

United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard

Fifth Edition

(version 5.0)

Initial Revision Draft – Requirements-only version

(1st March 2021)

Deletions are shown thus: ~~Word~~

Additions are shown thus: **Word**

Green highlight denotes a link to a term in the glossary *[N.B. the final text will be checked to ensure links are included]*

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1. Legal compliance and UKWAS conformance

1.1	Compliance and conformance
1.1.1	There shall be is compliance with the law. There shall be are no substantiated outstanding claims of non-compliance related to woodland management.
1.1.2	There shall be is conformance to the spirit of any relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines.
1.1.3	<p>a) The legal identity of the owner/manager shall be is documented.</p> <p>b) The boundaries of the owner's/manager's legal ownership or tenure shall be are documented.</p> <p>c) The scope of the owner's/manager's legal rights to manage the WMU and to harvest products and/or supply services from within the WMU shall be is documented.</p> <p>d) Legal authority to carry out specific operations, where required by the relevant authorities, shall be is documented.</p> <p>e) Payment shall be is made in a timely manner of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with forest woodland management.</p>
1.1.4	<p>a) Mechanisms shall be are employed to identify, prevent and resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights through appropriate consultation with interested parties.</p> <p>b) Where possible, the owner/manager shall seeks to resolve disputes out of court and in a timely manner.</p>
1.1.5	<p>a) The owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commits to conformance to this certification standard, and • Have Has declared an intention to protect and maintain the woodland management unit and its ecological integrity in the long term. <p>b) A statement of these commitments shall be is made publicly available upon request.</p>
1.1.6	<p>a) There shall be is conformance to guidance on anti-corruption legislation.</p> <p>b) Large enterprises shall have and implement a publicly available anti-corruption policy which meets or exceeds the requirements of legislation.</p>
1.1.7	There shall be is compliance with legislation relating to the transportation and trade of forest products, including relevant timber regulations , where relevant, the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and phytosanitary requirements.
1.2	Protection from illegal activities
1.2.1	The owner/manager shall takes 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 are not be used.

2. Management planning

2.1	Long-term policy Policy and objectives
2.1.1	<p>a) The owner/manager shall have has a long-term policy and management objectives which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial, and economically viable, and take full account of the need to embed forest resilience.</p> <p>b) The policy and objectives, or summaries thereof, shall be are proactively communicated to workers consistent with their roles and responsibilities.</p>
2.1.2	Woodland management planning shall takes fully into account the long-term positive and negative economic, environmental and social impacts of proposed operations, including potential impacts outside the WMU.
2.1.3	<p>a) Woodland management planning shall demonstrates a commitment to long-term economic viability.</p> <p>b) The owner/manager shall aims to secure the necessary investment to implement the management plan in order to meet this standard and to ensure long-term economic viability.</p>
2.2	Documentation
2.2.1	<p>All areas in the WMU shall be are covered by management planning documentation which shall be is 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, including potential products and services which are consistent with the management objectives.</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 verifiable targets to measure progress.</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-wood forest products (NWFPs) 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, makes 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> <p>a) Management planning documentation is kept current taking into account changes required as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring programme results • Results of certification audits • Results of stakeholder engagement • New research and technical information, and • Changed environmental, social, or economic circumstances. <p>b) All management planning documentation is reviewed at least every ten years.</p>
2.3	<p>Consultation and co-operation</p>
2.3.1	<p>a) Local people, relevant organisations and interested parties shall be are 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 ensures that there is full co-operation with the relevant forestry authority's consultation processes.</p> <p>c) The owner/manager shall consults appropriately with local people, relevant organisations and other interested parties, and provides opportunities for their engagement in planning and monitoring processes.</p> <p>d) Methods of consultation and engagement shall be are designed to ensure that local people, relevant organisations and other interested parties have reasonable opportunities to participate equitably and without discrimination.</p> <p>e) The owner/manager shall responds to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement and shall demonstrates how the results of the consultation including community and social impacts have been taken into account in management planning and operations.</p> <p>f) At least 30 days shall be are allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification.</p>

2.3.2	<p>The owner/manager engages with neighbouring woodland owners and seeks to ensure that the management of each complements and does not unreasonably compromise, the management of adjoining woodlands.</p> <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 where relevant in co-operation with statutory bodies and where possible and practicable in co-ordination with neighbours (see also section 2.12.1 in relation to deer).</p> <p>c) Where appropriate and possible, the owner/manager shall consider opportunities for co-operating with neighbours in landscape-scale conservation initiatives.</p>
2.3.3	The owner/manager engages with neighbouring landowners and considers, where possible, opportunities for co-operating in wider conservation initiatives, wild mammal control and control of invasive non-native species.
2.4	Productive potential of the woodland management unit (WMU)
2.4.1	The owner/manager shall plans and implements measures to maintain and/or enhance long-term soil and hydrological functions including soil carbon.
2.4.2	<p>a) Timber shall is normally be harvested from the WMU at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.</p> <p>b) The average annual allowable cut is quantified and justified unless the WMU is undergoing significant restructuring.</p> <p>b.c) Selective harvesting shall is not be to the long-term detriment of the quality and value of stands.</p>
2.4.3	Harvesting of non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) non-wood forest products (NWFPs) or use of ecosystem services from the WMU shall be is at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.
2.4.4	Where applicable, priority Priority species shall are not be harvested or controlled without the consent of the relevant statutory body nature conservation and countryside agency.
2.5	Assessment of environmental impacts in existing woodland
2.5.1	<p>a) The impacts of new planting and other woodland plans on environmental values shall be are assessed before operations are implemented, in a manner appropriate to the scale of the operations and the sensitivity of the site.</p> <p>a) During woodland management planning, the impacts of proposed operations on environmental values are assessed in a manner appropriate to their scale and the sensitivity of the site.</p> <p>b) The results of the environmental assessments shall be are 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 are considered at a landscape level, taking due account of the interaction with adjoining land and other nearby priority habitats and species.
2.5.3	<p>a) The owner/manager shall assesses 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 Management and restructuring plans shall be are designed to mitigate the risk of damage from natural hazards.</p>

2.6	Woodland creation
2.6.1	<p>a) During woodland management planning, the impacts of proposed woodland establishment operations on environmental values are assessed in a manner appropriate to their scale and the sensitivity of the site.</p> <p>b) New woodlands shall be are 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 environmental values and character of the wider landscape, and • Ensure the creation of a diverse woodland over time, and • Seek to mitigate against the risk of damage from natural hazards.
2.6.2	<p>Planning and implementation of ground preparation and drainage works minimises potential negative impacts including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and soil carbon losses • Damage to existing peatland, wetland, and water courses or bodies.
2.7	Woodland restructuring
2.7.1	Even-aged woodlands shall be are gradually restructured to achieve an appropriately diverse mosaic appropriate diversity of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles and open space. This structural diversity shall be is 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 is suited to the site and shall takes 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 restores stand composition in a timely manner to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions.</p> <p>c) Native species shall be are preferred to non-native. If non-native species are used it shall be is 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	<p>a) Non-native tree species shall are only be introduced to the WMU when evidence or experience shows that any invasive impacts can be controlled effectively.</p> <p>b) Other non-native plant and animal species shall are only be introduced if they are non-invasive, and bring environmental benefits and all regulatory requirements are met.</p> <p>c) All new introductions shall be are carefully monitored, and effective mitigation measures shall be are 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 are adopted which are suited to species, sites, windthrow 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, windthrow risk, tree health risk and management objectives allow, a range of silvicultural approaches, and in particular lower-impact silvicultural systems, shall be are 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 are adopted. All felling shall be is 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 is 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 identifies a minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective.</p> <p>b) This shall includes 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).
2.11.2	<p>a) Management strategies and actions shall be are developed to maintain and, where possible, enhance the areas and features of high conservation value identified in the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory designated sites nature conservation sites (section 4.1) • Ancient semi-natural woodland (section 4.2) • Plantations on ancient woodland sites (section 4.3) • Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control (section 4.5). <p>b) Management strategies and actions shall be are developed in consultation with statutory bodies, interested parties and experts.</p>
2.12	Protection
2.12.1	<p>a) Management of wild deer shall be is based on a strategy that identifies the management objectives, and aims to regulate the impact of deer.</p> <p>b) Non-toxic ammunition is used in the management of wild deer.</p>
2.12.2	There shall be is an emergency response plan appropriate to the level of risk.
2.12.3	The choice of tree protection methods and products is appropriate to the herbivore risk and undertaken to minimise environmental impacts.
2.12.4	There is a biosecurity policy appropriate to the level of risk.

2.13	Conversion
2.13.1	<p>a) Woodland identified in sections 4.1-4.3 shall is not be converted to plantation or non-forested land.</p> <p>b) Areas converted from ancient semi-natural and other semi-natural woodlands to plantation or non-forested land after 1994 shall do not normally qualify for certification.</p>
2.13.2	<p>a) Conversion to non-forested land shall takes place only in certain limited circumstances as set out in this requirement.</p> <p>b) The new land use shall be is 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 are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conversion entails no greater than 5% of the WMU • The conversion does not destroy areas of high carbon stock • 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 habitats and species ○ Important landscape features and character ○ Important historic environment features and character ○ Important carbon stores • The subsequent management of the converted area shall be is integrated with the rest of the WMU.
2.13.3	<p>a) Woodland areas shall be are converted to areas used solely for Christmas tree or short rotation coppice 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 is in close agreement with the details included in the management planning documentation. Any deviation from prescription or planned rate of progress shall be is justified, overall objectives shall are still be achieved and the ecological integrity of the woodland maintained.
2.15	Monitoring
2.15.1	<p>a) The owner/manager shall devises and implements a monitoring programme appropriate to the scale and intensity of management.</p> <p>b) The monitoring programme shall be is:</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 monitors and records:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of policies and objectives and the achievement of verifiable targets • Implementation of woodland operations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, and if necessary shall revise management objectives, verifiable targets and/or management activities.
2.15.3	Monitoring findings, or summaries thereof, shall be made publicly available upon request.

3. Woodland operations

3.1	General
3.1.1	Woodland All woodland operations shall conform to forestry best practice guidance.
3.1.2	<p>The planning of woodland operations shall include:</p> <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 soil carbon 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 • Adopting operational practices to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.
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 and of cultural and historic sites.
3.1.4	<p>Operations shall cease or relocate immediately where:</p> <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.

3.1.5	Operational biosecurity is carried out employing techniques commensurate with the nature and level of risk.
3.2	Harvest operations -Harvesting and restocking
3.2.1	<p>a) Timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) shall be non-wood forest products (NWFPs) are harvested efficiently and with minimum loss or damage to environmental values.</p> <p>b) Timber harvesting shall particularly seeks to avoid:</p> <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 • Loss of soil carbon to air or water.
3.2.2	Harvesting and sales documentation shall enables all timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs); non-wood forest products (NWFPs) that are to be supplied as certified to be traced back to the woodland of origin.
3.2.3	<p>Whole tree harvesting or stump removal shall be is 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.</p> <p>There is no stump-harvesting.</p>
3.2.4	Lop and top shall be is 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.
3.2.5	<p>Ground preparation and subsequent restocking is carried out in a manner that reduces the potential for soil carbon losses considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of mineralisation and timescale over which any losses may be mitigated by tree growth • carbon storage within the trees or harvested timber products.
3.3	Forest roads, and associated infrastructure
3.3.1	All necessary consents shall be are obtained for construction, extension and upgrades of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest roads • Mineral extraction sites • Other Management, visitor access and other infrastructure.
3.3.2	Roads and timber extraction tracks, visitor access and management infrastructure and associated drainage shall be are designed, created, used and maintained in a manner that minimises their environmental impact.
3.4	Pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers
3.4.1	<p>a) The use of pesticides and fertilisers shall be is avoided where practicable.</p> <p>b) The use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers shall be is minimised.</p> <p>c) Damage to environmental values from pesticides, fertilisers and biological control agent use shall be is avoided, mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be are taken to avoid recurrence.</p>

3.4.2	<p>a) The owner/manager shall prepares and implements 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 specifies 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. Any use of pesticides is justified on the basis of a process of environmental and social risk assessment.</p> <p>d) In a given situation, the risk assessment process selects the pest control option that, relative to other options, demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The least social and environmental damage • Greater effectiveness, and • Equal or greater social and environmental benefits. <p>e) Risk assessments are reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least every five years.</p> <p>f) The strategy shall includes 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	<p>Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The owner/manager and workers shall be are aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of pesticides and biological control agents in forestry • The owner/manager shall keeps records of pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation.
3.4.4	<p>a) Pesticides and biological control agents shall are only be used if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are approved for forestry use by the UK regulatory authorities • They are not banned by international agreement, and • Their use is permitted by the owner's/manager'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 owner's/manager's certification scheme shall are not be used unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effective and practicable less-hazardous alternatives are available • Their use is sanctioned using a mechanism endorsed by the owner's/manager'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 for research to be carried out into less hazardous alternatives. <p>c) Pesticides whose use is prohibited by the owner's/manager's certification scheme are only used in emergency situations or by government order, and in compliance with the requirements of the certification scheme.</p>

3.4.5	<p>a) Fertilisers (inorganic and organic) shall are 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 are aware of and shall be implementing legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in forestry.</p> <p>c) No fertilisers shall-be are 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 are only be used following an assessment of environmental impacts in accordance with section 2.5.</p> <p>e) The owner/manager shall keeps 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 are used in preference to fencing.
3.5.2	Where fences are used, they are correctly specified, maintained and their alignment shall-be is 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 is in accordance with current waste management legislation and regulations.
3.6.2	<p>a) The owner/manager selects materials which are best suited for waste minimisation and materials reduction where they are available, economically viable and aligned with management objectives.</p> <p>b) The owner/manager shall prepares and implements a prioritised plan to manage and progressively remove redundant materials.</p>
3.7	Pollution
3.7.1	The owner/manager shall adopts management practices that minimise diffuse pollution arising from woodland operations.
3.7.2	Plans and equipment shall-be are in place to deal with accidental spillages of fuels, oils, fertilisers or other chemicals.

4. Natural, historical and cultural environment

	REQUIREMENT
4.1	Statutory designated sites and protected species nature conservation sites
4.1.1	<p>a) Areas and features of high conservation value having particular significance for biodiversity shall be are 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 are maintained and, where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>c) There shall be is ongoing communication and/or consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities, wildlife trusts and other relevant organisations.</p> <p>d) Statutory designated sites shall be are managed in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies and shall be are marked on maps.</p>
4.1.2	Appropriate measures shall be are taken to protect identified priority habitats and species in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies. In planning and implementing measures within the WMU, the owner/manager shall takes into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of priority species beyond the boundary of the WMU.
4.2	Conservation of ancient semi-natural woodlands (ASNW)
4.2.1	<p>a) Ancient semi-natural woodland shall be is 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> <p>b) Conservation values and threats to them are identified and evaluated.</p> <p>c) Actions are prioritised using the precautionary approach, based on the level of threat.</p> <p>d) The conservation values are maintained and where possible enhanced.</p> <p>e) Management regimes and targeted actions are implemented.</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 ancient features • Identify and evaluate threats

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting a precautionary approach, prioritise actions based on the level of threat and the value of remnants, and • Implement targeted actions. <p>a) Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites are identified by reference to published maps and/or by assessment on the ground.</p> <p>b) Remnant and conservation features and threats to them are identified and evaluated.</p> <p>c) Restoration and conservation opportunities are evaluated within the context of the WMU and wider landscape.</p> <p>d) Actions are prioritised using the precautionary approach, based on the value of the remnants and the level of threat.</p> <p>e) Remnants and conservation features are maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>f) Targeted conservation and management actions are implemented.</p>
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 are identified.</p> <p>b) The identified areas, species and features of conservation value shall be are maintained and where possible enhanced.</p> <p>c) Adverse ecological impacts shall be are 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 are 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 are identified and inform management.</p>
4.4.3	Areas of semi-natural habitats shall constitute a minimum of 5% 10% of the WMU. Where existing habitats or restored remnant features comprise less than 5% 10% of the WMU, the owner/manager shall takes action to convert other areas 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 are identified in consultation with relevant statutory bodies.</p> <p>b) Where critically important areas or features are identified, their management shall be is 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 Are 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 is identified.

4.6.3	The owner/manager shall plans and takes action to maintain continuity of veteran tree habitat by: <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	a) The owner/manager shall plans and takes action to accumulate a diversity of both standing and fallen deadwood over time in all wooded parts of the WMU, including felled areas. b) The owner/manager shall identify identifies areas where deadwood is likely to be of greatest nature conservation benefit, and shall plans and takes action to accumulate large dimension standing and fallen deadwood and deadwood in living trees in those areas.
4.7	Maintenance of local native seed sources
4.7.1	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). b) In ancient and other semi-natural woodland , preference is given to natural regeneration ; where natural regeneration this is insufficient, planting stock from 'source-identified' stands in the local native seed zone shall be is 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 is considered appropriate.
4.8	Cultural and historical features/sites Protection of cultural and historic environment sites
4.8.1	a) 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 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Identifies sites and features of special cultural and historical significance, • Assesses their condition, identifies potential threats, and • Adopting a precautionary approach, devises and implements measures to maintain and/or enhance them • Maintains ongoing communication and/or consultation with statutory bodies, local authority archaeology services, and other relevant organisations. b) Statutory designated sites are managed in accordance with plans agreed with historic environment agencies and are marked on maps.
4.9	Game, shooting and fisheries management
4.9.1	Game rearing and release, shooting and fishing shall be Shooting is carried out sustainably and in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations.
4.9.2	a) Game rearing and release are carried out sustainably and in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations. b) Game release pens are located outside areas of high conservation value .
4.9.3	Fishing and associated activities are carried out sustainably and in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations.
4.9.4	Non-toxic ammunition is used in all shooting activities.

5. People, communities and workers

5.1	Woodland access and recreation including traditional and permissive use rights Public access rights, permissive uses, traditional rights, and the health and wellbeing of local people and communities
5.1.1	There is compliance with public access legislation.
5.1.1 5.1.2	a) Permissive uses authorised by the owner/manager and traditional rights Existing permissive or traditional uses of the woodland shall be are 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. b) A precautionary approach shall be is adopted in relation to water supplies.
5.1.2 5.1.3	a) There shall be is provision for some public access subject only to limited exemptions. b) Where there is a special demand for further public access or community use for the purpose of environmental education , the owner/manager shall makes reasonable efforts to meet this demand.
5.2	Minimising adverse impacts
5.2.1	The owner/manager shall mitigates the risks to public health and safety and other negative impacts of woodland operations on local people .
5.2.2	The owner/manager shall responds constructively to complaints, seeks to resolve grievances through engagement with complainants in the first instance, and follows established legal process should this become necessary.
5.3	Rural Local economy
5.3.1	The owner/manager shall promotes the integration of woodlands into the local economy by: <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 <i>[N.B. The revision working group is giving further thought to requirements on H&S]</i>
5.4.1	(a) There shall be is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with health and safety legislation • Conformance with associated codes of practice • Conformance with FISA guidance. (b) There shall be are contingency plans for any accidents. (c) There shall be is appropriate competency.

5.5	Training and continuing development
5.5.1	All workers including volunteers 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 Large enterprises shall promote training, and encourage and support new recruits to the industry.
5.6	Workers' rights <i>[N.B. The revision working group is giving further thought to requirements on Workers' Rights]</i>
5.6.1	<p>a) There shall be is compliance with workers' rights legislation, including equality legislation.</p> <p>b) There is no use of child labour except as permitted under employment legislation.</p> <p>c) There is compliance with modern slavery legislation.</p> <p>bd) Workers shall are not be deterred from joining a trade union or employee association.</p> <p>ee) Direct employees shall be are permitted to negotiate terms and conditions, including grievance procedures, collectively should they so wish.</p> <p>df) Workers shall have recourse to mechanisms for resolving grievances which meet the requirements of statutory codes of practice.</p> <p>eg) Wages paid to workers shall meet or exceed the statutory national living wage.</p>
5.7	Insurance
5.7.1	The owner/manager and workers shall be are covered by adequate public liability and employer's liability insurance.