



FSC UK Low Intensity Management Standard
D1-4, August 2020

Preamble

This draft standard is provided as an annex to FSC UK's input to the UKWAS Risk Review. It was developed as part of FSC UK's [Small Woods project](#), which is exploring the potential for a national forest stewardship standard specifically tailored to smaller and lower-risk woodlands. This work is being undertaken by a chamber-balanced Standards Development Group (SDG) made up of the following members:

Chamber	Organisation	Representative(s)
Economic	Coed Cymru	Gareth Davies
	Small Woods Association	Ian Baker/Amanda Calvert
Environmental	RSPB	Jonathan Cryer
	Woodland Trust	Gordon Pfetscher
Social	Community Woodlands Association	Jon Hollingdale
	Llais y Goedwig	Maria Wilding

We are pleased that both Amanda and Maria are members of the UKWAS Working Group.

This standard has been titled the Low Intensity Management Standard to differentiate it from ongoing work on a more radical Small Woods Standard intended for use in the smallest of woods, provisionally up to 10 hectares in size. The scope considered during the development of the Low Intensity Management Standard has been either management units up to 25 ha or management units where timber production is less than 5,000 m³ per five year certificate period. It should be noted, however, that the representatives of both the RSPB and the Woodland Trust have expressed concerns about the size of woods which could potentially be included within the scope of the timber production threshold.

The Low Intensity Management Standard is based on UKWAS 4. On the basis of the SDG members' perception of the risks and opportunities associated with the woods in scope, UKWAS requirements were adopted, adapted or dropped, and some requirements were added to address specific issues. An attempt has been made to move away from the usual formal language of standards and to use more direct forms of address, referring to the owner/manager as 'you'. (It is probably fair to say that the style is not completely consistent in this draft, and it



is inevitably necessary to use some technical terms which will require explanation for a non-specialist audience.)

Different structures for the standard were considered. It was initially drafted in the order of the FSC Principles and Criteria, then reordered into a structure which was considered more user-friendly, with sections on 'Knowing your woodland', 'Complying with the law', 'Being a good manager', and 'Being a good neighbour'. As following this structure has involved combining various UKWAS requirements, the standard is presented here as drafted rather than in UKWAS order, although cross-referencing to UKWAS requirements has been included. The SDG has identified a number of areas where requirements might be further consolidated.

There has been discussion within the SDG as to whether the Low Intensity Management Standard should, in some respects, be more ambitious than UKWAS. In this draft, the standard explicitly prohibits toxic ammunition for shooting (requirement 3.61, cf. UKWAS 4.9.1 guidance), and expects all woodland owners to allow free, responsible public access (requirement 4.2, cf. UKWAS 5.1.2(a)). Some SDG members have suggested that the standard should prohibit pesticide use (requirements 3.45-51, cf. UKWAS 3.4).

Note that more guidance is likely to be needed on some topics, for example personal development opportunities for volunteers.



The standard

This standard is applicable to EITHER management units up to 25 ha OR management units where timber production is less than 5,000 m³ per five year certificate period.

By seeking FSC certification, you are committing to FSC's vision of responsible forest management as set out in the following requirements. (UKWAS 1.1.5(a))

1. Knowing your woodland

1.1 You have a vision for your wood which protects the environment and benefits people, and which you are confident you have the resources to deliver. (UKWAS 2.1.1(a))

1.2 You set specific objectives which lead towards achieving your vision. (UKWAS 2.1.1(a))

1.3 The people who work in your wood understand how they contribute to meeting your objectives and achieving your vision. (UKWAS 2.1.1(b))

1.4 You assess your wood to identify:

- Any particularly important features of the natural, historical or cultural environment, including:
 - Statutory designated sites. (UKWAS 4.1.1(a) and 4.8.1)
 - Ancient semi-natural woodland. (UKWAS 4.2.1(a))
 - Plantations on ancient woodland sites. (UKWAS 4.3.1)
 - Sites and features of local cultural and historical significance. (UKWAS 4.8.1)
- Other priority habitats and species, taking into account the range and ecological requirements of priority species outside the wood. (UKWAS 4.1.2)
- Important open or edge habitats. (UKWAS 4.4.2(a))
- Other environmental values, including those outside the wood which might be affected by the work you do. (UKWAS 2.2.1(c))
- Other special characteristics or sensitivities of the wood. (UKWAS 2.2.1(d))
- Potential products and ways of using the wood consistent with your objectives. (UKWAS 2.2.1(b))

This assessment needn't be complicated, but needs to be sufficient to guide you in protecting the woodland and wider environment and to allow you to detect any negative impacts.

1.5 When you plan your work, you consider the impacts – both good and bad – you might have on the environment and people, and what it might mean for the resources you have to achieve your vision. (UKWAS 2.1.2)

1.6 You have a management plan, which you keep for at least ten years and which includes:

- Your vision for the woodland. (UKWAS 2.2.1(a))
- Your specific objectives. (UKWAS 2.2.1(g) (part))
- A description of the woodland, based on the assessment in 1.4. (UKWAS 2.2.1(b) etc.)
- Appropriate maps, based on the assessment in 1.4. (UKWAS 2.2.1(m))
- Plans to monitor the applicable elements of 1.15. (UKWAS 2.2.1(n))
- An emergency response plan. (UKWAS 2.12.2)

1.7 If it is appropriate to your circumstances and objectives, your plan also includes:

- A description of specific measures to protect and, where possible, enhance any particularly important features of the natural, historical or cultural environment in your wood, based on the assessment in 1.4. (UKWAS 2.2.1(e))
- A description of community and social needs and sensitivities. (UKWAS 2.2.1(f))
- An assessment of the annual sustainable harvest of any wood and non-wood products. (UKWAS 2.2.1(j))

This assessment needn't be complicated, but needs to be sufficient to ensure that you are harvesting products sustainably.

- An outline plan for felling and replacing trees over the next twenty years. (UKWAS 2.2.1(i))
- Work plans for the next five years. (UKWAS 2.2.1(l))
- A rationale for your management prescriptions, linked to your objectives, and a clear statement of how you will measure progress in meeting your objectives and achieving your vision. (UKWAS 2.2.1(g) (part), (h) and (k))

1.8 You let people see your management plan if they want to. (UKWAS 2.2.2)

You don't have to share any information which is confidential. You may choose to share a summary rather than the whole plan.

1.9 You review and update your plan from time to time (at least every ten years). (UKWAS 2.2.3)

1.10 You consult neighbours, local people and other interested parties when you develop and update your plan. (UKWAS 2.3.1(c))

Any consultation should be proportionate, but where it is necessary it should also allow reasonable opportunities for neighbours, local people and other interested parties to participate equitably and without discrimination. (UKWAS 2.3.1(d))

1.11 If your wood contains statutory designated sites, you consult with the relevant statutory bodies when you develop and update your plan. (UKWAS 4.1.1(c) and 4.8.1 (part))

1.12 The work you carry out closely follows your management plan. If you deviate from your management prescriptions or planned rate of progress, you are able to justify this and are still able to meet your objectives. (UKWAS 2.14.1)

1.13 You plan and implement a monitoring programme which is appropriate to the scale and intensity of your work and the sensitivity of your wood. (UKWAS 2.15.1(a))

1.14 Your monitoring programme is consistent over time and kept in a form which ensures that the results are of use over the long term. (UKWAS 2.15.1(b))

This is to ensure that you are able to compare results over time and assess changes in your woodland.

1.15 Where applicable, you monitor and record:

- Progress towards meeting your objectives and achieving your vision.
- The implementation of your work plans.

This might include recording harvesting yields, usage of pesticides, biological control agents or fertilisers, or environmentally appropriate disposal of waste.

- Significant impacts of your work.

These might be social or environmental, and might include adverse impacts of pesticides, biological control agents or fertilisers.

- Changes in the condition of the woodland environment. (UKWAS 2.15.1(c))

1.16 If you sell any wood or non-wood products as FSC certified, your sales documentation allows them to be traced back to your wood. (UKWAS 3.2.2)



Complying with the law

2.1 You comply with the law. (UKWAS 1.1.1)

2.2 You follow codes of practice and good practice guidelines. (UKWAS 1.1.2)

In particular, when you are working in your wood you follow woodland management best practice guidance. (UKWAS 3.1.1)

2.3 Your legal ownership or tenure of your wood is documented, normally in the form of a map, along with any special rights, such as common rights. (UKWAS 1.1.3(a) and (b))

2.4 You hold any relevant legal permissions for your work, such as a felling licence, and give any formal notification required by the law. (UKWAS 1.1.3(d), 3.1.2 (part) and 3.3.1)

Legal permissions might also be needed in relation to statutory designated sites, protected species, planning, environmental impact assessment or construction regulations.

2.5 You co-operate fully with the relevant forestry authority's consultation processes. (UKWAS 2.3.1(b))

2.6 You comply with legal phytosanitary requirements. (UKWAS 1.1.7)

You might need special permission to transport plants, wood or other woodland products if there is a risk of moving certain pests or diseases.

2.7 You take reasonable measures to prevent people from carrying out illegal activities in your wood, and if illegal activities do occur you take reasonable measures to stop them. (UKWAS 1.2.1)

In serious cases, this might involve working with the police or other authorities.

2.8 You comply with workers' rights law, including equality law. (UKWAS 5.6.1(a))

2.9 You respect the rights of paid workers to form or join associations, and for workers in such associations to negotiate terms and conditions collectively. (UKWAS 5.6.1(b) and (c))

2.10 You ensure that paid workers have recourse to mechanisms for resolving grievances. (UKWAS 5.6.1(d))



2.11 You ensure that paid workers receive wages which meet or exceed the statutory national living wage. (UKWAS 5.6.1(e))

2.12 If volunteers work on your site, you ensure that they are treated commensurately with employees and in particular that they:

- know what is (and what is not) expected of them,
- have adequate support in their volunteering,
- are able to volunteer in a safe environment,
- are covered by insurance for the tasks they undertake,
- know their rights and responsibilities if something goes wrong,
- receive appropriate training for the tasks they undertake, and
- are offered the opportunity for personal development relevant to the tasks they undertake.

2.13 You comply with health and safety law, and follow associated codes of practice and FISA guidance. (UKWAS 5.4.1(a))

2.14 You define safe working practices when you are planning to carry out work. (UKWAS 5.4.1(b))

2.15 The people who work in your wood have appropriate qualifications, training and/or experience to carry out their work in line with this standard, unless working under proper supervision if they are currently undergoing training. (UKWAS 5.5.1)

2.16 You and the people who work in your wood are covered by appropriate insurance. (UKWAS 5.7.1)

Appropriate insurance might include public liability insurance, employer's liability insurance, or product liability insurance.

Being a good manager

Silviculture

3.1 You use appropriate silvicultural systems which are suited to species, sites, wind risk, tree health risks and management objectives; where these conditions allow, you use a range of silvicultural approaches, and in particular lower-impact silvicultural systems. (UKWAS 2.10.1(a) and (b))

The aim of using a range of silvicultural approaches, and in particular lower-impact silvicultural systems, is to diversify ages, species and stand structures.

3.2 In semi-natural woodland, you use lower-impact silvicultural systems. (UKWAS 2.10.2(a))

You can find specific guidance for different types of semi-natural woodland in Forestry Commission Practice Guides.

3.3 In semi-natural woodlands over 10 ha, you fell no more than 10% in any five-year period unless justified in terms of biodiversity enhancement or traditional management regimes such as coppicing. (UKWAS 2.10.2(b))

Protecting the woodland environment

3.4 You assess the potential impacts of your work on environmental values before you carry it out, and if necessary you change the way you work to avoid or minimise negative impacts. (UKWAS 2.5.1(a) (part) and (b) (part) and 3.1.2 (part))

This assessment should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of your work and the sensitivity of your wood, and if necessary should take account of potential impacts outside your wood. If negative impacts are unavoidable, you should consider how any damage can be repaired. (UKWAS 2.5.1(a) (part) and (b) (part) and 2.5.2)

3.5 You protect and, where possible, enhance the condition of any statutory designated sites, ancient semi-natural woodland, plantations on ancient woodland sites, or sites and features of local cultural and historical significance. (UKWAS 4.1.1(b), 4.2.1(b), 4.3.1(a) and 4.8.1 (part))

This should be based on the assessment in 7.4, the plans in 7.7, and, for statutory designated sites, the consultation with the relevant statutory bodies in 7.11.



3.6 You avoid work which might threaten an area or feature of particular importance, even when you are not certain what the impact might be. (UKWAS 4.1.1(b), 4.2.1(b), 4.3.1(b) and 4.8.1 (part))

3.7 You immediately stop work or move to work in a different part of the wood if you find that you are damaging a previously known area or feature of particular importance or if you discover a previously unknown area or feature which may be of similar importance. (UKWAS 3.1.4)

If damage is caused, restart work in the vicinity only when you have taken action to repair damage and prevent further damage, including establishing buffer zones if necessary.

3.8 You identify any adverse impacts of pests, diseases and non-native species and take these into account in the management of your wood, especially when managing areas and features of particular importance. (UKWAS 4.2.1(c))

3.9 In plantations on ancient woodland sites, you:

- Identify and evaluate remnant features,
- Identify and evaluate threats to those features,
- Prioritise actions based on the level of threat and the value of remnants , and
- Carry out work to protect and, where possible, enhance remnant features. (UKWAS 4.3.1(b))

Habitats

3.10 You manage your wood to achieve and maintain an appropriately diverse mosaic of tree species, sizes and ages. (UKWAS 2.7.1)

It may take time to achieve appropriate diversity, but you should be able to show how your management is steering woodland structure in the right direction. A greater degree of uniformity may be appropriate in very small woods. Traditional woodland structures, such as division into coppice cants, may also be appropriate.

3.11 You manage any open or edge habitats to maintain or enhance their biodiversity value. (UKWAS 4.4.2)

3.12 You maintain continuity of veteran tree habitat by keeping existing veteran trees and managing or establishing suitable trees to take their place in due course. (UKWAS 4.6.3)

This applies if there are existing veteran trees in your wood. If there are no existing veteran trees, you may still choose to promote future veterans to benefit biodiversity.

3.13 You maintain continuity of deadwood habitat by keeping existing deadwood and take action to accumulate deadwood to take its place in due course. (UKWAS 4.6.4)

This applies if there is existing deadwood in your wood. If there is no existing deadwood, you may still choose to take action to accumulate deadwood to benefit biodiversity.

Deadwood, particularly large dimension standing and fallen deadwood and deadwood in living trees, should be accumulated in areas where it is likely to be of greatest nature conservation benefit.

You should be aware of health and safety issues associated with deadwood.

Conversion

3.14 You do not convert any semi-natural woodland to plantation or non-wooded land. (UKWAS 2.13.1(a))

If you have converted any ancient semi-natural woodland or other semi-natural woodland to plantation or non-wooded land after 1994, those areas will not qualify for certification. Areas converted after 1994 may qualify for certification if you can prove that you were not directly or indirectly responsible. (UKWAS 2.13.1(b))

3.15 You convert woodland of planted origin to non-wooded land only if all of the following conditions apply:

- The new land use is more valuable than woodland in terms of biodiversity, landscape, historic environment benefits, or the provision of infrastructure for social benefits.
- The conversion and subsequent management of the converted area protect and substantially enhance at least one of the following: the status and condition of priority habitats and species, important landscape features and character, important historic environment features and character, the provision of social benefits, or important carbon stores.
- The subsequent management of the converted area is integrated with the management of the rest of the woodland. (UKWAS 2.13.2(a) and (b))

If previously unknown areas or features are discovered, restart work in the vicinity only when you have investigated and decided on appropriate management, if necessary consulting statutory bodies, other interested parties and experts.

Good working practices

3.16 When you carry out work in your wood, you take steps to protect water resources and soils and to prevent disturbance of and damage to priority species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values. If you do cause any disturbance or damage you mitigate and/or repair it, and take steps to avoid it in future. (UKWAS 3.1.2 (part))

3.17 When you carry out work in your wood, you take steps to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of identified ecosystem services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries. (UKWAS 3.1.2 (part))

3.18 When you carry out work in your wood, you make sure that workers understand your plans so they can work safely and protect the woodland environment, especially particularly important areas and features of the natural, historical or cultural environment. (UKWAS 3.1.2 (part))

You will have to explain safety precautions, emergency procedures, biosecurity measures, environmental protection plans, and/or prescriptions for the management of particularly important areas and features of the natural, historical or cultural environment.

3.19 If you harvest wood or non-wood products, you avoid:

- Damage to environmental values, and
- Unnecessary loss of potential products. (UKWAS 3.2.1(a))

3.20 If you harvest wood products, you take particular care to avoid:

- Damage to soil and water courses during felling, extraction and burning,
- Damage to standing trees, especially veterans, during felling, extraction and burning, and
- Degrade in harvested products. (UKWAS 3.2.1(b))

3.21 You burn arisings from your work only where there is a demonstrable benefit to the management of your wood, and where a full consideration of impacts shows that there are not likely to be any significant negative effects. (UKWAS 3.2.4)

Harvesting

3.22 If you harvest wood or non-wood products, you don't normally exceed the annual sustainable harvest. (UKWAS 2.4.2(a) and 2.4.3 (part))

An assessment of the annual sustainable harvest of different products should be part of your management plan. Harvesting wood products in excess of the annual sustainable rate might be justified during restructuring of even-aged woodlands, during habitat management or restoration for biodiversity, or in response to pests, diseases or storm damage.

3.23 If you harvest trees selectively, you make sure this doesn't have long-term negative effects on the quality and value of the remaining trees in the wood. (UKWAS 2.4.2(b))

Stands of trees should not be creamed or high graded, but selective harvesting of high quality trees may be appropriate in stands which have been managed to promote regeneration from the most promising individuals, for example.

3.24 You don't harvest priority species without the consent of the relevant statutory nature conservation and countryside agency. (UKWAS 2.4.4)

Country lists of priority species include various flowering plants, lower plants and fungi; if in doubt, you should seek the advice of the relevant statutory nature conservation and countryside agency. You should also be aware that consent may be needed for harvesting in statutory designated sites; again, if in doubt, you should seek advice.

Regeneration and species

3.25 If you fell trees, you use natural or artificial regeneration to restore the composition of your wood in a timely manner either to pre-felling or to more natural conditions. (UKWAS 2.8.1(b))

3.26 Whichever method of regeneration you use, you choose species which are suited to the site and which:

- Improve the long-term resilience of your wood,
- Contribute to meeting your management objectives,
- Contribute to the protection of the woodland environment, and
- Contribute to landscape character. (UKWAS 2.8.1(a))

This applies whether you are replacing felled trees or establishing new areas of woodland.

3.27 Whichever method of regeneration you use, you favour native species over non-native species. (UKWAS 2.8.1(c))

You should use non-native species only if you can show that they will clearly outperform native species in meeting your objectives or in achieving the long-term resilience of your wood.

3.28 If you plant trees in semi-natural woodland, you use planting stock from the local native seed zone and from UKISG assured nurseries. (UKWAS 4.7.1)

UKISG is the UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown Assurance Scheme.

3.29 You introduce non-native tree species to your wood only if you know that you can control any invasive impacts. (UKWAS 2.9.1(a))

This may be based on your own experience or the experience of others.

3.30 You introduce other non-native plant and animal species only if they are non-invasive and bring proven environmental benefits. (UKWAS 2.9.1(b))

3.31 You monitor any new introductions carefully, and effectively control any negative impacts outside the area in which they are established. (UKWAS 2.9.1(c))

3.32 You don't use genetically modified organisms. (UKWAS 1.3.1)

Waste and pollution

3.33 You dispose of waste in accordance with current waste management legislation. (UKWAS 3.6.1)

You should be aware of legal requirements in relation to facilities such as composting toilets.

3.34 You remove redundant materials, such as old fencing or tree shelters. (UKWAS 3.6.2)

3.35 When you carry out work in your wood, you take steps to avoid diffuse pollution. (UKWAS 3.7.1)



3.36 When you carry out work in your wood, you make sure there is adequate provision to deal with accidental spillages of fuels, oils, fertilisers or other chemicals. (UKWAS 3.7.2)

Christmas trees

3.37 You do not convert woodland to areas used solely for Christmas tree production unless clearance is required for non-forestry reasons such as a wayleave agreement. (UKWAS 2.13.3(a))

3.38 If you grow Christmas trees, you do so using traditional, non-intensive techniques. (UKWAS 2.13.3(b))

Fertilisers

3.39 You avoid the use of fertilisers where practicable, and if you do use them you minimise their use. (UKWAS 3.4.1(a) (part) and (b) (part))

3.40 You use fertilisers only where they are necessary to secure establishment or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies. (UKWAS 3.4.5(a))

3.41 If you use fertilisers, you make sure that workers follow legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in woodland management. (UKWAS 3.4.5(b))

3.42 If you use fertilisers, you make sure that they are not applied in priority habitats, around priority plant species, or around veteran trees. (UKWAS 3.4.5(c))

3.43 You use bio-solids only after you have assessed the potential impacts on environmental values as per 3.4. (UKWAS 3.4.5(d))

3.44 If you use fertilisers, you keep a record of usage, including types, rates, frequencies, and sites of application. (UKWAS 3.4.5(e))

Integrated pest management and pesticides

3.45 If you face a problem in the management of your wood which involves pests, disease, vegetation or wildlife, you identify the actual or potential problem and consider the likely consequences if it is not addressed, then consider the following control options:

- In the first instance, take no action if the problem can be tolerated.
- In the second instance, avoid the problem, for example by a change in management practices or tree species.

- In the third instance, take remedial action.

3.46 If you have to take remedial action, you consider which action is most suitable, giving preference to non-chemical methods unless they are impractical or excessively costly.

3.47 If you have to use a chemical method, you choose the least hazardous option, taking into account potential environmental and social impacts.

Pesticides may only be used if they are approved for forest use by the UK regulatory authorities, they are not banned by international agreement, and their use is permitted by FSC. FSC has specific rules regulating the use of certain Highly Hazardous Pesticides. (UKWAS 3.4.4(a) and (b))

3.48 If you use pesticides, you minimise their use. (UKWAS 3.4.1(b) (part))

3.49 If you use pesticides, you make sure that workers follow legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in woodland management. (UKWAS 3.4.3 (part))

3.50 If you use pesticides, you avoid damage to environmental values. If you do cause any damage you mitigate and/or repair it, and take steps to avoid it in future. (UKWAS 3.4.1(c) (part))

3.51 If you use pesticides, you keep a record of usage as required by current legislation. (UKWAS 3.4.3 (part))

Biological control agents

3.52 You minimise the use of biological control agents. (UKWAS 3.4.1(b) (part))

3.53 If you use biological control agents, you make sure that workers follow legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in woodland management. (UKWAS 3.4.3 (part))

3.54 If you use biological control agents, you avoid damage to environmental values. If you do cause any damage you mitigate and/or repair it, and take steps to avoid it in future. (UKWAS 3.4.1(c))

3.55 If you use biological control agents, you keep a record of usage as required by current legislation. (UKWAS 3.4.3 (part))

Natural hazards

3.56 You assess the potential negative impacts of natural hazards on your wood, and take this into account in your management plan and when planning and carrying out work. (UKWAS 2.5.3(a) and (b))

Natural hazards might include drought, floods, wind, fire, invasive plant and animal species, and other pests and diseases.

3.57 If you face a problem with herbivore impacts, you consider the potential positive and negative economic, environmental and social impacts before choosing between fencing, control by shooting, or other measures.

3.58 If you use fences, you make sure that you minimise their impacts on access (particularly public rights of way), landscape, wildlife and historic environment sites. (UKWAS 3.5.2)

3.59 If you control deer, you do so according to a plan which is linked to your objectives and which aims to regulate deer impacts. (UKWAS 2.12.1)

Game management

3.60 If you rear, release or shoot game, or if you fish, you follow codes of practice produced by relevant organisations. (UKWAS 4.9.1)

3.61 If you shoot, or if anyone authorised by you shoots, you make sure that only non-toxic ammunition is used in your wood.

All ammunition (air rifle, rifle and shotgun) should be made from non-toxic material to avoid environmental pollution and accidental consumption by humans and predators, and associated health impacts such as lead poisoning. Predator control should be carried out in line with best practice. Deer management should follow industry best practice. Management of other species should follow relevant guidelines and best practice, for example the Wild Boar Best Practice guide.



Being a good neighbour

4.1 You identify existing traditional uses of your wood by members of your community, and sustain those uses except where they are found to threaten the integrity of the woodland or your ability to meet your objectives. (UKWAS 5.1.1(a))

4.2 You allow free, responsible public access to your wood. (UKWAS 5.1.2(a))

In Scotland, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act (2003) provides for responsible access on foot, cycle or horse and also for responsible management of access by landowners and managers. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there is no statutory right of general access to woodland, hence the importance of allowing some public access. In England and Wales you can choose to dedicate woodland for public access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). You might need to restrict public access temporarily, for example for health and safety reasons.

4.3 If there is a special demand for further public access for the purpose of environmental education, you make reasonable efforts to meet it. (UKWAS 5.1.2(b))

4.4 You are a good neighbour, and where appropriate and possible:

- You let neighbours, local people and other interested parties know when you are planning to carry out work which may have significant environmental or social impacts. (UKWAS 2.3.1(a))
- You respond constructively to feedback from neighbours, local people and other interested parties and take it into account in your management plan and when planning and carrying out work. (UKWAS 2.3.1(e))
- You mitigate public health and safety risks and other negative impacts on neighbours and local people when planning and carrying out work. (UKWAS 5.2.1)
- You contact neighbouring woodland owners to try to make sure that the management of your wood complements and does not unreasonably compromise the management of their woods. (UKWAS 2.3.2(a))
- You co-ordinate with neighbours when managing invasive plants and wild mammals, including Grey Squirrels and deer. (2.3.2(b))
- You consider opportunities to co-operate with neighbours when working to conserve species and habitats. (UKWAS 2.3.2(c))
- If there are any private water supplies in your wood, you take special care to protect them and liaise with the users when planning and carrying out work nearby. (UKWAS 5.1.1(b))