li>• Rides and open ground</li> <li>• Woodland margins and hedges</li> <li>• Veteran trees</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement - elaboration of 'strategy' to 'integrated pest management strategy'</li> <li>• Requirement – 'minimising use' concept now moved to 5.2</li> <li>• Requirement elaborated to clarify that primary reliance is on prevention and biological control methods where practicable</li> <li>• MoV elaboration - allows for a statement within management planning rather than additional documentation.</li> </ul> |
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|       | <p>include a description of all known use over the previous five years, or the duration of the current woodland ownership if that is less than five years.</p> <p>c) The strategy shall specify aims for the minimisation or elimination of usage, taking into account considerations of cost (economic, social and environmental), and the cyclical nature of woodland management operations.</p> <p>d) The strategy shall be appropriate to the scale of the woodland and the intensity of management.</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decaying deadwood habitat</li> <li>Any other valuable habitats or features.</li> </ul> <p>Identification and mapping of areas and features may be carried out on an ongoing basis, provided that it has been completed for an area prior to operations taking place.</p>  <p><b>BAP</b><br/><b>MP</b></p> |  |
| 5.2.2 | <p>Where <b>chemical</b> pesticides and biological control agents are to be used:</p> <p>a) <del>The owner/manager shall justify the usage and the reasons for not selecting 'non-chemical methods'.</del> <b>The owner/manager shall provide reasons to justify their use demonstrating that</b></p>  | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COSHH assessments</li> <li>FEPAs records</li> <li>Waste transfer notes</li> <li>Discussions with the owner/manager, staff and contractors</li> <li>Field observation, particularly in respect to storage, application sites, protective clothing and warning signs.</li> </ul> | <p>Usage should be recorded in such a way that comparisons can be made year on year. Therefore additional to the requirement to record information under current legislation (which includes product, application rates and area treated), owners and managers should sub-divide usage according to</p>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement – (a) elaborated to a basis for the required justification which must be made in terms of economic, social and environmental costs.</li> <li>Requirement - amended for consistency to refer to 'chemical pesticides' and 'biological control agents' as appropriate to the context.</li> </ul> |

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|       | <p>there is no practicable alternative, in terms of economic, social and environmental costs.</p> <p>b) The owner/manager, staff and contractors shall be aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of <b>chemical pesticides and biological control agents</b> in forestry. (See also section 5.2.5 on fertilizers.)</p> <p>c) The owner/manager shall keep records of <b>chemical</b> pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation.</p> | <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate written procedures, work instructions, and other documentation</li> <li>• FEPA record of the precise usage including the rationale, method of application, site and quantity.</li> </ul>   | <p>operations (e.g. establishment of broadleaves, establishment of conifers, harvesting, control of invasive species). This may enable trends to be observed and future action targeted accordingly, including any necessary revision of the strategy.</p>  |   |
| 5.2.3 | <p>Where <b>chemical</b> pesticides or biological control agents are to be used the owner/manager shall be able to demonstrate that they are meeting the requirements of best practice for use of <b>chemical</b> pesticides and biological control agents.</p>  | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field observation of facilities for storage and disposal</li> <li>• Safety equipment</li> <li>• Availability of lockable boxes for transport</li> <li>• Availability of absorbent materials</li> <li>• Risk assessments</li> <li>• Safety equipment</li> <li>• Emergency plans.</li> </ul> |    | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement - amended for consistency to refer to 'chemical pesticides'.</li> </ul> |



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|              |  | <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written emergency plan.</li> </ul>  |  |   |
| <p>5.2.4</p> | <p><del>a) World Health Organisation Type 1A and 1B pesticides, or any pesticides banned by international agreement and those referred to as 'highly hazardous' in the guidance column, shall not be used, unless derogated* in the UK.</del></p> <p><del>b) Justification for use of derogated* pesticides shall be on a site by site basis and usage shall be discontinued once effective and practicable alternatives are available.</del></p> <p><b>Chemical pesticides and biological control agents shall only be used if:</b></p> <p><b>a) they are approved for use by the UK regulatory authorities, and</b></p> <p><b>b) they are not banned by international agreement.</b></p> <p><b>Pesticides categorized as Type 1A and 1B by the World Health Organisation shall not be used unless:</b></p> <p><b>a) no effective and</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records of chemicals purchased and used</li> <li>• Field observation</li> <li>• Discussions with owner/manager, staff and contractors.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Advice to owners/ managers</b></p> <p><b>Certificate holders may be subject to additional requirements from their certification scheme relating to the use of pesticides. Owners/ managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.</b></p> <p><del>*The Forest Stewardship Council produces a definitive list of 'highly hazardous' pesticides. These pesticides cannot be used unless a specific UK derogation has been granted.</del></p> <p><del>A link to the latest information on current UK derogations is available on the UKWAS website.</del></p> <p><del>As at April 2006 continuing derogations include:</del></p> | <p>This complex section has been revised so that it can be applied by owners/ managers seeking certification through either the FSC or PEFC certification schemes. The current requirement cannot be used by non-FSC certificate holders since it relies on an internal FSC mechanism that can only be implemented by FSC certificate holders.</p> <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised requirement and guidance for use of chemical pesticides and BCAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chemicals and BCAs must be approved by the UK authorities and not banned by international agreement</li> <li>○ WHO 1A&amp;B pesticides can only be used in the strictly limited circumstances set out in (a) to (c)</li> <li>○ There is a provision for Certification Schemes to have a mechanism to permit use of WHO 1A&amp;Bs subject to the mechanism meeting UKWAS requirements set out in (c)</li> <li>○ No reference in (c) to 'site by site basis' so allowing certification schemes with greater flexibility to determine the best mechanism.</li> <li>○ Reference to the FSC Highly Hazardous Chemicals list and derogation process removed as the mechanism cannot be applied to non-FSC certification.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Requirement - amended for consistency to refer to 'chemical pesticides' where appropriate.</li> <li>• Guidance – advisory note added to check with CB/ group manager on any additional Certification Scheme requirements. <i>N.B. Status of 'advisory note' clarified in Introduction (section 3) as advice only and</i></li> </ul> |

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|              | <p>practicable alternatives are available, and</p> <p>b) their use is sanctioned using a mechanism endorsed by the certificate holder's certification scheme, and</p> <p>c) any such mechanism provides for their use to be justified and on the condition that usage shall be discontinued once effective and practicable alternatives are available.</p>   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>Warfarin may be used to prevent damage to woodlands by the non-native Grey squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>) until an acceptable alternative is available</del></li> <li>• <del>Aluminium phosphide may be used to prevent damage to woodlands by European wild rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>) until an acceptable alternative is available.</del></li> </ul>  | <p><i>will not be subject to audit.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added glossary definition - 'international agreement'.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>5.2.5</p> | <p>Fertilizers (inorganic and organic):</p> <p>a) Fertilizers shall only be used where they are necessary to secure establishment or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies.</p> <p>b) Where fertilizers are to be used the owner/manager, staff and contractors shall be aware of and shall be implementing legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in forestry.</p> <p>c) <del>When using bio-solids section 3.1 shall also</del></p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with owner/manager, staff and contractors</li> <li>• Field observation, particularly in respect to storage, application sites, protective clothing and warning signs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate written procedures, work instructions, and other documentation.</li> </ul> | <p>Unnecessary use of fertilizers may be avoided through the appropriate choice of species.</p>    | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement (c) clarification - includes explicit reference to the theme of Section 3.1 which covers 'assessment of environmental impacts'.</li> <li>• New requirement (d) requires keeping of fertiliser usage records.</li> </ul> |





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|       | <p><del>apply.</del> In addition, bio-solids shall only be used following an assessment of environmental impacts in accordance with section 3.1.</p> <p>d) The owner/ manager shall keep a record of fertilizer usage.</p> |  |  |  |
| 5.3   | Genetically modified organisms   |  |  |  |
| 5.3.1 | Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall not be used.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant supply records</li> <li>Discussions with the owner/manager.</li> </ul>      | GMOs are created through gene transfer under laboratory conditions and are not the product of tree breeding, vegetative propagation, cloning or tissue culture programmes.   |  |
| 5.4   | Fencing  |  |  |  |
| 5.4.1 | Where appropriate, wildlife management and control shall be used in preference to fencing.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion with the owner/manager.</li> </ul>                                     | <p>This requirement is especially important in areas where Capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>) and Black grouse (<i>Lyrurus tetrrix</i>) are present.</p>  <p>MP</p> |  |
| 5.4.2 | Where fences are used, alignment shall be designed to minimise impacts on access (particularly public  | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field visits to verify alignments chosen.</li> </ul> | Decisions to erect fences and their alignment should take account of:  |  |


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|       | rights of way), landscape, wildlife and <del>archaeological</del> <b>historic environment</b> sites. | <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with the owner/manager demonstrate an awareness of impacts of fence alignments and of the alternatives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documented policy or guidelines regarding any specific significant impacts; or</li> <li>Expert advice sought for one-off fencing operations.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape</li> <li>Public rights of way</li> <li>Existing users of the woodland</li> <li>Wildlife especially woodland grouse</li> <li><del>Archaeology</del> <b>The historic environment.</b></li> </ul>  <p><b>MP</b></p>   |  |
| 5.5   | Pollution  |  |  |  |
| 5.5.1 | Waste disposal shall be in accordance with current waste management legislation and regulations.     | <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence of significant impacts from waste disposal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documented policy or guidelines on waste disposal including segregation, storage, recycling, return to manufacturer.</li> </ul>   | <p>Waste includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surplus chemicals</li> <li>Chemical containers</li> <li>Plastic waste</li> <li>Fuels and lubricants.</li> </ul> <p>Plastic tree shelters should not be allowed to create a litter problem at the end of their effective life.</p>  <p><b>MP</b></p> |  |
| 5.5.2 | Biodegradable lubricants shall be used where practicable.  | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence from purchase records and discussions with the owner/manager, staff and contractors.</li> </ul>   | <p>Practicability encompasses operator health and costs of converting and running machinery.</p> <p><b>MP</b></p>  |  |

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|       |  | <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justification if non-biodegradable lubricants are being used.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documented policy on the use of lubricants.</li> </ul>              |   |  |
| 5.5.3 | Plans and equipment shall be in place to deal with accidental spillages. | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with owner/manager and relevant staff</li> <li>Appropriate equipment available in the field.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written plans.</li> </ul> | <br>MP |  |

**6. Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity**

|       | REQUIREMENT   | MEANS OF VERIFICATION  | GUIDANCE   | REVISION NOTES   |
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| 6.1   | Protection of rare species, habitats and natural resources  |  |  |  |
| 6.1.1 | <p>a) <del>Areas</del> <b>Areas</b> and features of <b>high conservation value</b> having particular significance for:</p> <p>i. biodiversity including sites important for endangered but mobile species, and/or</p> <p>ii. natural processes in</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All known areas and features mapped</li> <li>Field inspection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pro-active approach to the identification of areas and features of significance for biodiversity, appropriate to</li> </ul> | <p>These areas and features of <b>high conservation value</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas designated as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Areas for Conservation</li> <li>Special Protection Areas</li> <li>Biological Sites of</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement and guidance – use of the term ‘high conservation value’ is intended to clarify that 6.1.1 (a) is the definition of high conservation value (HCV) areas and features in the standard. <i>(N.B. this is analogous to the Forest Stewardship Council’s High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) terminology.)</i></li> <li>Requirement 6.1.1 (c) – amendment clarifies and</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>critical situations shall be identified by reference to statutory designations at national or regional level and/or through field survey of the woodland.</p> <p>b) The identified <b>special</b> areas, species and features of <b>high conservation value</b> shall be maintained and, where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>c) There shall be evidence of <b>ongoing</b> communication and/or consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities, wildlife trusts and other relevant organisations.</p> | <p>likely biodiversity value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro-active approach to the identification of areas and features of significance for watershed/erosion protection.</li> </ul> | <p>Special Scientific Interest or Areas of Special Scientific Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ramsar Sites</li> <li>○ National Nature Reserves</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites</li> <li>• Areas supporting priority habitats and species listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Examples of where woodlands affect natural processes include watershed management and erosion control. Guidance on where these may be critical should be sought through reference to the statutory environment protection agencies and the Forestry Commission's Forest and Water Guidelines.</p> <p>Identification and mapping of these features may be carried out on an ongoing basis, provided that it has been completed for an area prior to significant woodland</p> | <p>emphasises that stakeholder communication must be ongoing.</p> |
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|       |   |  | management operations taking place.<br><b>BAP</b><br><b>MP</b>   |  |
| 6.1.2 | Areas designated as Special Areas for Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites, National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Areas of Special Scientific Interest shall be managed in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies, and shall be marked on maps. | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and contractors aware of such sites and of plans for their management</li> <li>• For all potentially damaging operations, awareness is demonstrated of how areas will be protected and/or safeguarded</li> <li>• Management plans for statutory conservation areas and monitoring of implementation of those plans</li> <li>• Condition statements from statutory bodies</li> <li>• Maps.</li> </ul> <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with owner/manager demonstrate how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning documentation shows how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced.</li> </ul> | <p>The system of designated sites in the UK forms representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape.</p> <p>Protection and enhancement may be through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following best practice recommended by relevant statutory bodies</li> <li>• Excluding areas from conventional woodland operations which may involve temporary demarcation</li> <li>• Minimising the impact of operations carried out on surrounding land, whether woodland or other land</li> <li>• Carrying out operations specifically prescribed to protect these sites or species</li> <li>• Seeking specialist advice particularly for rare or vulnerable species</li> <li>• Setting aside minimum intervention areas surrounding these areas</li> </ul> |  |


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|       |   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas with valuable flora are protected from browsing except where required to maintain the flora</li> <li>• UK BAP priority habitats and species.</li> </ul> <p><b>BAP<br/>MP</b></p>  |  |
| 6.1.3 | <p>Valuable woodland and other semi-natural habitats (e.g. moorland, heathland, wood pasture and grassland) which have been colonised, planted, or incorporated into plantations, but which have retained their ecological characteristics (or have a high potential to be restored), shall be identified and restored or treated in a manner that does not lead to further loss of biodiversity or cultural value.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and contractors aware of such sites and of any plans for their management</li> <li>• For all potentially damaging operations, awareness demonstrated of how areas shall be protected and/or safeguarded.</li> </ul> <p><b>SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with owner/manager demonstrate how such areas will be managed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning documentation shows how areas will be managed.</li> </ul> | <p><del>This requirement relates to small scale habitats within a woodland matrix. Also refer to section 3.5.1 where restoration /clearance is on a large larger scale (i.e. conversion of the woodland).</del></p> <p>Appropriate management may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rides and glades containing remnant semi-natural communities are widened and extended</li> <li>• Areas with a rich ground flora and shrub layer are heavily thinned</li> <li>• Remnants of wood pasture, veteran trees or other 'open-forest' habitat are gradually opened up</li> <li>• Heathland, bog and</li> </ul> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance – changes made so that the guidance is aligned with revised section 3.5.1 including the use of a new advisory note for owners/ managers to make clear when timber can be certified. <i>N.B. Status of 'advisory note' clarified in Introduction (section 3) as advice only and will not be subject to audit.</i></li> <li>• Guidance amplification – reference to NI's afforestation and environmental policy.</li> </ul> |

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|  |  |  | <p>other open habitats are recreated by premature felling without restocking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintenance of open ground around <b>archaeological historic environment</b> sites.</li></ul> <p>Priority should be given to habitats identified in the Forestry Commission's forests and peatlands policy <b>or the Forest Service's afforestation and environmental policy</b> and UK national and local Biodiversity Action Plans.</p> <p><b>Woodland removal to facilitate infrastructure or built development which is not integral to the management of the rest of the woodland cannot meet this requirement.</b></p> <p><b>See also section 3.5.1 which covers larger scale habitat restoration through conversion to non-forested land.</b></p> |  |
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|     |   |  | <p><b>Advice to owners/ managers</b></p> <p>Only timber felled in accordance with this requirement can be certified.</p> <p>Owners/ managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.</p>  <p><b>MP</b></p>   |  |
| 6.2 | Maintenance of biodiversity and ecological functions  |  |   |  |
| 6.2 | <p>When preparing management planning documentation, woodland owners/managers shall draw upon those requirements of this <b>certification</b> standard which relate to the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation.</li> </ul> | <p>In determining the future composition and management of the woodland consideration should be given to the requirements in section 6 and other sections such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopting low impact silvicultural systems (3.4.3)</li> <li>• Identifying, maintaining and enhancing semi-natural features (5.2.1)</li> <li>• Altering the proportion of native species and</li> </ul> |  |



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|       |  |   | <p>open space (3.3.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Converting part of the woodland to non-forested land (3.5.1).</li> </ul>  |  |
| 6.2.1 | <p>A minimum of 15% of the woodland area shall be managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective <del>and includes</del> <b>including:</b></p> <p>a) Conservation areas and features as identified in sections 6.1.1 and 6.1.3.</p> <p>b) Long-term retentions: stable stands and clumps are identified and constitute a minimum of 1% of the woodland area.</p> <p>c) Natural reserves: areas of woodland have been set aside where biodiversity is the prime objective. Natural reserves <del>should</del> <b>shall</b> comprise at least 1% of plantations and 5% of semi-natural woodlands.</p> <p>d) Areas being restored to semi-natural woodland or to non-woodland habitats (see requirements in sections 3.5.1, 6.1.3 and 6.3.2).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management planning documentation including maps</li> <li>Field observation</li> <li>Demonstration of the rationale for the balance between adequate dispersal of sites across the woodland area and concentration of sites in important locations. Justification is based on maximising the benefits for biodiversity conservation and/or enhancement.</li> </ul> | <p>Where the total of the conservation areas, long-term retentions and natural reserves comprises less than 15% of the woodland area, additional areas should be identified where the enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective is pursued.</p> <p>Natural reserves should be predominantly wooded, permanently identified and in locations which are of particularly high wildlife interest or potential. They should be managed by minimum intervention unless alternative management has a higher conservation or biodiversity value.</p> <p>In very small woodlands (i.e. 10 ha or under) natural reserves may consist of groups of, or individual, over-mature trees.</p> <p>The identification of large natural reserves should be given particular priority in woodlands which contain large areas (i.e. more than</p> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement - text ambiguity addressed by use of 'including'?</li> <li>Correction of requirement - erroneous use of 'should' in (c) corrected to read 'shall' to reflect correct terminology for a Requirement.</li> </ul> |


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|       |   |  | <p>50 ha) of semi-natural woodland.</p> <p>Larger and more widespread woodland estates may fulfill this requirement across the estate as a whole rather than reserving specified areas in each and every wood or forest management unit.</p> <p>In young plantations minimum intervention may often not be the best management regime for biodiversity during the establishment phase, but potential areas for future non-intervention should be identified wherever appropriate.</p>  <p>MP</p> |   |
| 6.2.2 | <p>Owners/managers shall take action <b>over time</b> to provide <b>a diversity of</b> both standing and fallen deadwood habitats throughout the woodland and <b>to accumulate deadwood volumes and maintain veteran trees</b>, where this does not conflict with safety of the public or forestry workers or the health of the woodland.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field observation</li> <li>• Harvesting contracts</li> <li>• Discussions with owners/managers, staff and contractors</li> <li>• If there is a conflict with safety or woodland health, the issues have been documented</li> <li>• Management planning documentation.</li> </ul> | <p><del>Guidance with respect to deadwood management is evolving in the light of new scientific evidence. A Forest Practice Guide is being prepared by the Forestry Commission and should be available in draft by late 2006.</del></p>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <p>In line with advance extract from UKFS Biodiversity Guidelines on deadwood and veteran trees, the current Interim Text has been revised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement - the concept of temporal continuity of deadwood supply is incorporated</li> <li>• Requirement - more explicit coverage of veteran</li> </ul> |


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| <p>Actions to provide deadwood shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying areas where deadwood is likely to be of greatest ecological value</li> <li>• Keeping all standing dead trees, snags and veteran trees</li> <li>• Keeping and protecting old, previously pollarded trees alive through appropriate management</li> <li>• Managing suitable trees to eventually take the place of existing veterans</li> <li>• Not harvesting windblown stems, except those of particularly high value, unless more than 3 m<sup>3</sup>/ha is blown</li> <li>• Only harvesting windblow when it is of significant value or unless more than 3 m<sup>3</sup>/ha is blown and sufficient deadwood is more than is required to contribute to already accumulating deadwood volumes on site</li> <li>• Accumulating</li> </ul> |  | <p><b>Interim guidance</b></p> <p>Areas of greatest ecological value occur where there is continuity and occurrence of deadwood habitat or known species interest on site, or within the surrounding landscape, e.g:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood pasture/parklands</li> <li>• Ancient semi-natural woodland with veteran trees</li> <li>• Long term retentions and natural reserves</li> <li>• Riparian woodland.</li> </ul> <p>Management practices should be contributing to the accumulation of standing and fallen deadwood, in approximately equal proportions. , to a minimum of 20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha or 5-10% of the average stand volume across the whole woodland area. About 20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha, excluding tree stumps, should be provided across the whole WMU but avoid</p> | <p>trees including text to embrace their protection and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement (Bullet 2) - flexibility in relation to 'keeping' standing trees rather than 'keeping all'</li> <li>• Requirement – changes to remove duplication of text</li> <li>• Guidance – paragraphs relating to connectivity and volume ordered to emphasise that volume is the most important</li> <li>• Guidance – new element emphasising importance of concentrating greatest volumes in high ecological value areas rather than uniform distribution</li> <li>• Guidance – revised to include new/ revised UKFS Biodiversity Guidelines elements.</li> <li>• Guidance - since stumps no longer contribute to deadwood volume targets in guidance, text added that at least some stumps should be retained.</li> <li>• Guidance – elaboration and consolidation of bullets.</li> </ul> <p>See also 4.2.4 where stump removal has been added to the requirement for whole tree harvesting only to be practised where it is unlikely to have significant negative effects.</p> |
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|  | <p>deadwood volumes on site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping naturally fallen trees or major branches</li> <li>• When <del>harvesting</del> thinning or clearfelling, creating snags and providing fallen deadwood where insufficient <del>exists</del> has already accumulated.</li> </ul> |  | <p>uniform distribution and concentrate the greatest volumes in <del>in</del> areas of high higher ecological value. ; <del>greater average volumes would be required.</del> In order to provide deadwood habitat throughout the woodland, in most hectares there should be a few dead standing and fallen stems contributing to the overall deadwood provision and at least some stumps should be retained. The accumulation of deadwood throughout a rotation provides for greater continuity of the full range of deadwood habitat types. The most valuable areas within which to develop deadwood habitats are where linkages can be made with existing deadwood habitats to develop ecological connectivity over time; these areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood pasture/parklands</li> <li>• Ancient semi-natural</li> </ul> |  |
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|  |  |  | <p>woodland with veteran trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long-term retentions and natural reserves</li><li>• Riparian or wet woodland.</li></ul> <p>Retained deadwood should be matched to the requirements of those species likely to be important on the site. Habitat diversity is improved by having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stems of greater than 2010cm diameter, particularly large dimension timber from native species</li><li>• Snags at variable heights</li><li>• A range of tree/shrub species at varying stages of decay and <del>Stems</del> in a variety of light conditions.</li></ul> <p>See also section 7.4.2 relating to mitigation of risks to public health and safety.</p>  |  |
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| 6.3   | Conservation of semi-natural woodlands and plantations on ancient woodland sites   |   |   |  |
| 6.3.1 | <p>a) Woodland identified in section 6.1.1 shall not be converted to plantation or non-forested land.</p> <p>Areas converted from semi-natural and ancient semi-natural woodlands after 1985 shall not normally qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certifier that the owner/manager is not responsible directly or indirectly for such conversion.</p> <p>b) Enhancement and/or restoration shall be a priority in ancient semi-natural woodlands and other semi-natural woodlands. Non-native species shall not be introduced or be allowed to become established in such woodlands. A plan to contain and progressively remove under-planted non-native or invasive species shall be</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field observations</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Management planning documentation including FC or DARD approved management plan and restocking plans</li> <li>• Monitoring records.</li> </ul> | <p>Non-native species may be retained where they have a high ecological or cultural value.</p> <p><b>Note to certifiers</b></p> <p>Restocking of semi-natural and ancient semi-natural woodlands should have been in accordance with this requirement since the introduction of the Broadleaves Policy to Great Britain in 1985 and similar policies and strategies to Northern Ireland. These requirements were incorporated into the UK Forestry Standard in 1998 and are a condition of relevant felling licences and permissions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MP</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> |  |


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|       | <p>implemented.<br/>Management shall be in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard and the relevant FC forest practice guides for semi-natural woodlands.</p> <p>c) Adverse ecological impacts of non-native species shall be monitored in ancient semi-natural woodlands and other semi-natural woodlands.</p>   |  |   |   |
| 6.3.2 | <p><b>a) Evaluation</b><br/>Owners/managers shall identify action which will progressively improve the biodiversity, environmental and cultural values of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), considering the site, landscape context and management objectives.</p> <p><b>b) Prioritisation</b><br/>Owners/managers shall maintain and enhance remnant features of ancient woodland on all PAWS sites. <del>This process shall be</del></p> | <p><del>Section (a)</del> <b>Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation, including a long term policy</li> <li>• Field observations</li> <li>• Discussions with owner/manager.</li> </ul> <p><del>Section (b)</del> <b>Prioritisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation, including a long term policy</li> <li>• Field observations</li> <li>• Discussions with</li> </ul> | <p>For all PAWS, continued growth of plantations for economic reasons on ancient woodland sites is likely to mean that active management is needed to maintain the biodiversity, environmental and cultural values of these sites. Remnant features (e.g. ground flora) should <del>not deteriorate further</del> be maintained through a lack of protection and management.</p> <p>A precautionary approach is appropriate in <del>in</del> most instances so that enhancement will be a gradual and long-term process. Silvicultural decisions such as thinning</p> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <p>The overall focus is on incorporating greater flexibility into the requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text layout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Requirements (a) to (e) given sub-headings which are used in MoV and Guidance</li> <li>○ Need to align text in the columns for each sub-section (a) to (e) to improve readability.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Overarching Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revised para 2 highlights that PAWS restoration is rarely an instant fix and that silvicultural intervention is appropriate so long as the evaluation has been done to guide the type of intervention</li> <li>○ For clarity the term ‘precautionary approach’ is adopted rather than ‘precautionary principle’</li> <li>○ ‘Cultural’ features included.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |







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|  | <p>all PAWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure potential gains identified as a priority</li> <li>Adopt appropriate silvicultural systems that minimise negative impacts <del>and have an emphasis on gradual change.</del></li> </ul> <p><b>d) Implementation</b><br/>Owners/managers shall implement management prescriptions to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field assessments are carried out prior to planned operations to ensure remnant features are safeguarded</li> <li>Operations are implemented in a manner that does not adversely impact the sites' values.</li> </ul> <p><b>e) Monitoring</b><br/>Owners/managers shall</p> | <p><del>Section (d)</del> <b>Implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational records.</li> </ul> <p><del>Section (e)</del> <b>Monitoring</b></p> | <p>trees and deadwood.</p> <p>A precautionary <b>approach principle</b> should be adopted in evaluating the latent potential of densely shaded or unthinned plantations. This could include exploratory work and subsequent monitoring.</p> <p>Detailed survey and species lists are unlikely to be necessary but features should be annotated on an outline map that allows managers to ensure that these features are protected and favoured during operations.</p> <p>Threats may include shading, deer browsing, windthrow and soil compaction.</p> <p>Typically, urgent operations are opening up ride and stream sides, releasing veteran trees, thinning around suppressed broadleaves and deer control.</p> <p><b>b) Prioritisation</b></p> <p>Dense shade and invasive species present the greatest threat to remnant features and hence are likely to be a priority for action. The threats posed vary with the type, occurrence and</p> |  |
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|  | <p>implement a monitoring plan that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring and reviewing the condition and response of remnant ancient woodland features</li> <li>Monitoring the status of threats</li> <li>Monitoring the condition of cultural heritage features.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management planning documentation</li> <li>Monitoring records.</li> </ul> | <p>distribution of remnant features and the individual characteristics of a stand.</p> <p>Sites with the potential to offer greatest gain may be those in close proximity to ASNW and other semi-natural habitats.</p> <p><b>c) Identifying management prescriptions</b></p> <p><del>Recent research has placed emphasis on a gradual process of change in the majority of situations.</del></p> <p>A gradual process of change is often favoured but clearfelling may be an acceptable option where it can be demonstrated that this system will not adversely impact on remnant features of ancient woodland or cultural heritage interests.</p> <p>Exploratory silvicultural interventions may help inform the choice of management prescription.</p> <p>Restocking should be carried out in such a way that remnant features are enhanced and buffered.</p> |  |
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|       |  |  | <p><b>d) Implementation</b><br/>Operational threats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraction damage</li> <li>• Roading impacts</li> <li>• Brash</li> <li>• Herbicide use</li> <li>• Soil compaction.</li> </ul> <p><b>e) Monitoring</b><br/>See also section 2.3.2.</p> <p>Monitoring may also be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate PAWS sites</li> <li>• Evaluate the effectiveness of management prescriptions.</li> </ul>  <p><b>MP</b></p> |   |
| 6.3.3 | <p>Where appropriate and possible, owners/managers shall use natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone (native species).</p> <p>In ancient and other semi-</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seed and plant supply invoices and other relevant records</li> <li>• Evidence of efforts to identify planting stock from source-identified stands in the local native seed zone.</li> </ul> | <p>There should be clear justification where non-local sources are used. This may include reasons of tree vigour, <del>or</del> timber quality and climate change adaptation.</p> <p>The identity code used for parental material includes</p>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance – elaborated to include climate change adaptation as an additional justification for using non-local sources.</li> </ul> |

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|       | natural woodland, where natural regeneration is insufficient, planting stock from 'source-identified' stands in the local native seed zone shall be used wherever it is available (see FRM). If timber quality is an objective of the planting, the use of stock deriving from selected stands within the local native seed zone shall be considered appropriate. |   | an 'N' when it applies to native material from known indigenous sources.<br><br>The voluntary Local Native Seed Zone does not operate in Northern Ireland.<br><br>FRM<br>MP |  |
| 6.4   | Game management   |   |  |  |
| 6.4.1 | Hunting, game rearing and shooting and fishing shall be carried out in accordance with <del>licence</del> conditions, where they are in force, and the recommendations and codes of practice produced by relevant associations.   | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant <del>licences</del> <b>permissions</b> and leases</li> <li>• Discussions with the owner/manager/responsible person demonstrate awareness of the law and good practice</li> <li>• Discussions with interested parties</li> <li>• Field observation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A written guideline or policy.</li> </ul> | <br>MP  | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement &amp; MoV - amended to clarify that this relates to a wide range of permissions not simply to formal licences by deletion of 'licence' in the Requirement and amendment of MoV by changing 'licences' to 'permissions'.</li> </ul> |
| 6.4.2 | Shooting of native game and quarry species, excluding deer, shall be at a level which does not threaten the viability of the local population of the species (see section 5.1.4   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of species hunted or shot and the number of animals killed</li> <li>• Evidence that the owner or manager has considered impacts on game species'</li> </ul>   | Species which currently have local or regional restrictions on shooting include Black grouse ( <i>Lyrurus tetrix</i> ).  |  |

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|              | <p>in relation to deer).</p>  | <p>populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence that local bans have been contravened.</li> </ul>                           | <p>Check against relevant UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) or Species Action Plans (SAPs).</p>  <p><b>MP</b><br/><b>BAP</b></p>   |  |
| <p>6.4.3</p> | <p>Game management shall not be sufficiently intense to cause long-term or widespread negative impacts on the woodland ecosystem.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management planning documentation and specific game management plans</li> <li>Field inspection.</li> </ul> | <p>Feeding and rearing areas should be located in areas where there will be low impact on ground flora.</p> <p>Predator control should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carefully planned</li> <li>Species-specific</li> <li>Only carried out where strictly necessary</li> <li>Carried out with minimal suffering</li> <li>Reducing rather than eradicating natural predator populations</li> <li>Carried out without the use of snares within Capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>) woodlands.</li> </ul>  <p><b>MP</b></p> |  |


7. The ~~Community~~ community

|       | REQUIREMENT   | MEANS OF VERIFICATION   | GUIDANCE  | REVISION NOTES   |
|-------|---|---|---|--|
| 7.1   | Consultation  |   |   |  |
| 7.1.1 | <p>a) Local people and relevant organisations and interest groups shall be <b>identified and</b> made aware that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or revised management planning documentation, as specified under section 2.1.1, is being produced</li> <li>• A new or revised FC or DARD scheme application and associated documents are available for inspection</li> <li>• High impact operations are planned</li> <li>• The woodland is being evaluated for certification <b>and subsequent re-assessments.</b></li> </ul> <p>b) The owner/manager shall ensure that there is full co-operation with FC or DARD consultation processes. The owner/manager shall</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with FC or DARD</li> <li>• Evidence that users of the woodland are informed about high impact operations (e.g. signs, letters or other appropriate means).</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A list of interested parties</li> <li>• Established means of pro-active communication.</li> </ul> | <p>The owner should be able to justify the <b>frequency and</b> level of consultation and the certification <b>authority body</b> will look for corroborating evidence.</p> <p>Examples of methods for <b>identifying and</b> making local people and relevant organisations aware include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory consultations by the FC or DARD or voluntary consultation with relevant bodies</li> <li>• Letters to individuals or groups</li> <li>• Temporary or permanent signs in or near the affected woodland</li> <li>• Information in local newspapers or other publications</li> <li>• Meetings</li> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• Notification to curators of archaeology</li> </ul> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification of Requirement (a) and Guidance to ensure a systematic approach to identification of relevant consultees</li> <li>• Clarification of Requirement (a) and Guidance to remove ambiguity - there is an obligation to consult stakeholders at every subsequent 5 year re-certification and the frequency of consultation should be justified.</li> </ul> |

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|       | <p>consult adequately with local people and relevant organisations and make a reasonable response to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement.</p> <p>At least 30 days shall be allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification.</p> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other appropriate methods.</li> </ul> <p>The certifier is also obliged to consult with relevant stakeholders and may be able to supply a list of those to consult, or work with the owner/manager on a co-ordinated approach to consultation.</p> <p><b>MP</b></p>  |  |
| 7.2   | Woodland access and recreation including traditional and permissive use rights   |   |  |  |
| 7.2.1 | <p>All existing permissive or traditional uses of the woodland shall be sustained except when such uses can be shown to threaten the integrity of the woodland or the achievement of the objectives of management.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation or maps of all existing permissive and traditional uses of the woodland</li> <li>• Discussions with interested parties</li> <li>• Field observation of public rights of way</li> <li>• Evidence presented to justify any restriction of permissive or traditional uses.</li> </ul> | <p>Permissive and traditional uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permissive footpaths and bridleways</li> <li>• <i>De facto</i> access to well known landmarks</li> <li>• Gathering fruit or fungi by the public for their own consumption where this does not jeopardise the achievement of biodiversity objectives (having regard to codes of good practice)</li> <li>• Traditional 'common rights'.</li> </ul> <p>Permissive routes can be closed annually to maintain their permissive status.</p> |  |

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|       |   |  | <p>Traditional uses which exploit the woodland resource (e.g. peat cutting) should be carried out at a traditional scale.</p> <p>'Integrity' refers principally to the ecological maintenance of the woodland.</p>  <p><b>MP</b></p>  |  |
| 7.2.2 | <p>There shall be provision for some public access to the woodland subject only to specific exemptions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field observation to confirm that access is available</li> <li>• Maps show public rights of way through or beside the wood</li> <li>• Evidence of publicised annual open days or guided walks</li> <li>• Access agreements with local authorities</li> <li>• Evidence that account has been taken of local demand.</li> </ul> | <p><b>In Scotland:</b></p> <p>The Land Reform (Scotland) Act (2003) grants a right of responsible access to land, including woodland.</p> <p>Guidance on responsible behaviour together with circumstances where access may be restricted is set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p> <p><b>In England, Wales and Northern Ireland:</b></p> <p>There is no statutory right of general access to woodland but public access may be provided through one or more of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A permissive freedom to</li> </ul> |  |



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|  |  |  | <p>roam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public rights of way through or beside the wood</li> <li>• Publicised open days or guided walks each year</li> <li>• Permissive access on specified routes</li> <li>• Access management agreements with local authorities</li> <li>• In England and Wales only - by voluntarily dedicating woodland for public access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).</li> </ul> <p>Public access, other than on public rights of way, may be denied in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodlands under 10 ha in size with a high private amenity value</li> <li>• Areas that adjoin dwellings or private gardens</li> <li>• Isolated woodlands to which there is no ready access route for the public across adjoining land</li> </ul> |  |
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|       |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodlands where there is current evidence of serious and sustained abuse or damage</li> <li>• Areas of the woodland that contain sites, species or features that would be particularly vulnerable to disturbance</li> <li>• Periods or days when country sports, outdoor recreation or special events would be jeopardised</li> <li>• Temporary closures in order to ensure public safety.</li> </ul> <p>MP</p>  |  |
| 7.2.3 | <p>Where there is a special demand for further public access, particularly for the purpose of environmental education, the owner/manager shall make reasonable efforts to try to meet this demand or to help locate an alternative site.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No evidence from consultation with interested parties of unreasonable refusal of access.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records of publicised annual open days or guided walks, school visits or research undertaken in the woodland.</li> </ul> | <p>Examples of reasonable efforts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When cropping schedules or stock management or silvicultural regimes require restricted public access, the owner/manager advertises the days when closure restrictions are lifted. Woodlands accessed across open arable fields may need time for preparation and</li> </ul>   |  |

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|  |  |  | <p>marking of access routes; bull or lambing fields may need access diversions; storm damage or woodland operations may make woodlands temporarily unsafe. Temporary notice boards should explain the reasons for diversions and closures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistent vandalism may force owners/managers to place particular woodland blocks or areas 'out of bounds'. Reasons should be communicated through local schools, libraries, post offices and parish halls to help stimulate community co-operation to combat damage</li> <li>• Woodlands containing or adjoining notable <del>archaeological</del> <b>historic environment</b> or ecological features may attract large numbers of visitors even to small properties. Professional associations can advise on necessary safety and insurance provisions, ways of supporting educational visits and studies, and methods for</li> </ul> |  |
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|       |   |   | recovering some or all of the extra costs of satisfying public demand.<br><br><b>MP</b>  |   |
| 7.3   | Rural economy   |   |  |   |
| 7.3.1 | <p>a) Owners/managers shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy.</p> <p>b) Management and marketing operations shall encourage making the best use of the woodland's potential products <b>and services</b> consistent with other objectives.</p> | <p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• Reasonable provision for local employment and suppliers</del></li> <li>• Local or specialist market opportunities</li> <li>• Promoting <b>and</b> <del>or</del> encouraging enterprises to strengthen and diversify the local economy.</li> </ul> | <p>Promotion of integration into the local economy may be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• Making reasonable provision for local employment for contractors and suppliers to provide services and supplies</del></li> <li>• Allowing local or specialist markets opportunities to purchase small scale or specialist parcels</li> <li>• Promoting and encouraging enterprises which will strengthen and diversify the woodland <b>economy and the</b> <del>or</del> local economy.</li> </ul> <p>The woodland's potential products include non-timber forest products and recreational activities.</p> <p>An example of how the owner/manager might help to diversify the processing</p> | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement is disaggregated for greater clarity - 7.3.1 focuses on the wider local economy and a new 7.3.2 is created to focus on providing economic opportunities for local communities.</li> <li>• Elaboration of Requirement and Guidance to embrace a wider range of products and services.</li> </ul> |



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|       |  |  | <p>industry is that a proportion of timber parcels are advertised and sold by open tender or auction.</p> <p>Reference to country forestry strategies, regional forestry frameworks and engagement with local woodland and community forest initiatives may highlight opportunities to fulfil this requirement.</p>  |   |
| 7.3.2 | <p>Communities within or adjacent to the woodlands shall have equitable opportunities for employment and to provide supplies and services.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasonable provision for local employment and suppliers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making reasonable provision for local employment for contractors and suppliers to provide services and supplies and making this known.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New requirement focusing on providing economic opportunities for local communities incorporating Guidance and MoV formerly in 7.3.1.</li> </ul> |
| 7.4   | Minimising adverse impacts   |  |  |   |
| 7.4.1 | <p>Sites and features of special cultural significance shall be identified and discussed with interested local people, the relevant authorities and interest groups and measures shall be taken to protect them.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any known features mapped and/or documented</li> <li>Discussions with the owner/manager demonstrate rationale for management of relevant sites.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features</li> </ul> | <p>Typical examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prominent viewing points</li> <li>Landscape features</li> <li>Veteran and other notable trees</li> <li>Historical features and archaeological sites</li> <li>Woodlands which feature in literature or which are of artistic significance</li> <li>Historic landscapes and</li> </ul> |   |


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|       | See also section 7.1.1.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documented plans.</li> </ul>   | <p>woodlands which are still managed under traditional systems.</p>  <p>MP</p>   |  |
| 7.4.2 | The owner/manager shall mitigate the risks to public health and safety and the wider impacts of woodland operations on local people.  | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence of legal non-compliance</li> <li>Evidence that complaints have been dealt with constructively.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documented evidence that owners/managers have considered actual and potential impacts of operations on local people and interest groups and have taken reasonable steps to mitigate them.</li> </ul> | <p>Examples of impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smoke</li> <li>Timber traffic, particularly in and around the woodland</li> <li>Natural hazards to operators and public, e.g. unsafe trees.</li> </ul>  <p>MP</p> |  |
| 7.4.3 | The owner/manager shall respond constructively to complaints and shall follow established legal process should this become necessary. | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with interested parties.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A complaints process and public contact point.</li> </ul>  | MP  | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoV – additional verifier for Non-SLIM woods covering a complaints process and provision of a public contact point.</li> </ul> |

## 8. Forestry workforce

| REQUIREMENT | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | GUIDANCE | REVISION NOTES |
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| 8.1   | Health and safety   |   |   |   |
| 8.1.1 | <p>There shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Compliance with health and safety legislation.</li> <li>b) Conformance with associated codes of practice.</li> <li>c) Contingency plans for any accidents.</li> </ul>                | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field observation that health and safety legislation and codes of practice are being implemented</li> <li>• Discussions with staff and contractors demonstrate that they are aware of relevant requirements and have access to appropriate AFAG codes of practice</li> <li>• Contracts specifying health and safety requirements</li> <li>• Records maintained and up to date (e.g. accident book, site risk assessments, chemical record book, tree safety reports).</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented health and safety policy and consideration of issues in all procedures and work instructions.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Advice to owners/ managers</b></p> <p>With respect to health and safety, it is important for owners/ managers to be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to fulfilling the functional roles of, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Woodland owner</li> <li>b) Forestry works manager</li> <li>c) Forestry contractor.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance - elaboration through advisory note to address confusion of roles relating to H&amp;S responsibilities. <i>N.B. Status of 'advisory note' clarified in Introduction (section 3) as advice only and will not be subject to audit.</i></li> </ul>  |
| 8.1.2 | <p>The owner/manager shall meet all applicable requirements of health and safety legislation, ensuring that <del>all</del> workers have had relevant instruction in safe working practice and <b>training in</b> first aid <del>procedures</del>.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System to ensure that anyone working in the woodland has had appropriate training and, where relevant, holds a certificate of competence</li> <li>• Procedure for monitoring compliance with safety</li> </ul>  | <p>Workers include employees, contractors and volunteer labour.</p>   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification of Requirement – ‘all’ deleted in revised text as not <u>all</u> workers need first aid training</li> <li>• Clarification of Requirement - reference to “first aid procedures” amended to “training in first aid”</li> <li>• Appendix - reference to HSE document added to reference list: ‘First Aid at Work – Your Questions</li> </ul> |

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|       |  | <p>requirements (written for larger organisations) and for dealing with situations where safety requirements are not met.</p> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of a systematic approach to accident prevention.</li> </ul>  | <p>See also section 8.2.1.</p>                 | <p>Answered'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appendix - anticipated FC guidance document on H&amp;S to be added to reference list.</li> </ul> |
| 8.2   | Training and continuing development  |  |   |   |
| 8.2.1 | <p>Only those with relevant qualifications, training and/or experience shall be engaged to carry out any work unless working under proper supervision if they are currently undergoing training.</p> | <p><b>All woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copies of appropriate certificates of competence</li> <li>Discussions with staff and contractors</li> <li>System to ensure that only contractors who are appropriately trained or supervised work in the woodland</li> <li>No evidence of personnel without relevant training, experience or qualifications working in the woodland.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-SLIM woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documented training programme for staff</li> <li>Documented system to ensure that only contractors who are appropriately trained or supervised work in the woodland</li> <li>Training records for all staff.</li> </ul> | <p>Where requirements of the work are likely to change, a programme of ongoing training and development should be undertaken.</p> |   |



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| 8.2.2 | The owner/manager of large enterprises shall promote training, and encourage and support new recruits to the industry.                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented policy</li> <li>• Involvement with industry bodies promoting training, including AFAG</li> <li>• Records of training sessions, provision of sites for training, subsidies for training courses.</li> </ul> | Promotion of training may be achieved through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing sites for training courses</li> <li>• Offering subsidies for training courses.</li> </ul> |  |
| 8.3   | Workers' rights  |  |   |  |
| 8.3.1 | Employees and other workers shall not be deterred from joining a trades union or employee association.                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with employees and other workers do not suggest that they have been discouraged.</li> </ul>   |    |  |
| 8.3.2 | Employees and other workers shall be permitted to negotiate collectively with their employers should they so wish.                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with employees and other workers reveal no evidence that they have been prevented from negotiating collectively.</li> </ul>   |    |  |
| 8.4   | Insurance  |  |   |  |
| 8.4.1 | Owners/managers, employers and contractors shall hold <b>and display adequate</b> public liability and employer's liability insurance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance documents.</li> </ul>   |   | <p><b>Changes:</b></p> <p>Amplification of Requirement – insurance documents shall be displayed and cover shall be adequate.</p> |

## Glossary of Terms

The glossary will be checked to ensure that all terms are in use in the final version.

|  |   |
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| Access (for public)                        | Refers to woodland and its associated land open to the public for recreational or educational use (sometimes subject to charges).   |
| Accreditation <del>service authority</del> | An authoritative body which evaluates and recognises the competence of bodies to certify that woodland management conforms to the specific requirements of the <b>UK Woodland Assurance Standard</b> <del>UKWAS standard</del> . <del>The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)</del> <b>Accreditation Services International (ASI)</b> and the United Kingdom <b>Accreditation Service (UKAS)</b> both provide an accreditation service in the UK. Those bodies which are accredited are referred to as <b>certification bodies</b> . |
| AFAG                                       | Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group to the Health & Safety Executive.   |
| Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)       | <i>See Woodland.</i>  |
| Ancient woodland                           | <i>See Woodland.</i>  |
| Ancient woodland site                      | <i>See Woodland.</i>  |
| Appropriate Assessment                     | Appropriate Assessment (AA) is the process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Habitats and Species Directive.   |
| Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) | A statutory designation in Northern Ireland that offers statutory protection to habitats and species.   |
| Biodiversity                               | The variety of ecosystems and living organisms (species), including genetic variation within species.   |
| Biodiversity Action Plan(s) (BAP)          | The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) sets out a programme of action to conserve and enhance biological diversity throughout the UK. It includes action plans for key habitats and species, and cross-sectoral programmes to encourage biodiversity conservation within all land uses and businesses. Local Biodiversity Action Plans integrate these measures at a local or regional level.  |
| <b>Biological control agent</b>            | <b>A living organism used to eliminate or regulate the population of another living organism. Their use can play an important role in an integrated pest management strategy.</b>   |
| Brash mats                                 | Cut branches spread along the route where forest machinery will be driving to reduce soil damage.   |
| Broadleaves                                | Broadleaved trees are characterised by their broad leaves and most are deciduous. They produce 'hardwood' timber. <i>Also see Conifers.</i>   |
| Buffer                                     | An area of non-invasive trees or other land use of sufficient width to protect semi-natural woodland from significant invasion by seed from a nearby non-native source.   |
| Certification <del>authority body</del>    | A body which is accredited by an accreditation <del>authority service</del> to certify (by giving written assurance) that woodland management   |

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|                                  | conforms to the specific requirements of the <b>UK Woodland Assurance Standard</b> <del>UKWAS standard</del> . Also sometimes referred to as a conformity assessment body.  |
| Certification scheme             | A scheme that establishes a set of standards and processes that govern a system to verify that its standards (e.g. for sustainable forest management and chain-of-custody) are met and thereby provide assurance to customers and stakeholders.   |
| Chain-of-custody certification   | Chain-of-custody certification is a traceability system that ensures that certified products come from a well-managed source. The chain starts at the forest and is maintained through every link of the chain through to the end user.   |
| Clear felling                    | Cutting down of an area of woodland (if it is within a larger area of woodland it is typically a felling greater than 0.25 ha). Sometimes a scatter or small clumps of trees may be left standing within the felled area.   |
| Common rights                    | Rights of Common that have been legally registered with local authorities in England and Wales.   |
| Compliance                       | In the context of this <b>certification</b> standard, the term 'compliance' refers to meeting legal requirements.   |
| Conformance                      | In the context of this <b>certification</b> standard, the term 'conformance' refers to meeting the requirements of the certification standard.  |
| Conifers                         | Coniferous trees are characterised by their needle or scale-like leaves and most are evergreen. They produce 'softwood' timber. <i>Also see Broadleaves.</i>  |
| Coppice                          | Management based on regeneration by re-growth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and re-growth. <i>Also see short rotation coppice.</i>   |
| Coppice with standards           | Coppice with a scatter of trees of seedling or coppice origin, grown on a long rotation to produce larger sized timber and to regenerate new seedlings to replace worn out stools.  |
| Copse                            | <i>See Woodland.</i>  |
| COSHH                            | Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations.  |
| Coupe                            | An area of woodland that has been or is planned for clear felling.  |
| Cultural features                | Archaeological sites, historic buildings and heritage landscapes including ancient woodlands.   |
| DARD                             | Department of Agriculture and Rural Development - the government department responsible for the regulation of forestry and the management of the state woodlands in Northern Ireland. <i>Also see Forest Service.</i>   |
| Design Plan (Forest Design Plan) | Long term outline planting or felling and regeneration plan (20 years or more) which takes account of the environmental characteristics of the woodland as well as the management of the growing stock. The first few years planting, felling, regeneration and environmental management plans are shown in detail. For woodlands managed |

|                                 |   |
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|                                 | <p>by the FC, referred to as a Forest Design Plan. Design plans for private woodlands are encouraged through some grant schemes. Where a design plan is in preparation but has not received full approval at the time of the intended felling operation, an approved felling licence may constitute an acceptable short term substitute with regard to the requirement in section 3.4.2, provided that the licence application deals comprehensively with the environmental implications of the proposed felling.</p> |
| Drainage                        | <p>An operation to remove excess water from an area in a controlled way. In woodlands, drains are usually open, unlined channels.</p>   |
| Ecosystem                       | <p>A community of plants and animals (including humans) interacting with each other and the forces of nature. Balanced ecosystems are stable when considered over the long term (hundreds of years in the case of woodlands).</p>   |
| Ecological integrity            | <p>The health and vitality of the woodland's physical and biological components.</p>  |
| Environmental appraisal         | <p>Generic term for the process of assessing the impact of plans or operations on the environment.</p>  |
| Environmental impact assessment | <p>Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Environmental Assessment Directive.</p>  |
| FC                              | <p><i>See Forestry Commission.</i></p>  |
| Felling licence                 | <p>Licence issued by the Forestry Commission to permit trees to be felled. With certain exceptions it is illegal to fell trees in Great Britain without prior Forestry Commission approval.</p>   |
| FEPA                            | <p>Food and Environment Protection Act 1985.</p>  |
| Forest management unit (FMU)    | <p><b>Synonymous to woodland management unit.</b><br/><b><i>See Woodland management unit (WMU)</i></b></p>  |
| Forest Service                  | <p>An agency of Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development which undertakes the regulation of forestry and the management of the state woodlands in Northern Ireland.</p>   |
| Forestry                        | <p>The science and art of managing woodlands.</p>   |
| Forestry Commission (FC)        | <p>The government department with responsibility for the regulation of forestry and the management of the state woodlands throughout Great Britain. The abbreviations FC(E), FC(S) and FC(W) refer to the FC's divisions for England, Scotland and Wales respectively.</p>  |
| Game                            | <p>Animals, either wild or reared, managed for hunting or shot for food.</p>  |
| Genotype                        | <p>The genetic constitution of an organism, as contrasted with its expressed characteristics which are known as the phenotype.</p>  |
| Glade                           | <p>Small area of open ground which forms an integral part of the woodland.</p>  |
| Group selection                 | <p>A method of managing irregular stands in which regeneration is achieved by felling trees in small groups.</p>  |
| Historic environment            | <p><b>Several thousand years of human activity has contributed to the</b></p>   |

landscape of the UK that we experience today. The surviving elements of the past take many forms, including ancient woods and forests, veteran trees, earthworks, ruined structures and features buried below ground. Together these elements provide a rich source of information about past societies and how they used and managed the land including their woods and forests.

|                         |   |
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| HAP                     | Habitat Action Plans (see <i>Biodiversity Action Plans</i> ).   |
| Horticultural           | In relation to section 3.3.3 on Christmas trees: intensive production on a small or large scale in a setting which cannot reasonably be considered to be a forest or woodland.  |
| HSE                     | Health & Safety Executive. HSE is the government body charged with ensuring that risks to people's health and safety from work activities are properly controlled.  |
| International agreement | An agreement under international law entered into by sovereign states and international organizations which may also be known as a treaty, protocol, covenant, convention, exchange of letters, etc. It provides a means for willing parties to assume obligations among themselves, and a party that fails to live up to their obligations can be held liable under international law. The Foreign & Commonwealth Office's 'UK Treaties Online' database on <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk">www.fco.gov.uk</a> lists those involving the UK.   |
| ILO                     | International Labour Organisation. The ILO is the specialised agency of the United Nations which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards for basic labour rights.  |
| Interested parties      | People directly affected by or who have a significant interest in the woodland being managed.   |
| Invasive                | Introduced non-native species which spread readily and dominate native species.   |
| ISO                     | International Organisation for Standardisation. ISO is the international network of national standards institutes.  |
| ISO 14001               | An international standard for environmental management systems (EMS) developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). It can be applied to any industry sector. ISO 14001 requires a company to undertake a review of its environmental impact, and based on this, to develop a policy, objectives and targets and a programme to ensure they are implemented. ISO 14001 does not set specific performance targets, other than legal compliance, and therefore sector-specific performance targets can be linked with <del>the</del> this certification standard. |
| Landscape level         | The level of the landscape unit.  |
| Landscape unit          | An area of broadly homogeneous landscape character.   |

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| Local (Planning) Authority         | Local government planning authority.   |
| Local people                       | Anyone living or working in the vicinity who has an interest in the woodland. It is intentional that this term is not more closely defined, and the wider public is not excluded. It is particularly difficult to be precise about how local people are to be contacted or consulted. In some situations, it would be appropriate for this simply to mean those living beside the woodland (e.g. concerning noise disturbance). In other cases (such as using local services) a much wider geographical area will be appropriate. If there is difficulty in identifying local contacts, then the elected representatives should be the first choice.   |
| Long term retention                | Trees retained for environmental benefit significantly beyond the age or size generally adopted by the woodland enterprise.  |
| Lop and top                        | Woody debris from cutting operations, sometimes converted into chippings.  |
| Low intensity managed woodland     | Woodland management units are classed as being managed in a low intensity manner when:<br><br>a) the rate of timber harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) <sup>1</sup> within the total production woodland area of the unit<br><br>AND<br><br>either<br><br>b) the annual harvest from the total production woodland area is less than 5,000 cubic metres<br><br>or<br><br>c) the <i>average</i> annual timber harvest from the total production woodland is less than 5,000 m <sup>3</sup> / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.<br><br><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><br><br><i>Also see Small woodland and SLIM woodland.</i> |
| Lower impact silvicultural systems | Silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or underplanting, small coupe felling, coppice or coppice with standards, minimum intervention and single tree selection systems which are suitable for windfirm conifer woodlands and most broadleaved woodlands.  |
| Management planning documentation  | <i>See Woodland management plan</i>  |

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|---|---|
| Minimum intervention                        | Management with no systematic felling or planting of trees. Operations normally permitted are fencing, control of exotic plant species and vertebrate pests, maintenance of paths and rides and safety work.  |
| National Nature Reserve (NNR)               | A statutory designation that offers statutory protection to habitats and species.   |
| Native (species)                            | A species that has arrived and inhabited an area naturally, without deliberate assistance by man, or would occur had it not been removed through past management. For trees and shrubs in the UK this is usually taken to mean those species present after post-glacial recolonisation and before historic times. Some species are only native in particular regions. Differences in characteristics and adaptation to conditions occur more locally hence the term 'locally native'. |
| Natural reserve                             | Natural reserves are predominantly wooded, are permanently identified and are in locations which are of particularly high wildlife interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative management has higher conservation or biodiversity value.   |
| Non-SLIM woodland                           | A woodland that is not classed as Small and / or subject to Low Intensity Management ('SLIM').<br><br><i>Also see Small woodland and Low intensity managed woodland</i>   |
| Open space                                  | In a woodland this includes streams, ponds and well laid-out roads and rides.   |
| Origin (of seed)                            | The original natural genetic source of those trees which are native to the site.  |
| Permissive (access/use)                     | Use is by permission whether written or implied, rather than by right.  |
| Pesticides                                  | Any substance, preparation or organism prepared or used, among other uses, to protect plants or wood or other plant products from harmful organisms, to regulate the growth of plants, to give protection against harmful creatures or to render such creatures harmless.   |
| Plantation                                  | <i>See Woodland.</i>  |
| Plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS). | <i>See Woodland.</i>  |
| Provenance                                  | Location of trees from which seed or cuttings are collected. Designation of Regions of Provenance under the Forest Reproductive Materials regulations is used to help nurseries and growers select suitable material. The term is often confused with 'origin' which is the original natural genetic source.  |
| Public Right of Way                         | Public Rights of Way are statutory rights of way in England and Wales and are recorded on Definitive Maps held by local authorities showing whether the right of way is by foot, horse or vehicle.  |

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|              | <p>In Northern Ireland, records of public rights of way are held by district councils.</p>  |
| Recreation   | <p>Activity or experience of the visitor's own choice within a woodland setting. (Facilities may sometimes be provided and charges levied for their use.) <i>Also see Access.</i></p> |
| Regeneration | <p>Renewal of woodland through sowing, planting, or natural regeneration.</p>   |
| Remnant      | <p>The baseline of surviving ancient woodland features found in PAWS, for which there is physical or documentary evidence.</p>  |

These include:

- Woodland specialist flora. These are species with a strong affinity for ancient woodland but may vary in relation to geographic region
- Trees originating from the pre-plantation stand. They can be maidens, standards, coppice stools or pollards and may include ancient or veteran trees
- Deadwood originating from the pre-plantation stand, coarse woody debris and associated decomposer communities.

These features provide the continuity of habitat with the pre-plantation phase.

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| Restocking                    | <p>Replacing felled areas by sowing seed, planting or natural regeneration.</p>  |
| Retentions                    | <p>Trees retained, usually for environmental benefit, significantly beyond the age or size generally adopted by the owner for felling.</p>   |
| Ride                          | <p>Permanent unsurfaced access route through woodland.</p>   |
| SAP                           | <p>Species Action Plans (see <i>Biodiversity Action Plans</i>).</p>  |
| Semi-natural woodland         | <p><i>See Woodland.</i></p>  |
| Shelterbelt                   | <p><i>See Woodland.</i></p>  |
| Shelterwood                   | <p>The shelterwood system involves the felling of a proportion of the mature trees within an area whilst leaving some trees as a seed source and shelter for natural regeneration. The seed trees are subsequently removed. Note that the term 'seed tree system' is often used to describe 'shelterwoods' with densities of &lt;50 retained mature trees per hectare.</p> |
| Short rotation coppice (SRC)  | <p>Short rotation coppice (usually willow or poplar) typically grown as an energy crop and harvested every 3 years.<br/><i>Also see coppice.</i></p>   |
| Short rotation forestry (SRF) | <p>Short rotation forestry crops are typically harvested at between 8 and 20 years.</p>  |
| Silviculture                  | <p>The techniques of tending and regenerating woodlands, and harvesting their physical products.</p>   |
| Single tree selection         | <p>A method of managing irregular stands in which individual trees of any size are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand.</p>  |



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| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | A statutory designation in Great Britain that offers statutory protection to habitats and species.  |
| SLIM woodland                              | A woodland that is classed as Small and / or subject to Low Intensity Management ('SLIM').<br><br><i>Also see Small woodland and Low intensity managed woodland</i>   |
| Small coupe felling                        | A small scale clear-felling system. The system is imprecisely defined but coupes are typically between 0.5 ha and 2.0 ha in extent, with the larger coupes elongated in shape so the edge effect is still high.   |
| Small woodland                             | 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'.  |
| Snag                                       | A standing dead tree that has lost its top.   |
| Special Area for Conservation (SAC)        | Area designated under the EU Habitats and Species Directive.  |
| Special Protection Area (SPA)              | Area designated under the EU Birds Directive.   |
| Statutory body(ies)                        | There are three categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies: <del>currently English Nature and Countryside Agency (Natural England from 2007) in England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment and Heritage Service in</del> and the Northern Ireland <b>Environment Agency</b></li><li>• The statutory environment protection agencies: Environment Agency in England and Wales, Scottish Environment Protection Agency <del>and the Environment and Heritage Service in</del> Northern Ireland <b>Environment Agency</b></li><li>• Local authorities.</li></ul> |
| Thinning                                   | Tree removal, which results in a temporary reduction in basal area, made after canopy closure to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.   |
| Trademarks                                 | 'UKWAS' and 'United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard' are registered trademarks.   |
| Traditional                                | In relation to section 3.3.3 on Christmas trees: production on a small scale in a setting which can reasonably be considered to be a woodland.  |
| Traditional rights                         | Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, which have, by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit.   |
| Underplanting                              | The planting of young trees under the canopy of an existing stand – often combined with a shelterwood or group selection system.  |
| United Kingdom                             | References to the 'United Kingdom' or 'UK' refer to the 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' which comprises England, Scotland and Wales (collectively referred to as 'Great Britain') and Northern Ireland.  |

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| Value(s)                              | The weights given to economic, biodiversity, recreational, environmental, social and cultural impacts when considering management options.   |
| Very small woodland                   | <i>See Small woodland.</i>   |
| Veteran tree                          | A tree that is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition, including the presence of deadwood micro-habitats.                       |
| Watercourse                           | Streams and rivers. References to forestry practice on adjacent land should be taken as applying also to adjacent water e.g. ponds and lakes.  |
| Whole tree harvesting                 | The removal from the harvesting site of every part of the tree above ground or above and below ground.   |
| Windthrow                             | Uprooting of trees by the wind.  |
| Windthrow risk                        | A technical assessment of risk based on local climate, topography, site conditions and tree height.  |
| Wood pasture                          | Areas of historical, cultural and ecological interest, where grazing is managed in combination with a proportion of open tree canopy cover.  |
| <del>Woodland of planted origin</del> | <del><i>See Woodland.</i></del>  |
| Woodland                              | Predominantly tree covered land whether in large tracts (generally called forests) or smaller units (known by a variety of terms such as woodlands, woods, copses and shelterbelts). |

Those woodlands which are comprised mainly of locally native trees and shrubs, and have some structural characteristics of natural woodland are referred to as **semi-natural woodland**.

Those woodlands which are derived principally from the human activity of planting, sowing or intensive silvicultural treatment but lack most of the principal characteristics and key elements of semi-natural woodland are generally referred to as **plantations** or **woodlands of planted origin**. They often include a proportion of naturally regenerated trees and are often managed to become more like natural woodlands over time.

Woodland is referred to as **ancient woodland** when it has been in continuous existence since before AD 1600 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland or since before AD 1750 in Scotland.

The term **ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)** is used to describe those semi-natural stands on ancient woodland sites. The precise definition varies according to the local circumstances in each country within the United Kingdom and guidance should be sought from the Forestry Commission or Forest Service as appropriate.

The term **ancient woodland site** refers to the site of an ancient woodland irrespective of its current tree cover. Where the native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting of tree species not native to the site it is referred to as a **plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS)**.

*Also see Small woodland, Low intensity managed woodland and SLIM woodland.*

Woodland management plan

The collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization in a management unit, including statements of objectives and policies.

Woodland management unit (WMU)

The woodland management unit (WMU) is the area to which the management planning documentation relates. A WMU is a clearly defined woodland area, or areas, with mapped boundaries, managed by a single managerial body to a set of explicit objectives which are expressed in a self-contained woodland management plan.

Woodland of planted origin

*See Woodland.*

## APPENDIX

The Appendix has not been updated fully – advice from consultees on necessary deletions or insertions would be warmly welcomed.

### Main legislation, regulations, guidelines and codes of practice referred to in the UKWAS

The main legislation, guidelines and codes of practice relevant to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard are shown here. These are correct and as complete as possible as at April 2006 but it should not be treated as an exhaustive list. It is important at all times to refer to the most recent and/or new documents and relevant websites should be checked frequently. The main documents have been referenced in the text as follows:

#### **MP Management Planning**

Examples of a process and structure for developing management planning documentation are made available on the UKWAS website. The examples posted are not definitive and following the guidance provides no guarantee of achieving certification.

#### **BAP Biodiversity Action Plan**

Refer to the relevant Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) or Species Action Plans (SAPs) of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. See [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk).

#### **FRM Forest Reproductive Material Regulations**

These are given in the following publication:

2003: Forestry Commission Information Note 53: Recent Changes to the Control of Forest Reproductive Material

It is available from the Forestry Commission, and details of the arrangements in Northern Ireland may be obtained from the Forest Service.



#### **Main Reference Document**

Refer to the relevant documents in this Appendix. The key main documents are listed below and the other main documents under the eight section headings of the **certification** standard.

#### **KEY LEGISLATION**

1967: Forestry Act 1967 (as amended)  
1967: Plant Health Act 1967  
1982: Forestry Commission Bye-laws  
1953: Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 1953

#### **KEY FORESTRY COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS**

2004: The UK Forestry Standard - The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry (second edition)  
2003: Forests and Water Guidelines  
1998: Forests and Soil Conservation Guidelines  
1995: Forests and Archaeology Guidelines  
1994: Forest Landscape Design Guidelines  
1992: Lowland Landscape Design Guidelines  
1992: Forest Recreation Guidelines  
1990: Forest Nature Conservation Guidelines

Note: The Guidelines are being revised from 2006 and any changes will be advised on [www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications)

Information on forestry grant schemes and regulations applicable to England, Scotland and Wales may be obtained from the Forestry Commission, and, to Northern Ireland, from the Forest Service. Guidance on environmental regulations is provided for small businesses on [www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk).

## **SECTIONS**

### **3. WOODLAND DESIGN: CREATION, FELLING AND REPLANTING**

#### **3.1 Assessment of environmental impacts**

##### Legislation

1999: The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999

1999: The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999

2000: The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000

##### Forestry Commission website downloads

2004: Environmental Impact Assessment of Forestry Projects

2001: Undertaking an Environmental Assessment in Forestry and Preparing an Environmental Statement

#### **3.2 Location and Design**

##### Forestry Commission Guidelines

1991: Community Woodland Design Guidelines

##### Forestry Commission Guideline Notes

2000: No. 1, Forests and Peatland Habitats

##### Forestry Commission Practice Guide

1998: No. 12, Forest Design Planning - A Guide to Good Practice

##### Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)

1993: The DARD Statement on Environmental Policy

#### **3.3 Species Selection**

##### Forestry Commission Bulletins

2001: No. 124, An Ecological Site Classification for Forestry in Great Britain

2002: No. 125, Climate Change – Impacts on UK Forests

##### Forestry Commission Practice Guide

2004: Creating New Broadleaved Woodlands by Direct Seeding

##### Forestry Commission Practice Note

1999: No. 8, Using Local Stock for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs

#### **3.4 Silvicultural Systems**

##### Forestry Commission Information Notes

2004: No. 40, Transforming Even-aged Conifer Stands to Continuous Cover Management

2002: No. 45, Monitoring the Transformation of Even-aged Stands to Continuous Cover Management

1999: No. 29, What is Continuous Cover Forestry?

#### **3.5 Conversion to non-forested land**

[Forestry Commission Guidelines]

### **4. OPERATIONS**

#### **4.2 Harvesting Operations**

[Add FC guidance on stump removal]

Forestry Commission Guidelines

- 2003: Forests and Water Guidelines
- 1998: Forests and Soil Conservation Guidelines
- 1995: Forests and Archaeology Guidelines
- 1990: Forest Nature Conservation Guidelines

Forestry Commission Practice Guides

- 1995: No. 9, Forest Operations and Badger Setts
- 1997: No. 11, Whole-Tree Harvesting - A Guide to Good Practice

Forestry Commission Information Notes

- 2004: No. 40, Transforming Even-aged Conifer Stands to Continuous Cover Management
- 2002: No. 45, Monitoring the Transformation of Even-aged Stands to Continuous Cover Management.
- 1999: No. 29, What is Continuous Cover Forestry?

Forestry Commission Technical Notes

- 2002: No. 2, Planning Controlled Burning Operations in Forestry
- 2000: No. 3, Forest and Moorland Fire Suppression
- 2000: No. 4, Burning Forest Residues

Roundwood Haulage Working Party

- 2003: Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)

- 1999: Northern Ireland Forest Service, Environmental Guidelines for Timber Harvesting
- 1993: The DARD Statement on Environmental Policy

### **4.3 Forest Roads**

Forestry Commission Guidelines

- 2003: Forests and Water Guidelines
- 1998: Forests and Soil Conservation Guidelines
- 1995: Forests and Archaeology Guidelines
- 1994: Forest Landscape Design Guidelines
- 1992: Lowland Landscape Design Guidelines
- 1992: Forest Recreation Guidelines
- 1990: Forest Nature Conservation Guidelines

Roundwood Haulage Working Party

- 2003: Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

## **5. PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

[Note Wild-Boar.org.uk]

### **5.1 Planning**

Forestry Commission Practice Notes

- 1999: No. 6, Managing Deer in the Countryside
- 1998: No. 1, Nearest Neighbour Method for Quantifying Wildlife Damage to Woodland
- 1998: No. 2, The Prevention of Rabbit Damage to Trees in Woodland
- 1998: No. 3, Prevention of Mammal Damage to Trees in Woodland

Forestry Commission Information Notes

- 2000: No. 35, Natural Regeneration in Broadleaved Woodlands: Deer Browsing and the Establishment of Advance Regeneration
- 2000: No. 36, The Impact of Deer on Woodland Biodiversity

Forestry Commission Technical Guide

- 2006: Forest Fencing
- The Deer Initiative
  - 2004: A Guide to Writing Deer Management Plans
  - 2004: Deer Management Plan Template
- Deer Commission for Scotland
  - 2003: Best Practice Guidance 3.2.1 Deer Management Plan
  - 1999: Collaborative Deer Management, Guidelines for a Deer Management Plan

## **5.2 Pesticides, Biological Control Agents and Fertilizers**

[The appendix for 5.2 to be clearly separated into references for chemicals, bio-control agents and fertilizers.]

Check for latest reference material on pesticide and fertilizer use and place in Appendix including that for NI.

### Legislation

- 1986: Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR), as amended by the Control of Pesticides (amended) Regulations 1997 (COP(A)R)
- 1987: Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) (COPR NI) 1987
- 1985: Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (Part III)
- 2002: Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)
- 2002: Waste Management (Duty of Care) Regulations 2002
- 1996: Waste Management Regulations 1996
- 1994: Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (plus various amendments)
- 1990: Environment Protection Act 1990

### Forestry Commission Guidelines

- 2003: Forests and Water Guidelines
- 1998: Forests and Soil Conservation Guidelines

### Forestry Commission Bulletin

- 1995: Forest Fertilisation in Britain

### Forestry Commission Field Book

- 1995: No. 8, The Use of Herbicides in the Forest
  - 1996: No. 14, Herbicides for Farm Woodlands and Short Rotation Coppice
- ### Forestry Commission Practice Guide
- 2004: No. 15, Reducing Pesticide Use in Forestry

### Forestry Commission Practice Notes

- 2003: No. 4, Controlling Grey Squirrel Damage to Woodlands
- 1988: No. 2, The Prevention of Rabbit Damage to Trees in Woodland
- 1988: No. 3, The Prevention of Mammal Damage to Trees in Woodland

### British Crop Protection Council

- 1999: The British Crop Protection Council (BCPC) Guide

### British Crop Protection Council and CAB International

- 2006: The UK Pesticide Guide 2006

### Forest Stewardship Council

- ~~2002: Chemical Pesticides in Certified Forests: Interpretation of the FSC Principles and Criteria. FSC-POL-30-604~~
- ~~2005: List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides~~

### Pesticides Safety Directorate (Defra)

- 2005: Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Plant Protection Products
  - Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides

### Soil Association Technical Guides

- 2002: Organic Weed and Scrub Control on Nature Conservation Sites

2003: Woodland Management on Organic Farms

#### **5.4 Fencing**

Deer Commission for Scotland

2003: Best Practice Guidance 3.2.1 Deer Management Plan

Forestry Commission Technical Guide

2006: Forest Fencing

#### **5.5 Pollution**

Legislation

2002: Waste Management (Duty of Care) Regulations 2002

1996: Waste Management Regulations 1996

1994: Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (and amendments)

Forestry Commission Field Book

1995: No. 8, The Use of Herbicides in the Forest

Forestry Commission Forest Research Technical Development Report

1993: No. 7/93, Oil and Chemical Spillages

### **6. CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY**

Legislation

2000: Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

2004: Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

1981: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

1985: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)

2002: The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

1995: The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)

1994: The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994

#### **6.1 Protection of Rare Species and Habitats**

Forestry Commission Guideline Note

2000: No. 1, Forests and Peatland Habitats

**Forest Service**

1993: **Afforestation - The DANI Statement on Environmental Policy**

#### **6.2 Maintenance of Biodiversity and Ecological Functions**

**[New FC Deadwood guidance to be included.]**

English Nature Research Reports

2001: No. 384, Natural Reserves in English Woodlands

2001: No. 385, A Provisional Minimum Intervention Woodland Reserve Series for England with Proposals for Baseline Recording and Long-term Monitoring Therein

Forestry Commission Forest Enterprise Report

2002: Life in the Deadwood – A guide to Managing Deadwood in Forestry Commission Forests

Quarterly Journal of Forestry

2002: There's Life in That Deadwood by Kirby K, Currie F and Butler J. Q Jnl For Vol 96 No 2

European Forestry Institute Proceedings

2004: Deadwood as an Indicator of Biodiversity in European Forests: From Theory to Operational Guidance by Humphrey JW, Sippola A-L, Lemperiere G, Dodeline B, Alexander KNA and Butler J



### **6.3 Conservation of Semi-Natural Woodlands and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites**

#### Legislation

Forest Reproductive Materials Regulations (2002)

Forest Reproductive Materials Regulations (Northern Ireland) (2002)

#### English Nature Report

2000: Veteran Trees – A Guide to Good Management by Read H

#### Forestry Commission Guidelines

1995: Forests and Archaeology Guidelines

#### Forestry Commission

2010: **Managing Native Broadleaved Woodland**

#### Forestry Commission England Practice Guides

2010: **Managing Ancient and Native Woodland in England**

#### Forestry Commission Practice Guides

2003: The Management of Semi-Natural Woodlands:

No. 1: Lowland Acid Beech and Oak Woods

No. 2: Lowland Beech-Ash Woods

No. 3: Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woods

No. 4: Upland Mixed Ash Woods

No. 5: Upland Oakwoods

No. 6: Upland Birchwoods

No. 7: Native Pinewoods

No. 8: Wet Woodlands

No. 14: Restoration of Native Woodland on Ancient Woodland Sites

#### Forestry Commission Practice Note

1999: No. 8, Using Local Stock for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs

#### Forestry Commission Information Note

2003: No. 53, Recent Changes to the Control of Forest Reproductive Material

#### The Woodland Trust ~~Report~~

2005: **The Conservation and Restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites – a guide for woodland owners and managers**

### **6.4 Game Management**

#### Legislation

1981: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and Amendments)

2004: Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

#### Forestry Commission Practice Note

2004: No. 4, Controlling Grey Squirrel Damage to Woodlands

1998: No. 3, Prevention of Mammal Damage to Trees in Woodland

#### Fishing, Hunting, Game and Shooting Codes of Practice

2010: **Deer Initiative: Best Practice Guides** ([www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk](http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk))

A Code of Good Hunting, on behalf of the Masters of Foxhounds Association ([www.mfha.co.uk](http://www.mfha.co.uk)), Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles ([www.amhb.org.uk](http://www.amhb.org.uk)) and the Masters of Deer Hounds Association

2003: Code of Good Shooting Practice, British Association for Shooting and Conservation ([www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)) and the Game Conservancy Trust ([www.gct.org.uk](http://www.gct.org.uk))

1994: Fox Snaring – A Code of Practice, British Association for Shooting and Conservation

2000, amended 2005: Code of Good Rearing Practice, Game Farmers' Association

2003: Woodland Conservation and Pheasants, Game Conservancy Trust

Capercaillie BAP Group: Avoiding accidental snaring of Capercaillie, BASC and GCT approved ([www.capercaillie-life.info](http://www.capercaillie-life.info))

Code of Welfare and Husbandry of Birds of Prey and Owls, Countryside Alliance Falconry Committee in association with the Hawk Board ([www.countryside-alliance.com](http://www.countryside-alliance.com))

Association of Stillwater Game Fishery Managers Code of Conduct ([www.troutfisheries.co.uk](http://www.troutfisheries.co.uk))

## **7. THE COMMUNITY**

### **7.2 Woodland Access and Recreation**

#### Legislation

2003: Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

2000: Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 – England & Wales

#### English Nature

1998: Wild Mushroom Pickers' Code of Practice

#### Forestry Commission Practice Guide

1996: No. 10: Involving Communities in Forestry

### **7.4 Minimising Adverse Impacts**

#### Forestry Commission Guidelines

1995: Forests and Archaeology Guidelines

#### Forestry Commission Practice Guide

2000: No. 13: Hazards From Trees: A General Guide

#### Health and Safety Executive

Managing Health and Safety in Forestry– see 8.1 below

#### Roundwood Haulage Working Party

2003: Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

#### Timber Transport Forum

Agreed Routes Maps for Timber Transport. See [www.confor.org.uk](http://www.confor.org.uk).

## **8. FORESTRY WORKFORCE**

Add anticipated FC guidance document on H&S.

### **8.1 Health and Safety**

#### Legislation

1974: Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (and Amendments)

#### Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

**2009: First Aid at Work – Your Questions Answered**

General publications, refer to [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns)

Forestry publications, refer to [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/forindex.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/forindex.htm)

#### HSE Leaflets – Forestry

[Chainsaws at Work](#)

[Farm and Estate Forestry Operations](#)

[Managing Health and Safety in Forestry](#)

[Tree Work Accidents: An Analysis of Fatal and Serious Injuries](#)

#### Establishment

[102 Pre-Planting Spraying of Container-Grown Seedlings](#)

[103 Planting](#)

[104 Fencing](#)

[105 Hand-Held Power Posthole Borer](#)

#### Maintenance

[201 Hand Tool Weeding, Brushing and Pruning](#)

[202 Application of Pesticides by Hand-Held Equipment](#)

[203 Clearing Saw](#)

#### Chainsaws

[301 Using Petrol-Driven Chainsaws](#)

[302 Basic Chainsaw Felling and Manual Takedown](#)

- 303 Chainsaw Snedding
- 304 Chainsaw Cross-Cutting and Manual Stacking
- 306 Chainsaw Clearance of Windblow
- 307 Chainsaw Felling of Large Trees
- 308 Top-Handled Chainsaws
- 310 Use Of Winches in Directional Felling and Takedown

Work Off Ground

- 401 Tree-Climbing Operations
- 402 Aerial Tree Rescue
- 403 Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPS) For Tree Work

Extraction

- 501 Tractors Units in Tree Work
- 502 Extraction by Skidder
- 503 Extraction by Forwarder
- 504 Extraction by Cable Crane
- 506 Extraction by Horse

Processing

- 601 Mobile Circular Saw Bench
- 602 Mobile Peeling Machine
- 603 Mechanical Harvesting
- 604 Wood Chippers
- 605 Mechanical Roadside Processing
- 606 Mobile Stump Grinders

Vehicles

- 701 ATV Quad Bikes
- 702 All-Terrain Vehicles

General Safety (800 Series)

- 802 Emergency Planning
- 804 Electricity at Work: Forestry and Arboriculture
- 805 Training and Certification

### **8.3 Workers' Rights**

The ILO Conventions represent the consensus by representatives of 170 member countries of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and all have been adopted and/or endorsed by the International Labour Conference or the Governing Body of ILO. They include Conventions and Recommendations which are formal legal instruments.

ILO Conventions:

- 1930: 29: Forced Labour Convention
- 1948: 87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Conventions
- 1949: 97: Migration for Employment (Revised) Convention
- 98: Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention
- 1951: 100: Equal Remuneration Convention
- 1957: 105: Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
- 1958: 111: Discrimination (Occupation and Employment) Convention
- 1970: 131: Minimum Wage Fixing Convention
- 1973: 138: Minimum Age Convention
- 1975: 141: Rural Workers' Organizations Convention
- 1975: 142: Human Resources Development Convention
- 1975: 143: Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention
- 1981: 155: Occupational Safety and Health Convention
- 1989: 169: Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention
- 1998: 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention

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1998: ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work  
1970: Recommendation 135: Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation

Refer also to [www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/london/country/](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/london/country/)

Note: Convention numbers 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182 are Core Standards covered by the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow up. ILO member states are expected to promote and realise these principles, even if they have not ratified the Conventions. The ILO Code of Practice is not a legal instrument, but it provides authoritative guidance on forest work. The UK Government has ratified the 8 Core Standards and also the following ILO Conventions: 97, 141 and 142.

### Availability of documents

The main documents are available from the following organisations:

#### Various Legislation:

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)  
[www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)  
[www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk)

#### British Crop Protection Council and CAB International

[www.bcpc.org](http://www.bcpc.org)

#### Deer Commission for Scotland

[www.dcs.gov.uk](http://www.dcs.gov.uk)

#### The Deer Initiative

[www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk](http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk)

#### English Nature

[www.english-nature.org.uk/pubslink.htm](http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubslink.htm)

#### Forestry Commission

[www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications)

#### Forest Stewardship Council

[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)  
[www.fsc-uk.org](http://www.fsc-uk.org)

#### Health and Safety Executive

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

#### Northern Ireland Forest Service

[www.forestserviceni.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm](http://www.forestserviceni.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm)

#### Pesticides Safety Directorate

[www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk)

#### Soil Association

[www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org)

#### UK Woodland Assurance Standard

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

### Information on certification scheme requirements

Additional information relating to the specific requirements of the certification schemes which use the UK Woodland Assurance Standard as a basis for certification in the UK is available from the schemes:

#### Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)  
[www.fsc-uk.org](http://www.fsc-uk.org)

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**Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC)**

[www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

[www.pefc.co.uk](http://www.pefc.co.uk)