

United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard

Fourth Edition (FINAL DRAFT REQUIREMENTS ONLY)

This version of UKWAS omits example verifiers, which are examples of the evidence which may be used to demonstrate conformance to the Standard, and guidance notes and advice to owners/managers.

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The UK Woodland Assurance Standard

The Certification Standard

Fourth Edition (FINAL DRAFT REQUIREMENTS ONLY)

Approved by the Steering Group: 20th April 2016

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Any further corrections or revisions necessarily made to the certification standard prior to its next full revision will be incorporated into the electronic versions available 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 are recommended to check this on a regular basis.

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

Introduction

1. Background and purpose

Primarily, the certification standard is designed to reflect the requirements set out in the governmental UK Forestry Standard and thereby the General Guidelines adopted by European Forestry Ministers at Helsinki in 1993, the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines (PEOLG) subsequently adopted at Lisbon in 1998 and other relevant international agreements.

In response to the demand from the UK forestry and forest products sector, the certification standard is also designed to reflect the requirements of the two leading global forest certification schemes – the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). Products certified through these schemes are in much demand in the UK and global timber market as they provide a widely recognised way to inform customers that timber products come from responsibly managed sources.

The UK arms of FSC and PEFC take responsibility for submitting the UKWAS standard to their international parent bodies for assessment and provided the UKWAS standard is judged to be conformant with each scheme's requirements it will provide a certification standard for certification through each of these schemes. A list of certification schemes that currently use the UK Woodland Assurance Standard as the basis for certification in the UK can be found on www.ukwas.org.uk.

2. Procedures for use of the certification standard

The woodland management unit

The unit of certification is a woodland management unit (WMU). A WMU is a clearly defined woodland area, or areas, with mapped boundaries, managed to a set of explicit long-term objectives. The WMU is covered by the management planning documentation set out in section 2.2 of the certification standard. Elements of management planning documentation may apply to a specific WMU, or may be set at a higher level (such as group schemes, or state forest services) and apply to multiple WMUs.

For example, a WMU might be a single ownership incorporating several areas of woodland that are managed within a woodland management plan; several separate ownerships managed within a woodland management plan; a community-managed forest; a management subdivision of a national forest service such as a forest district covered by a woodland management plan.

In large and/or widely geographically dispersed WMUs, the spirit of the certification standard and any best practice should be conformed to throughout the WMU.

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

Flexibility in meeting requirements

Not all requirements will be applicable to every WMU, for example requirements relating to plantations on ancient woodland sites can only apply if such sites are present.

While all applicable requirements must be met, there may be flexibility in exactly how requirements are fulfilled. Any different approach taken must be an equally or more effective way of achieving the objectives intended by the requirement. The impacts of the approach taken shall be carefully monitored and recorded.

The certification body carrying out the audit shall make a professional judgement as to the acceptability of the flexibility (see Interpretation of the certification standard).

Research

The establishment of research trials or plots may be undertaken only in the context of a research policy and should conform to the spirit of the certification standard.

Third party rights - Leases, burdens in title, ownership rights and legal restrictions on management

In certain situations, pre-existing leases, burdens in title and third party ownership rights may restrict management actions in such a way that the owner/manager may not be able to fully meet all the requirements of the certification standard. For example:

- Forestry-only or long-term sporting leases where sporting or access rights may be restricted
- Timber leases under which the restocking obligation reverts to the landowner
- Wayleaves, and servitude rights
- Mineral extraction rights held by third parties
- Traditional rights (e.g. peat cutting).

In these circumstances conformance to the certification standard may still be achieved provided the owner/manager is able to demonstrate that:

- The holder of the third party rights has been made aware of those requirements of the standard which are relevant to the rights they hold and how they can assist with conformance. It is not however necessary for the third party to agree to conform to the requirements of the standard
- All reasonable measures have been taken to mitigate negative impacts caused by the holders of third party rights
- The third party rights have not been created intentionally to avoid conformance.

Certification schemes may have their own requirements which apply when the owner/manager does not have full management control of a woodland management unit.

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 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 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 bodies or group scheme managers.

Application of the certification standard to different scales of woodland management unit and intensities of operation

Woodland management units vary in terms of the scale and intensity of management and the risk of negative impacts. While the principles remain the same regardless of woodland size and intensity of management, the level and complexity of management needed to meet the requirements of the certification standard, and the nature of the evidence to demonstrate conformance, may vary depending on the size and type of the woodland management unit. Certification schemes have different sampling intensities depending on the scale and intensity of management and operations. In drafting this standard, every effort has been made to ensure that requirements are sufficiently flexible to apply to all scales and intensities of management.

3. Interpretation of the certification standard

The UKWAS Interpretation Panel provides the UKWAS Steering Group and users of the certification standard with advice on its interpretation. Further information is available on the UKWAS website including interpretation advice notes relevant to the current edition of the standard and how to submit a request for interpretation to the Interpretation Panel.

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Using the certification standard

In using the certification standard, owners/managers and certification bodies shall also take full account of the introduction, glossary and appendix.

Requirements

These are the compulsory elements of the certification standard and are stated as 'shall'. Woodland management must meet all relevant requirements and certification bodies will check that each requirement is being met.

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1. Legal compliance and UKWAS conformance

	REQUIREMENT
1.1	Compliance and conformance
1.1.1	There shall be compliance with the law. There shall be no substantiated outstanding claims of non-compliance related to woodland management.
1.1.2	There shall be conformance to the spirit of any relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines.
1.1.3	The identity of the certificate holder (owner/forestry leaseholder) and the boundaries of their legal ownership or tenure shall be proven.
1.1.4	a) Mechanisms shall be employed to identify, prevent and resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights through appropriate consultation with interested parties. b) Where possible, the owner/manager shall seek to resolve disputes out of court and in a timely manner.
1.1.5	a) The certificate holder (owner/forestry leaseholder) shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to conformance to this certification standard, and • Have declared an intention to protect and maintain the woodland management unit and its ecological integrity in the long term. b) A statement of these commitments shall be made publicly available upon request.
1.2	Protection from illegal activities
1.2.1	The owner/manager shall take all reasonable measures, including engagement with the police and statutory bodies, to prevent or stop illegal or unauthorised uses of the woodland that could jeopardise fulfilment of the objectives of management.
1.3	Genetically modified organisms
1.3.1	Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall not be used.

2. Management planning

	REQUIREMENT
2.1	Long term policy and objectives
2.1.1	<p>a) The owner/manager shall have a long term policy and management objectives which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable.</p> <p>b) The policy and objectives, or summaries thereof, shall be proactively communicated to workers consistent with their roles and responsibilities.</p>
2.1.2	Woodland management planning shall take fully into account the long-term positive and negative economic, environmental and social impacts of proposed operations.
2.1.3	Woodland management planning shall demonstrate a commitment to long-term economic viability.
2.2	Documentation
2.2.1	<p>All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:</p> <p>a) A long-term policy for the woodland.</p> <p>b) Assessment of relevant components of the woodland resource.</p> <p>c) Assessment of environmental values, including those outside the WMU potentially affected by management, sufficient to determine appropriate conservation measures and to provide a baseline for detecting possible negative impacts.</p> <p>d) Identification of special characteristics and sensitivities of the woodland and appropriate treatments.</p> <p>e) Specific measures to maintain and where possible enhance those areas identified under sections 4.1-4.5 and 4.8, considering areas where either the extent of these areas or their sensitivity to operations may be unknown.</p> <p>f) Identification of community and social needs and sensitivities.</p> <p>g) Prioritised objectives, with targets.</p> <p>h) Rationale for management prescriptions.</p> <p>i) Outline planned felling and regeneration over the next 20 years.</p> <p>j) Where applicable annual allowable harvest of non-timber woodland products (NTWPs).</p> <p>k) Rationale for the operational techniques to be used.</p> <p>l) Plans for implementation, first five years in detail.</p> <p>m) Appropriate maps.</p> <p>n) Plans to monitor at least those elements identified under section 2.15.1 against the objectives.</p>

2.2.2	<p>While respecting the confidentiality of information, the owner/manager shall, upon request, make publicly available either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation, or • A summary of the management planning documentation.
2.2.3	<p>The management planning documentation shall be reviewed periodically (at least every ten years), taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring results, • Results of certification audits, • Results of stakeholder engagement, • New research and technical information, and • Changed environmental, social, or economic circumstances.
2.3	<p>Consultation and co-operation</p>
2.3.1	<p>a) Local people, relevant organisations and interested parties shall be identified and made aware that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or revised management planning documentation, as specified under section 2.2.1, is being produced • High impact operations are planned • The woodland is being evaluated for certification. <p>b) The owner/manager shall ensure that there is full co-operation with the relevant forestry authority's consultation processes.</p> <p>c) The owner/manager shall consult appropriately with local people and relevant organisations and provide opportunities for their engagement in planning and monitoring processes.</p> <p>d) The owner/manager shall respond to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement and shall demonstrate how the results of the consultation including community and social impacts have been taken into account in management planning and operations.</p> <p>e) At least 30 days shall be allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification.</p>
2.3.2	<p>a) 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 unreasonably compromise the management of adjoining ones.</p> <p>b) Management of invasive plants and of wild mammals shall be undertaken in co-ordination with neighbours where possible and practicable (see also section 2.12.1 in relation to deer).</p> <p>c) Where appropriate and possible, the owner/manager shall consider opportunities for cooperating with neighbours in landscape scale conservation initiatives.</p>
2.4	<p>Productive potential of the WMU</p>
2.4.1	<p>The owner/manager shall plan and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance long-term soil and hydrological functions.</p>
2.4.2	<p>a) Timber shall normally be harvested from the WMU at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.</p> <p>b) Selective harvesting shall not be to the long-term detriment of the quality and value of stands.</p>

2.4.3	Harvesting of non-timber woodland products or use of ecosystem services from the WMU shall be at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.
2.4.4	Priority species shall not be harvested or controlled without the consent of the relevant statutory nature conservation and countryside agency.
2.5	Assessment of environmental impacts
2.5.1	<p>a) The impacts of new planting and other woodland plans on environmental values 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) The results of the environmental assessments shall be incorporated into planning and implementation in order to avoid, minimise or repair adverse environmental impacts of management activities.</p>
2.5.2	The impacts of woodland plans shall be considered at a landscape level, taking due account of the interaction with adjoining land and other nearby habitats.
2.5.3	<p>a) The owner/manager shall assess the potential negative impacts of natural hazards on the WMU, including drought, floods, wind, fire, invasive plant and animal species, and other pests and diseases.</p> <p>b) Planting and restructuring plans shall be designed to mitigate the risk of damage from natural hazards.</p>
2.6	Woodland creation
2.6.1	<p>New woodlands shall be located and designed in ways that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver economic goods and/or ecosystem services, • Maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the wider landscape, and • Ensure the creation of a diverse woodland over time.
2.7	Woodland restructuring
2.7.1	Even-aged woodlands shall be gradually restructured to achieve an appropriately diverse mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles. This structural diversity shall be maintained or enhanced.
2.8	Tree species selection
2.8.1	<p>a) The range of species selected for new woodlands, and natural or artificial regeneration of existing woodlands shall be suited to the site and shall take into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of long-term forest resilience • Management objectives • Requirements for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity (see section 4) • Requirements for enhancement and restoration of habitats (see section 4) • Landscape character. <p>b) Regeneration (natural or planted) shall restore stand composition in a timely manner to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions.</p> <p>c) 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 owner's objectives or in achieving long-term forest resilience.</p>
2.9	Non-native species
2.9.1	a) Non-native tree species shall only be introduced to the WMU when evidence or experience shows that any invasive impacts can be controlled effectively.

	<p>b) Other non-native plant and animal species shall only be introduced if they are non-invasive and bring environmental benefits.</p> <p>c) All new introductions shall be carefully monitored, and effective mitigation measures shall be implemented to control negative impacts outside the area in which they are established.</p>
2.10	Silvicultural systems
2.10.1	<p>a) Appropriate silvicultural systems shall be adopted which are suited to species, sites, wind risk, tree health risks and management objectives and which stipulate soundly-based planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans.</p> <p>b) Where species, sites, wind risk, tree health risk and management objectives allow, a range of silvicultural approaches, and in particular lower impact silvicultural systems, shall be adopted with the aim of diversifying ages, species and stand structures.</p>
2.10.2	<p>a) In semi-natural woodland lower impact silvicultural systems shall be adopted. All felling shall be in accordance with the specific guidance for that type of woodland in the relevant Forestry Commission Practice Guide.</p> <p>b) 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>
2.11	Conservation
2.11.1	<p>a) Management planning shall identify a minimum of 15% of the WMU managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective.</p> <p>b) This shall include conservation areas and features identified in the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory designated sites (section 4.1) • Ancient semi-natural woodland (section 4.2) • Plantations on ancient woodland sites (section 4.3) • Other valuable semi-natural habitats (section 4.4) • Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control (section 4.5) • Natural reserves (section 4.6.1) • Long-term retentions and/or areas managed under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) (section 4.6.2).
2.12	Protection
2.12.1	Management of wild deer shall be based on a strategy that identifies the management objectives, and aims to regulate the impact of deer.
2.12.2	There shall be an emergency response plan appropriate to the level of risk.
2.13	Conversion
2.13.1	<p>a) Woodland identified in sections 4.1-4.3 shall not be converted to plantation or non-forested land.</p> <p>b) Areas converted from ancient and other semi-natural woodlands after 1994 shall not normally qualify for certification.</p>
2.13.2	<p>a) Conversion to non-forested land shall take place only in certain limited circumstances as set out in this requirement.</p> <p>b) 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 all of the following conditions shall be met:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The woodland is not identified as of high conservation value in sections 4.1-4.3 and 4.5, nor identified as contributing to the cultural and historical values in section 4.8. • There is no evidence of unresolved substantial dispute. • The conversion and subsequent site management protect and substantially enhance at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The status and condition of priority species and habitats ○ Important landscape features and character ○ Important historic environment features and character ○ Important carbon stores. • The subsequent management of the converted area shall be integrated with the rest of the WMU.
2.13.3	<p>a) Woodland areas shall be converted to areas used solely for Christmas tree production only where conversion is consistent with other requirements of this certification standard, including the need to leave open space, and in accordance with any approved management plan from the relevant forestry authority, or when clearance is required for non-forestry reasons such as a wayleave agreement.</p> <p>b) Christmas trees shall be grown using traditional, non-intensive techniques.</p>
2.14	Implementation, amendment and revision of the plan
2.14.1	The implementation of the work programme 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.
2.15	Monitoring
2.15.1	<p>a) The owner/manager shall devise and implement a monitoring programme appropriate to the scale and intensity of management.</p> <p>b) The monitoring programme shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the management planning documentation • Consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change • Kept in a form that ensures that results are of use over the long term. <p>c) The owner/manager shall where applicable monitor and record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The achievement of objectives and verifiable targets • Implementation of woodland operations • Harvesting yields • Social impacts • Environmental impacts • Changes in environmental condition • Usage of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers and any adverse impacts • Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials. <p>d) Monitoring targets shall fully consider any special features of the WMU.</p>
2.15.2	The owner/manager shall take monitoring findings into account, particularly during revision of the management planning documentation.
2.15.3	Monitoring findings, or summaries thereof, shall be made publicly available upon request.

3. Woodland operations

	REQUIREMENT
3.1	General
3.1.1	Woodland operations shall conform to forestry best practice guidance.
3.1.2	The planning of woodland operations shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining any relevant permission and giving any formal notification required. • Assessing and taking into account on and off-site impacts. • Taking measures to protect water resources and soils, and prevent disturbance of and damage to priority species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values, including adapting standard prescriptions where required. Any disturbance or damage which does occur shall be mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence. • Measures to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of identified services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.
3.1.3	Operational plans shall be clearly communicated to all workers so that they understand and implement safety precautions, environmental protection plans, biosecurity protocols, emergency procedures, and prescriptions for the management of features of high conservation value.
3.1.4	Operations shall cease or relocate immediately where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They damage sites or features of conservation value or of special cultural and historical significance identified in sections 4.1-4.5 and 4.8. Operations in the vicinity shall recommence only when action has been taken to repair damage and prevent any further damage, including establishing buffer areas where appropriate. • They reveal previously unknown sites or features which may be of conservation value or of special cultural and historical significance. Operations in the vicinity shall recommence only when the sites or features have been investigated and appropriate management agreed, where relevant in discussion with statutory bodies and/or local people.
3.2	Harvest operations
3.2.1	a) Timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) shall be harvested efficiently and with minimum loss or damage to environmental values. b) Timber harvesting shall particularly seek to avoid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to soil and water courses during felling, extraction and burning • Damage to standing trees, especially veteran trees, during felling, extraction and burning • Degrade in felled timber.
3.2.2	Harvesting and sales documentation shall enable all timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) that are to be supplied as certified to be traced back to the woodland of origin.
3.2.3	Whole tree harvesting or stump removal shall be practised only where there is demonstrable management benefit, and where a full consideration of impacts shows that there are not likely to be any significant negative effects.
3.2.4	Lop and top shall be burnt only where there is demonstrable management benefit, and where a full consideration of impacts shows that there are not likely to be any significant negative effects.

3.3	Forest roads and associated infrastructure
3.3.1	All necessary consents shall be obtained for construction, extension and upgrades of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest roads • Mineral extraction sites • Other infrastructure.
3.3.2	Roads and timber extraction tracks, visitor access infrastructure and associated drainage shall be designed, created, used and maintained in a manner that minimises their environmental impact.
3.4	Pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers
3.4.1	The owner/manager shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the use of pesticides and fertilisers where practicable, • Minimise their use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers, and • Avoid, mitigate and/or repair damage to environmental values from pesticide and biological control agent use, and take steps to avoid recurrence.
3.4.2	<p>a) The owner/manager shall prepare and implement an effective integrated pest management strategy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is appropriate to the scale of the woodland and the intensity of management • 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, where this is not practicable, biological control methods • Takes account of the importance of safeguarding the value of sites and features with special biodiversity attributes when considering methods of control, and • Demonstrates knowledge of the latest published advice and its appropriate application. <p>b) The strategy shall specify aims for the minimisation or elimination of pesticide usage, taking into account considerations of cost (economic, social and environmental), and the cyclical nature of woodland management operations.</p> <p>c) Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used the strategy shall justify their use demonstrating that there is no practicable alternative, in terms of economic, social and environmental costs.</p> <p>d) The strategy shall 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>
3.4.3	Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The owner/manager and workers shall be aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of pesticides and biological control agents in forestry • The owner/manager shall keep records of pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation.
3.4.4	<p>a) Pesticides and biological control agents shall only be used if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are approved for forest use by the UK regulatory authorities, • They are not banned by international agreement, and • Their use is permitted by the certificate holder's certification scheme. <p>b) Pesticides categorised as Type 1A and 1B by the World Health Organization or any other pesticides whose use is restricted by the certificate holder's certification scheme shall not be used unless:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effective and practicable alternatives are available, • Their use is sanctioned using a mechanism endorsed by the certificate holder's certification scheme, and • 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.
3.4.5	<p>a) Fertilisers (inorganic and organic) shall only be used where they are necessary to secure establishment or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies.</p> <p>b) Where fertilisers are to be used the owner/manager and workers shall be aware of and shall be implementing legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in forestry.</p> <p>c) No fertilisers shall be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in priority habitats • around priority plant species, or • around veteran trees. <p>d) In addition, bio-solids shall only be used following an assessment of environmental impacts in accordance with section 2.5.</p> <p>e) The owner/manager shall keep a record of fertiliser usage, including types, rates, frequencies and sites of application.</p>
3.5	Fencing
3.5.1	Where appropriate, wildlife management and control shall be used in preference to fencing.
3.5.2	Where fences are used, alignment shall be designed to minimise impacts on access (particularly public rights of way), landscape, wildlife and historic environment sites.
3.6	Waste
3.6.1	Waste disposal shall be in accordance with current waste management legislation and regulations.
3.6.2	The owner/manager shall prepare and implement a prioritised plan to manage and progressively remove redundant materials.
3.7	Pollution
3.7.1	The owner/manager shall adopt management practices that minimise diffuse pollution arising from woodland operations.
3.7.2	Plans and equipment shall be in place to deal with accidental spillages.

4. Natural, historical and cultural environment

	REQUIREMENT
4.1	Statutory designated sites and protected species
4.1.1	<p>a) Areas and features of high conservation value having particular significance for biodiversity, including sites important for priority but mobile species, shall be identified by reference to statutory designations at national or regional level and/or through assessment on the ground.</p> <p>b) Adopting a precautionary approach, the identified areas, species and features of high conservation value shall be maintained and, where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>c) There shall be ongoing communication and/or consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities, wildlife trusts and other relevant organisations.</p> <p>d) Statutory designated sites shall be managed in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies, and shall be marked on maps.</p>
4.2	Conservation of ancient semi-natural woodlands (ASNW)
4.2.1	<p>a) Ancient semi-natural woodland shall be identified by reference to published maps and/or by assessment on the ground.</p> <p>b) Adopting a precautionary approach, the high conservation value of ancient semi-natural woodlands shall be maintained and, where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>c) Adverse ecological impacts of pests, diseases and non-native species shall be identified and inform management.</p>
4.3	Management of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)
4.3.1	<p>a) The owner/manager shall maintain and enhance or restore features and areas of high conservation value within plantations on ancient woodland sites.</p> <p>b) The owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate remnant features, • Identify and evaluate threats, • Adopting a precautionary approach, prioritise actions based on the level of threat and the value of remnants, and • Implement targeted actions.
4.4	Protection of conservation values in other woodlands and semi-natural habitats
4.4.1	<p>a) Areas, species and features of conservation value in other woodlands shall be identified.</p> <p>b) The identified areas, species and features of conservation value shall be maintained and where possible enhanced.</p> <p>c) Adverse ecological impacts shall be identified and inform management.</p>
4.4.2	<p>a) Valuable small-scale semi-natural habitats that have been colonised, planted, or incorporated into the WMU, but which have retained their ecological characteristics (or have a high potential to be restored), shall be identified and enhanced, restored or treated in a manner that does not lead to further degradation of their potential for restoration.</p> <p>b) Adverse ecological impacts shall be identified and inform management.</p>

4.4.3	Where there are no remnant features of semi-natural habitats, the owner/manager shall take action to convert at least 5% of the WMU to more natural conditions.
4.5	Watershed management and erosion control
4.5.1	<p>a) Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control shall be identified in consultation with relevant statutory bodies.</p> <p>b) Where critically important areas or features are identified, their management shall be agreed with the relevant statutory bodies.</p>
4.6	Maintenance of biodiversity and ecological functions
4.6.1	<p>Natural reserves shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be located where they will deliver the greatest biodiversity benefit • Constitute a proportion of the WMU equivalent to at least 1% of the plantation area and 5% of the semi-natural woodland area.
4.6.2	Long-term retentions and/or areas managed under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) shall constitute a minimum of 1% of the WMU. Where this is impracticable, an additional minimum 1% of natural reserve shall be identified.
4.6.3	<p>The owner/manager shall plan and take action to maintain continuity of veteran tree habitat by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping existing veteran trees, and • Managing or establishing suitable trees to eventually take the place of existing veterans.
4.6.4	<p>a) The owner/manager shall plan and take action to accumulate a diversity of both standing and fallen deadwood over time in all wooded parts of the WMU, including felled areas.</p> <p>b) The owner/manager shall identify areas where deadwood is likely to be of greatest nature conservation benefit, and shall plan and take action to accumulate large dimension standing and fallen deadwood and deadwood in living trees in those areas.</p>
4.7	Maintenance of local native seed sources
4.7.1	<p>a) In woodlands identified in sections 4.1-4.4, 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>b) In ancient and other semi-natural woodland, where natural regeneration is insufficient, planting stock from 'source-identified' stands in the local native seed zone shall be used if it is available. 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.</p>
4.8	Cultural and historical features/sites
4.8.1	<p>Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance, • Assess their condition, and • Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them.
4.9	Game and fisheries management
4.9.1	Game rearing and release, shooting and fishing shall be carried out in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations.

5. People, communities and workers

	REQUIREMENT
5.1	Woodland access and recreation including traditional and permissive use rights
5.1.1	<p>a) Existing permissive or traditional uses of the woodland shall be identified and sustained except when such uses can be shown to threaten the integrity of the woodland or the achievement of the objectives of management.</p> <p>b) A precautionary approach shall be adopted in relation to water supplies.</p>
5.1.2	<p>a) There shall be provision for some public access subject only to limited exemptions.</p> <p>b) Where there is a special demand for further public access for the purpose of environmental education, the owner/manager shall make reasonable efforts to meet this demand.</p>
5.2	Minimising adverse impacts
5.2.1	The owner/manager shall mitigate the risks to public health and safety and other negative impacts of woodland operations on local people.
5.2.2	The owner/manager shall respond constructively to complaints, seek to resolve grievances through engagement with complainants in the first instance, and follow established legal process should this become necessary.
5.3	Rural economy
5.3.1	<p>The owner/manager shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives. • Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services.
5.4	Health and safety
5.4.1	<p>There shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with health and safety legislation • Conformance with associated codes of practice • Conformance with FISA guidance • Contingency plans for any accidents • Appropriate competency.
5.5	Training and continuing development
5.5.1	All workers shall have appropriate qualifications, training and/or experience to carry out their roles in conformance to the requirements of this standard, unless working under proper supervision if they are currently undergoing training.
5.5.2	The owner/manager of large enterprises shall promote training, and encourage and support new recruits to the industry.
5.6	Workers' rights
5.6.1	<p>Workers' rights shall be respected, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers shall not be deterred from joining a trade union or employee association. • Direct employees shall be permitted to negotiate terms and conditions, including grievance procedures, collectively should they so wish. • There shall be compliance with equality legislation.

5.7	Insurance
5.7.1	The owner/manager and workers shall be covered by adequate public liability and employer's liability insurance.

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Glossary of Terms

Access (for public)	Refers to woodland and its associated land open to the public for recreational or educational use (sometimes subject to charges).
Accreditation service	An authoritative body which evaluates and recognises the competence of bodies to certify that woodland management conforms to the specific requirements of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Accreditation Services International (ASI) and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) both provide an accreditation service in the UK. Those bodies which are accredited are referred to as certification bodies.
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 designated site providing statutory protection for the best examples of the flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features of Northern Ireland. ASSIs also underpin other national and international nature conservation designations.
Biodiversity	The variety of ecosystems and living organisms (species), including genetic variation within species.
Biological control agent	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.
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 body	A body which is accredited by an accreditation service to certify (by giving written assurance) that woodland management conforms to the specific requirements of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. 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.

Clearfelling	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.
Compliance	In the context of this certification standard, the term 'compliance' refers to meeting legal requirements.
Conformance	In the context of this certification 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.
COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations.
Coupe	An area of woodland that has been or is planned for clearfelling.
Cultural features	Historic environment sites, historic buildings and heritage landscapes including ancient woodlands.
Deadwood	All types of wood that are dead including whole or wind-snapped standing trees, fallen branch wood and stumps, decaying wood habitats on living trees such as rot holes, dead limbs, decay columns in trunks and limbs, and wood below the ground as roots or stumps.
Diffuse pollution	Diffuse pollution comes from non-point source, widespread activities in the forest environment. Of particular relevance to woodland operations are oil spills and leaks, cutting-chain lubricants, siltation of water-courses, pesticide or fertilizer runoff and smoke.
Drainage	An operation to remove excess water from an area in a controlled way. In woodlands, drains are usually open, unlined channels.
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals (including humans) interacting with each other and the forces of nature.
Ecosystem services	The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;• regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;• supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and• cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

Ecological integrity	The health and vitality of the woodland's physical and biological components.
Environmental appraisal	Generic term for the process of assessing the impact of plans or operations on the environment.
Environmental impact assessment	Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Environmental Assessment Directive.
Environmental values	<p>The following set of elements of the biophysical and human environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage);• biological diversity;• water resources;• soils;• atmosphere;• landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values). <p>The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions.</p>
Felling licence	Licence issued by the relevant forestry authority to permit trees to be felled. With certain exceptions it is illegal to fell trees without prior approval.
FEPA	Food and Environment Protection Act 1985.
FISA	Forest Industry Safety Accord.
Forest	Synonymous to woodland. <i>See Woodland.</i>
Forest management unit (FMU)	Synonymous to woodland management unit. <i>See Woodland management unit (WMU).</i>
Forest resilience	The ability of a forest system to recover from short-term disturbances or to adapt to long-term changes, such as climate change, pests or diseases, while retaining or recovering the same basic structure and ways of functioning. Resilience should be considered in both ecological and economic terms.
Forestry	The science and art of managing woodlands.
Forestry authority(ies)	The competent body with responsibility for the regulation of forestry in each country of the United Kingdom: Forestry Commission England, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development/Northern Ireland Forest Service, Forestry Commission Scotland and Welsh Government/Natural Resources Wales or their successor bodies.
Forestry leaseholder	The holder of a forest lease that grants control over the management of forestry operations.
Game	Animals, either wild or reared, managed for hunting or shot for food.
Genotype	The genetic constitution of an organism, as contrasted with its expressed characteristics which are known as the phenotype.

Glade	Small area of open ground which forms an integral part of the woodland.
Group selection	A method of managing irregular stands in which regeneration is achieved by felling trees in small groups.
High conservation value	Areas and features of ecological and biodiversity interest identified in sections 4.1-4.3 and 4.5.
Historic environment	Several thousand years of human activity has contributed to the 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.
Horticultural	In relation to section 2.13.3 on Christmas trees: intensive production on a small or large scale in a setting that cannot reasonably be considered to be a forest or woodland.
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 www.fco.gov.uk lists those involving the UK.
Interested parties	People directly affected by or who have a significant interest in the woodland being managed.
Invasive (species)	Introduced non-native species which spread readily and dominate native species.
IUCN Red List	The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is widely recognised as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. It provides a global context for the establishment of conservation priorities at the local level.
Landscape level	The level of the landscape unit.
Landscape unit	An area of broadly homogeneous landscape character.
Local Authority	<i>See Statutory body.</i>
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	Individual, stable stands and clumps of 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	<p>Woodland management units are classed as being managed in a low intensity manner when:</p> <p>a) the rate of timber harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production woodland area of the unit</p> <p>AND</p> <p>either</p> <p>b) the annual harvest from the total production woodland area is less than 5,000 cubic metres</p> <p>or</p> <p>c) the average annual timber harvest from the total production woodland is less than 5,000 m³/year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.</p> <p><i>Note: where Woodland Management Unit-specific estimates of mean annual increment are unavailable or impracticable, regional estimates of growth rates for specific woodland types may be used.</i></p>
Lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS)	Silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or under-planting, 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>
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 designated site containing examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, managed to conserve their habitats or to provide special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats, communities and species represented within them. In addition, they may be managed to provide public recreation that is compatible with their natural heritage interests.
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 conditions	Native species, associations of native species and other environmental values that are typical of the locality.

Natural reserve	Natural reserves are predominantly wooded usually mature and intended to reach biological maturity. They are permanently identified and in locations which are of particularly high wildlife interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative interventions have higher conservation or biodiversity value.
Non-timber woodland products (NTWP)	Non-timber woodland products include foliage, moss, fungi, berries, seed, venison and other animal products. Also known as non-timber forest products (NTFP).
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.
Owner/manager	The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating conformance to this standard.
PAWS	Plantation on ancient woodland site. <i>See Woodland.</i>
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>
Precautionary approach	Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental damage. (Based on Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development)
Priority habitats	Habitats identified by statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies under Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 2(4) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, and Section 3(1) of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. <i>Also see Statutory body.</i>
Priority species	Protected, rare and endangered species which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identified by statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies under Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 2(4) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, and Section 3(1) of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011,• protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981,• protected under European law (European Protected Species), and/or

- categorised as Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Also see Statutory body and IUCN Red List.

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.
Publicly available	Accessible to local people or other interested parties. For example, placing material on a website or on signage, providing electronic or hard copies of documents, or making documents available for inspection at a local office. In most cases, a charge may not be made for making material publicly available. However, where a summary of material has been made publicly available free of charge, a charge to cover costs of reproduction and handling may be made if any additional material is requested.
Public Rights 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. In Northern Ireland, records of public rights of way are held by district councils.
Ramsar sites	Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.
Recreation	Activity or experience of the visitor's own choice within a woodland setting. (Facilities may sometimes be provided and charges levied for their use.)
Regeneration	<i>Also see Access.</i> Renewal of woodland through sowing, planting, or natural regeneration.
Relict	A remnant of a formally widespread species or habitat that persists in an isolated area from a previous land-use or vegetation cover.
Remnant	The baseline of surviving ancient woodland features found in PAWS, for which there is physical or documentary evidence.

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
- Undisturbed woodland soil profile.

	These features provide the continuity of habitat with the pre-plantation phase.
Restocking	Replacing felled areas by sowing seed, planting or natural regeneration.
Retentions	Trees retained, usually for environmental benefit, significantly beyond the age or size generally adopted by the owner for felling.
Ride	Permanent unsurfaced access route through woodland.
Semi-natural woodland	<i>See Woodland.</i>
Shelterwood	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 <50 retained mature trees per hectare.
Short rotation coppice (SRC)	Short rotation coppice (usually willow or poplar) typically grown as an energy crop and harvested every 3 years. <i>Also see Coppice.</i>
Short rotation forestry (SRF)	Short rotation forestry crops are typically harvested at between 8 and 20 years.
Silviculture (silvicultural)	The techniques of tending and regenerating woodlands, and harvesting their physical products.
Single tree selection	A method of managing irregular stands in which individual trees of any size are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A designated site providing statutory protection for the best examples of the flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features of England, Scotland and Wales. SSSIs also underpin other national and international nature conservation designations.
Small coupe felling	A small scale clearfelling 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.
Snag	A standing dead tree that has lost its top.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Area designated under the EU Habitats Directive.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Area designated under the EU Birds Directive.
Spirit, conformance to	Conformance to the spirit means that the owner/manager is aiming to achieve the principles set out in the certification standard.
Statutory body(ies)	There are four categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies: Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural Resources Wales and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency or their successor bodies• The statutory environment protection agencies: Environment Agency (in England), Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the

	<p>Northern Ireland Environment Agency or their successor bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The statutory historic environment agencies: Historic England, Historic Scotland, Cadw (in Wales) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency or their successor bodies• Local authorities responsible for a wide range of functions including highways and planning.
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.
Timely manner	As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by the owner/manager.
Trademarks	'UKWAS' and 'United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard' are registered trademarks.
Traditional	In relation to section 2.13.3 on Christmas trees: production on a small scale in a setting that 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.
Under-planting	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.
Value(s)	The weights given to economic, biodiversity, recreational, environmental, social and cultural impacts when considering management options.
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.
Water course	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.
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 relevant forestry authority.

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)**.

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 to a set of explicit long term objectives.

Workers

All employed persons including public employees as well as self-employed persons and volunteers. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including labourers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees, self-employed contractors and sub-contractors and other licensed operators.

APPENDIX: 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 2016 but 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 key main documents are listed below and the other main documents under the five 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

2010: Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

Key Publications

2011: The UK Forestry Standard

2011: UKFS Guidelines series:

Forests and Biodiversity

Forests and Climate Change

Forests and Historic Environment

Forests and Landscape

Forests and People

Forests and Soil

Forests and Water

See www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs for further information and to download the UK Forestry Standard and UKFS Guidelines series.

Information on forestry grant schemes and regulations may be obtained from the relevant forestry authorities. Guidance on environmental regulations is provided for small businesses on www.netregs.gov.uk.

Other Reference Documents

Other main reference documents are provided in a separate Appendix document available on www.ukwas.org.uk.

For easy reference, the documents are assigned to the appropriate section headings of the certification standard.

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