

Example 2

The extensive, low input, low output woodland

This 300ha native Scots pine wood is managed for environmental objectives as one unit within one management plan. The age class averages 80 with a General Yield Class (GYC) of 6. Timber is harvested periodically by *ad hoc* selective thinning rather than on a formal commercial cycle.

Is it small? No, it is larger than the 100ha threshold.

Is it low intensity management? To qualify it must meet two tests:

Test 1: The 20% MAI threshold test. First we need to consider the 20% MAI threshold test. Local growth models may be available to forecast volume production but if not the Forestry Commission's General Yield Class (GYC) models can be used to estimate growth rates. In this case the GYC tables show that the MAI for 80 year old Scots pine growing at GYC 6 is 6m³/ha. For management of this woodland to be classed as low intensity the rate of harvesting must be less than 360m³ (6m³/ha x 300ha x 20%) in any one year - not exceeding 1,800m³ in total over the 5-year plan.

Test 2: Total production over the 5-year plan period. Provided this first test is met we need to consider the total production over 5 years. In this example it would not have exceeded 1,800m³ so the wood will also have met this test which stipulates that annual production or average annual production must be less than 5,000m³ a year. By meeting these 2 tests it will be classed as SLIM.

Example 3

The commercial upland woodland

A 200ha 42 year old thinned Sitka spruce wood managed commercially as one unit under a single management plan.

Is it small? No, it is larger than the 100ha threshold.

Is it low intensity management? To qualify it must meet two tests:

Test 1: The 20% MAI threshold test. Local growth models may be available to forecast volume production but if not the Forestry Commission's General Yield Class (GYC) models can be used to estimate growth rates. In this Sitka spruce woodland we assume GYC 14 so the GYC tables show that MAI is 12.8m³/ha. For management of this woodland to be classed as low intensity the rate of harvesting must be less than 512m³ (12.8m³/ha x 200ha x 20%) in any one year.

However, the wood is thinned at the marginal thinning intensity, so annual thinning volumes would be 1,960m³ (14m³/ha x 200ha x 70%) which exceeds the 512m³ threshold. It will not be classed as SLIM.

Test 2: Total production over the 5-year plan period. In this example the first test is not met so Test 2 does not apply.

Larger woods can be SLIM if harvesting intensity is low

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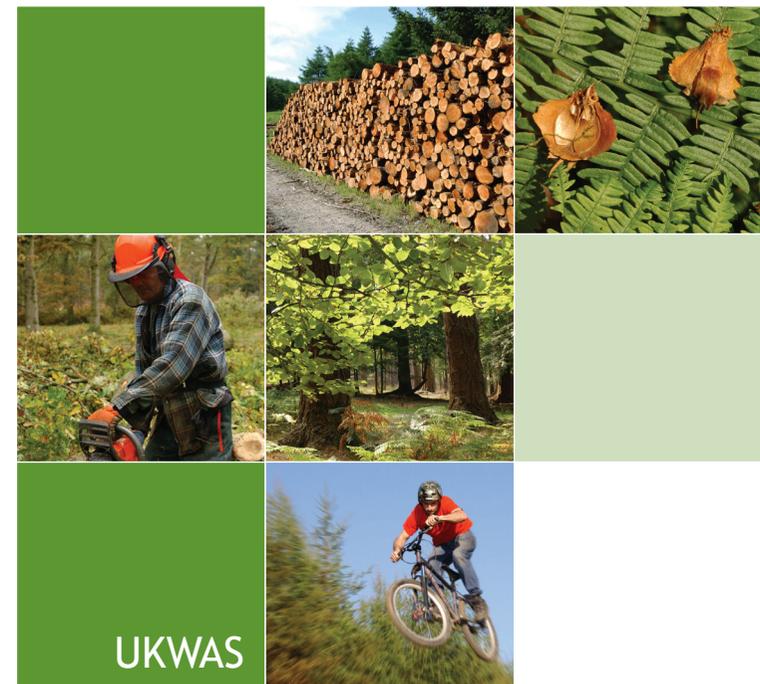
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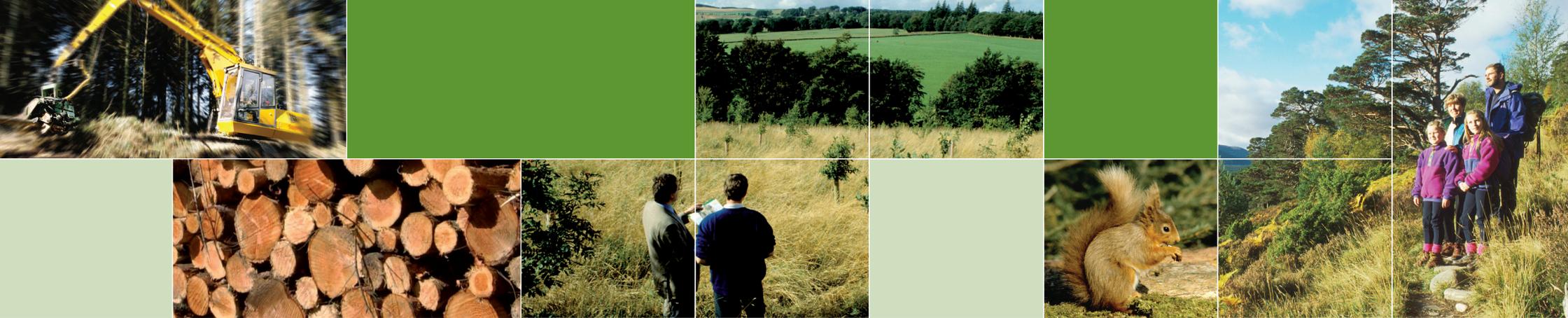
The UK Woodland Assurance Standard

Are you SLIM?



UKWAS

www.ukwas.org.uk



A focus on smaller owners

In the UK, the independent UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) provides the basis for certification of sustainable forest management under schemes operated by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

In developing the UKWAS, great efforts were made to minimise the burden of certification especially for those managing Small Woods. However, the perceived barriers of cost and complexity still deter many owners so the UKWAS Steering Group has taken another look and developed an amended version of the standard better adapted to the needs of smaller owners.

Woodland management intensity was seen as just as important as a woodland's size so an important change is a new Small and / or Low Intensity Managed ('SLIM') woodland category taking account of timber harvest volumes. It is thought that most UK woodland owners will fall into this expanded category as most woodland ownerships are relatively small.

One benefit is that SLIM woodland managers will not normally need the same level of documentation or management systems as will managers of larger or more intensively managed woodland areas. Another benefit is that certification schemes will generally require a reduced intensity of audit for SLIM woodlands and so costs will be reduced.

Most UK woodland owners will be SLIM

Are you SLIM?

Your woodland will be classed as Small and / or Low Intensity Managed, or SLIM, when it is small or, irrespective of its size, it is managed at a low intensity.

A wood is defined as a **Small Wood** when it is 100 hectares or under in size.

A woodland management unit is classed as a **Low Intensity Managed Woodland** when:

a) the rate of timber harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI)¹ within the total production woodland area of the unit

AND

Either

b) the annual harvest from the total production woodland area is less than 5,000m³

or

c) the *average* annual timber harvest from the total production woodland is less than 5,000m³ / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

¹ 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.

If it's 100 hectares or under, it's SLIM

Example 1

The small woodland

12ha of lowland mixed broadleaves in 3 compartments comprising 4ha of mid rotation oak on a regular thinning cycle, 5ha of 10 year old mixed broadleaves and 3ha of intensively managed hazel coppice with a 0.5ha coupe coppiced every year.

Is it small? Yes, this wood is classed as small because it is under the 100ha size threshold.

Is it low intensity management? It does not matter. A small wood will be classed as a SLIM woodland irrespective of whether the management regime meets the low intensity management criteria as well.

Any complications?

No, not if the woodland ownership is just this one small wood.

Yes, if it is a small wood within a larger woodland estate:

- Providing it is managed as a separate management unit with its own management plan then it will still be classed as small.

- On the other hand, if the wood was simply three compartments managed within a whole estate management plan covering an area greater than 100ha then it would not be classed as small. In this case, the woodland estate would only be classed as SLIM if it met the low intensity management criteria.