



Appendix: Reference Documents

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

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1. Introduction

The main legislation, guidelines and codes of practice relevant to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) are shown here.

These are correct and as complete as possible as of December 2024 but should not be treated as an exhaustive list. This document will be revised from time to time, but it is important at all times to refer to the most recent and/or new documents and relevant websites should be checked frequently.



A book icon is used in the text of the certification standard to indicate that the reader should refer to section 2 of this appendix for documents relevant to the requirement.

2. Main reference documents

The key main documents are listed in section 2.1 below and the other main documents are listed in section 2.2 under the five section headings of the certification standard.

2.1 Key main documents

Key legislation

- 1967: Forestry Act 1967 (as amended)
- 1967: Plant Health Act 1967
- 1982: Forestry Commission Bye-laws
- 2010: Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010
- 2020: The Plant Health (Official Controls and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
- 2018: Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018

Key publications

Forest Research:

2023: The UK Forestry Standard (fifth edition)

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the key reference document for UK forest and woodland management.

The UKFS is a technical standard for sustainable forest management developed by the four governments of the UK. It defines the requirements and provides guidance for foresters on how to practise sustainable forest management in the UK. In this way, it provides a basis for operating grant schemes and official controls and support for regulatory processes.

It also provides the foundation for voluntary certification and quality assurance schemes, and for assessing compliance with environmental management standards.

At the heart of the UKFS are two categories of requirement:

- **Legal Requirements (LR)** are the statutory requirements relevant to legislation in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland that have the most direct bearing on the management of forests. Adhering to these Legal Requirements supports legal compliance, while contravening them could lead directly to prosecution.
- **Good Practice Requirements (GPR)** are important forestry practices that help deliver sustainable forest management. Although they are not legal requirements, appropriate action will usually be necessary in order to deliver sustainable forest management.

The UKFS Guidelines (GL) cover eight subject areas setting out how the Requirements can be met:

- General Forestry Practice
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Historic Environment
- Landscape
- People
- Soil
- Water

For further information on the UK Forestry Standard and to download a copy, see [gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard)

Supporting guidance can be found in the following UKFS publications (<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/publications/>):

- Practice Guides
- Practice Notes
- Technical Guides
- Technical Notes

Country guidance, where applicable, can be obtained from the Forestry Commission (in England), Scottish Forestry, Natural Resources Wales and the Northern Ireland Forest Service.

2.2 Other useful sources of information

Country forestry strategies

- **England** – England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024
www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-trees-action-plan-2021-to-2024
- **Scotland** – Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029
www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/
- **Wales** – Woodlands for Wales: strategy (2018)
www.gov.wales/woodlands-wales-strategy
- **Northern Ireland** – Northern Ireland Forestry: A Strategy for Sustainability and Growth (2006)
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/ni-forestry-strategy-sustainable-growth

Forestry grants and regulations

Information on forestry grant schemes and regulations may be obtained from the relevant forestry authorities: Forestry Commission (in England), Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs/Northern Ireland Forest Service, Scottish Forestry, and Welsh Government/Natural Resources Wales or their successor bodies.

Guidance on environmental regulations

- England: [gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)
- Scotland & Northern Ireland: [netregs.org.uk/](https://www.netregs.org.uk/)
- Wales: <https://naturalresources.wales>

UK legislation

All legislation applicable to the UK, Great Britain, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be accessed here – www.legislation.gov.uk

Other resources

The following is a non-exhaustive list of other sources of information:

- MAGIC Maps: the MAGIC website provides authoritative geographic information about the natural environment across Great Britain. It is presented in an interactive map which can be explored using various mapping tools e.g. to identify designated sites, priority habitats etc. www.magic.defra.gov.uk
- National Biodiversity Network: a source of UK biodiversity data www.nbn.org.uk
- Visitor Safety Group (VSG): a source of advice on managing visitor safety in the countryside www.visitorsafety.group

2.3 Other main reference documents

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

Section 1: Legal compliance and UKWAS conformance

1.1 Compliance and conformance

Legislation:

- 2010: Bribery Act 2010

Ministry of Justice:

- 2011: The Bribery Act 2010 – Guidance about procedures which relevant commercial organisations can put into place to prevent persons associated with them from bribing (section 9 of the Bribery Act 2010)
- Undated: The Bribery Act 2010 – Quick start guide

Scottish Government:

- 2017: Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement

Scottish Land Commission:

- 2020: Protocol: Transparency of Ownership and Land Use Decision Making
- 2021: Protocol: Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land
- 2020: Protocol: Diversification of Ownership and Tenure
- 2020: Protocol: Negotiating Transfer of Land to Communities
- 2020: Protocol: Good Stewardship of Land

1.2 Protection from illegal activities

None specified

1.3 Genetically modified organisms

None specified

Section 2: Management planning

2.1 Policy and objectives

UK Forestry Standard Practice Guides:

- 2022: Adapting forest and woodland management to the changing climate

Scottish Land Commission:

- 2020: Protocol: Transparency of Ownership and Land Use Decision Making
- 2021: Protocol: Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land (and associated Route Map)
- 2020: Protocol: Good Stewardship of Land

2.2 Documentation

Scottish Land Commission:

- 2020: Protocol: Transparency of Ownership and Land Use Decision Making
- 2021: Protocol: Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land
- 2020: Protocol: Good Stewardship of Land

Scottish Forestry (originally published by Forestry Commission Scotland):

- 2024: The Scottish Government's Policy on Non-Timber Forest Products
<https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/forestry-business/1593-the-scottish-government-s-policy-on-non-timber-forest-products-2>)

2.3 Consultation and co-operation

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard:
- UKFS guidelines:
 - Forests and People

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 1996: No. 10: Involving Communities in Forestry through Community Participation

Confor forestry and wood hub (<https://www.forestryandwood.com/>):

New planting schemes: engagement resources:

- 2024: Tone of Voice Guide

Scottish Land Commission:

- 2021: Protocol: Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land

Forestry Commission Practice Note:

- 1999: No. 6, Managing Deer in the Countryside

The Deer Initiative (thedeerinitiative.co.uk):

- Various: Best Practice Guides

NatureScot

- 2011: Code of Practice on Deer Management
- Deer management: Guidance and Best Practice (web-based portal)

Forest Research – Research Summary:

- 2022: Key ingredients of collaborative (deer) management

Wild Deer Best Practice Guidance for Scotland:

- Various: best practice guidance (web-based portal)

2.4 Productive potential of the woodland management unit (WMU)

Scottish Land Commission:

- 2020: Protocol: Good Stewardship of Land

Forestry Scotland:

- 2024: The Scottish Government's Policy on Non-Timber Forest Products

Codes of Practice and information sources:

Feral Pigs:

Wild Deer Best Practice Guidance for Scotland:

- Feral Pig Guides (web-based portal) (<https://bestpracticeguides.org.uk/feral-pigs/>)

Feral Wild Boar in England:

- Wild Boar best Practice Guides (web-based portal) (<https://www.wild-boar.org.uk/>)

Moss:

Various:

- The Scottish Moss Collection Code: Guidance for commercial moss harvesting

Natural Resources Wales:

- NRW Evidence Report No 185: Assessing the scale of Sphagnum moss collection in Wales

Mushrooms:

Truffle & Mushroom Hunter:

- Codes of Practice (web-based portal) (<https://truffleandmushroomhunter.com/mushroom-picking-codes-of-conduct>)

British Mycological Society:

- 1998: The Wild Mushroom Pickers' Code of Conduct
- Code of Conduct (web-based portal) (https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/field_mycology/conservation/code-conduct)

Various:

- The Scottish Wild Mushroom Code

Birch Sap:

- Business Wales Farming Connect (web-based portal) (<https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/business/european-innovation-partnership-eip-wales/approved-eip-wales-projects/comparing-site>)

Wild Garlic:

Dewis Gwyllt:

- Wild Garlic Case Study (<https://www.dewisgwyllt.co.uk/sustainability/sustainable-harvesting/wild-garlic-case-study/>)

Foraging:

Natural Resources Wales:

- 2019: Position Statement: 006: Foraging (<https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/686679/ps006-foraging.pdf?mode=pad>)

Botanical Society of the British Isles:

- 1999: Code of Conduct for the conservation and enjoyment of wild plants (https://bsbi.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/Code_of_Conduct.pdf)

The Association of Foragers:

- Principles of Practice (web-based portal) (<https://foragers-association.org/principles>)

Wild Resources Limited:

- 2008: Report to Natural England: Development of guidelines for the sustainable use of wild plants in England

Forest Research:

- 2006: Wild Harvests from Scottish Woodlands: Social, cultural and economic values of contemporary non-timber forest products

2.5 Assessment of environmental impacts in existing woodland

Legislation:

- 1999: The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999
- 2017: The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
- 2000: The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000

Forestry Commission downloads from gov.uk:

- 2021: Environmental Impact Assessments for Woodland (web-based portal)

Scottish Land Commission:

- 2021: Protocol: Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land

Forestry Commission Plant Health Service guidance document:

- 2012: Biosecurity Guidance

Forestry Commission Practice Notes:

- 1998: No. 2, The Prevention of Rabbit Damage to Trees in Woodland

Wild Boar Best Practice Guides website:

- Wild Boar Best Practice Guides (web-based portal)

England & Wales Fire Forum:

- Wildfire Prevention Toolkit (web-based portal)

2.6 Woodland creation

Forest Research:

- The UK Forestry Standard
- UKFS guidelines:
 - Forests and Biodiversity
 - Forests and Climate Change
 - Forests and Historic Environment
 - Forests and Landscape
 - Forests and People
 - Forests and Soil
 - Forests and Water

Forestry Commission Guideline Notes:

- 2000: No. 1, Forests and Peatland Habitats

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 2018: No. 12, Design Techniques for Forest Management Planning

British Trust for Ornithology Research Report:

- 2021: BTO Research Report 740: Sensitivity mapping for breeding waders in Britain: towards producing zonal maps to guide wader conservation, forest expansion and other land-use changes. Report with specific data for Northumberland and north-east Cumbria.

The Woodland Trust:

- 2022: Woodland Creation Guide
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/50673/woodland-trust-woodland-creation-guide.pdf>
The Woodland Trust's approach to woodland creation for people and wildlife. It describes in detail the phases of the process and the principles that need to be considered when looking to expand woodland and tree cover on an area of land.
- 2022: Site Assessment Handbook: A technical guide for practitioners
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/52091/site-assessment-handbook.pdf>
- 2022: Tree Species Handbook, A technical guide for practitioners:
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2022/03/tree-species-handbook/>
This handbook aims to help with decisions about tree species in woodland creation projects, with profiles of 50 tree and shrub species and 18 woodland communities.

2.7 Woodland structure

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard
- UKFS guidelines:
 - Forests and Biodiversity
 - Forests and Climate Change
 - Forests and Historic Environment
 - Forests and Landscape
 - Forests and People
 - Forests and Soil
 - Forests and Water

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 2014: No. 12, Design Techniques for Forest Management Planning

2.8 Tree species selection

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard
- UKFS guidelines:
 - Forests and Climate Change
- Forest Research Tools and Resources (web-based portal):
 - Ecological Site Classification (ESC): a web-based decision support system for British forests
 - Climate Change Factsheet Series

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 2004: Creating New Broadleaved Woodland by Direct Seeding

Forestry Commission Practice Note:

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

Forestry Commission England Practice Guides:

- 2010: Managing Ancient and Native Woodland in England

The Woodland Trust:

- 2022: Tree Species Handbook, A technical guide for practitioners:
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2022/03/tree-species-handbook/>
This handbook aims to help with decisions about tree species in woodland creation projects, with profiles of 50 tree and shrub species and 18 woodland communities.

2.9 Introduction of non-native species

None specified

2.10 Silvicultural systems

Forestry Commission Information Notes:

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

Forestry Commission Practice Guides:

- 2003: The Management of Semi-Natural Woodlands:
 - No. 1: Lowland Acid Beech and Oak Woods
 - No. 2: Lowland Beech-Ash Woods
 - No. 3: Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woods
 - No. 4: Upland Mixed Ash Woods
 - No. 5: Upland Oakwoods
 - No. 6: Upland Birchwoods
 - No. 7: Native Pinewoods
 - No. 8: Wet Woodlands

Scottish Land Commission:

- 2021: Protocol: Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land

2.11 Conservation

None specified

2.12 Protection

Forestry Commission Practice Notes:

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

Forestry Commission Information Notes:

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

Forestry Commission Technical Guide:

- 2006: Forest Fencing

Forestry Commission Technical Note:

- 2012: Fence Marking to Reduce Grouse Collisions

FISA:

- Safety Guide – 104 Fencing

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust:

- 2013: Black Grouse Fence Collisions and Marking

The Deer Initiative (thedeerinitiative.co.uk):

- Various: Best Practice Guides

NatureScot:

- 2011: Code of Practice on Deer Management
- Deer management: Guidance and Best Practice (web-based portal)

Wild Deer Best Practice Guidance for Scotland:

- Various: best practice guidance (web-based portal)

Plant Health Alliance (web-based portal):

- Plant Health Management Standard and Plant Healthy Certification Scheme (planthealthy.org.uk)

2.13 Conversion

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard

Scottish Government:

- 2009: The Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal

2.14 Implementation, amendment and revision of the plan

None specified

2.15 Monitoring

None specified

Section 3: Woodland operations

3.1 General

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard
- UKFS guidelines:
 - Forests and Biodiversity
 - Forests and Historic Environment
 - Forests and Landscape
 - Forests and People
 - Forests and Soil
 - Forests and Water

FISA:

- 2019 FISA Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry

Forest Industry Environment Group (FIEG):

- 2022: Guidance on Responsibilities for Environmental Protection in Forestry (Version 2)

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 1995: No. 9, Forest Operations and Badger Setts

3.2 Harvesting and restocking

Legislation:

- 2016: The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016
- Felling licences: England and Wales
 - Forestry Act 1967 (part II)
 - The Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations 1979
 - The Forestry (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) Regulations 1979
 - The Forestry (Modification of Felling Restrictions) Regulations 1985
- Felling licences: Northern Ireland
 - Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (Part 3)
 - The Forestry (Felling of Trees) (Calculation of the Area of Land) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013
 - The Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013
- Felling permissions: Scotland
 - Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (Part 4)
 - The Forestry (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations 2019
 - The Felling (Scotland) Regulations 2019

- Other controls on felling: England, Scotland and Wales
 - The Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005
- Other controls on felling: England and Wales
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Other controls on felling: England
 - The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012
- Other controls on felling: Northern Ireland
 - The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
 - The Plant Health Order (Northern Ireland) 2006
 - Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
 - The Planning (Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015
- Other controls on felling: Scotland
 - Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
 - Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
- Other controls on felling: Wales
 - The Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999

Forestry Commission Practice Guides:

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

Forestry Commission Information Notes:

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

Forestry Commission Technical Notes:

- 2002: No. 2, Planning Controlled Burning Operations in Forestry
- 2000: No. 3, Forest and Moorland Fire Suppression
- 2002: No. 4, Burning Forest Residues
- 2005: No. 11, Protecting the Environment during Mechanised Harvesting Operations

Forest Industry Safety Accord Guides:

- 803 Firefighting

Timber Transport Forum

- 2020: Road Haulage of Round Timber: Code of Practice. 5th Edition
- 2012: Managing Timber Transport: Good Practice Guide

- 2014: Tread Softly: Lower impact vehicles for timber haulage
- 2023: Loading Timber from Roadside Forests: Good Practice 2023

Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

- 1993: The DANI Statement on Environmental Policy

3.3 Forest infrastructure

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard
- UKFS guidelines:
 - Forests and Biodiversity
 - Forests and Historic Environment
 - Forests and Landscape
 - Forests and People
 - Forests and Soil
 - Forests and Water

Timber Transport Forum:

- 2020: Road Haulage of Round Timber: Code of Practice. 5th Edition
- 2012: Managing Timber Transport: Good Practice Guide
- 2014: Tread Softly: Lower impact vehicles for timber haulage
- 2023: Loading Timber from Roadside Forests: Good Practice 2023

3.4 Integrated pest management

Legislation:

- 1985: Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (Part III)
- 1986: Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR), as amended by the Control of Pesticides (amended) Regulations 1997 (COP(A)R)
- 1987: Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) (COPR NI) 1987
- 1990: Environment Protection Act 1990
- 1994: Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (plus various amendments)
- 1996: Waste Management Regulations 1996
- 2002: Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)
- 2002: Waste Management (Duty of Care) Regulations 2002
- 2011: The Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011
- 2012: The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations
- 2020 The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products)

Key references:

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 2004: No. 15, Reducing Pesticide Use in Forestry

Forest Research Report:

- 2022: The integrated management of *Hylobius abietis* in UK forestry

Confor (web-based portal):

- Hylobius Research Programme
(<https://confor.org.uk/resources/hylobius-abietis-industry-research-programme-hirp/>)

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard
- UKFS guidelines:
 - Forests and Soil
 - Forests and Water

Other references:

Forestry Commission Field Books:

- 1995: No. 8, The Use of Herbicides in the Forest (4th edition)
- 1996: No. 14, Herbicides for Farm Woodlands and Short Rotation Coppice

Forestry Commission Practice Notes:

- 1998: No. 2, The Prevention of Rabbit Damage to Trees in Woodland
- 1998: No. 3, The Prevention of Mammal Damage to Trees in Woodland

UK Forestry Standard Technical Note:

- 2019: Controlling grey squirrels in forests and woodlands in the UK

British Crop Protection Council:

- 2024: UK Pesticide Guide 2024

Pesticides Safety Directorate (Defra):

- 2006: Pesticides: Code of Practice for use of Plant Protection Products (England & Wales)

Scottish Government Environment & Rural Affairs Department:

- 2006: Pesticides: Code of Practice for use of Plant Protection Products in Scotland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland):

- 2011: Code of practice for using plant protection products

3.5 Fertilisers

Forestry Commission Bulletin:

- 1995: Forest Fertilisation in Britain

3.6 Fencing

Forestry Commission:

Technical Note:

- 2012: Fence Marking to Reduce Grouse Collisions

Technical Guide:

- 2006: Forest Fencing

FISA:

- Safety Guide 104 Fencing

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust:

- 2013: Black Grouse Fence Collisions and Marking

Scottish Land Commission:

- 2021: Protocol: Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land

3.7 Materials and waste

Legislation:

- 2002: Waste Management (Duty of Care) Regulations 2002
- 1996: Waste Management Regulations 1996
- 1994: Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (and amendments)
- 2011: The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- 2011: The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011
- 2003: The Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003
- 2012: The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012
- 2011: The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011

3.8 Pollution

Forestry & Water Scotland:

- 2023: Know the Rules (2nd edition)

Section 4: Natural, historical and cultural environment

Legislation:

- 2000: Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- 1981: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- 1979: The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- 2016: Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- 2016: Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- 1985: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)
- 2002: The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
- 1995: The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)
- 1995: Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
- 1994: The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994 (Scotland)
- 2004: Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- 2014: Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014

Guidance:

Forest Stewardship Council United Kingdom (FSC UK):

- National High Conservation Value Framework for the United Kingdom (V2-0 is in preparation)

4.1 Statutory nature conservation sites

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (updated annually)

4.2 Conservation of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)

Forestry Commission Management Handbook:

- 2010: Managing Native Broadleaved Woodland

Forestry Commission England Practice Guides:

- 2010: Managing Ancient and Native Woodland in England

Forestry Commission Practice Guides:

- 2003: The Management of Semi-Natural Woodlands:
- No. 1: Lowland Acid Beech and Oak Woods
- No. 2: Lowland Beech-Ash Woods
- No. 3: Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woods
- No. 4: Upland Mixed Ash Woods
- No. 5: Upland Oakwoods

- No. 6: Upland Birchwoods
- No. 7: Native Pinewoods
- No. 8: Wet Woodlands

Forestry Commission Practice Note:

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

Natural England:

- 2020: National Habitat Network Maps User Guidance (v.2)

4.3 Management of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)

Forestry Commission Practice Guides:

- 2003: Restoration of Native Woodland on Ancient Woodland Sites
- 2013: Choosing Stand Management Methods for Restoring Planted Ancient Woodland Sites

Woodland Trust Practical Guidance:

- 2020: Module 1, Ancient woodland restoration: An introductory guide to the principles of restoration management <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/48757/ancient-woodland-restoration-management-principles-introduction.pdf>
- 2018: Module 2; Ancient woodland restoration: survey and assessment of ancient woodland sites <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2019/02/ancient-woodland-restoration-survey-and-assessment/>
- 2019: Module 3; Ancient woodland restoration: Halting further decline <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2019/02/ancient-woodland-restoration-halting-further-decline/>
- 2019: Module 4; Ancient woodland restoration: Phase two - Recovery of ecosystem: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2021/06/ancient-woodland-restoration-recovery-of-the-wider-ecosystem/>

4.4 Other priority habitats

None specified

4.5 Protection of conservation values in other woodlands and semi-natural habitats

Natural England:

- 2020: National Habitat Network Maps User Guidance (v.2)

Forestry Commission Guideline Note:

- 2000: No. 1, Forests and Peatland Habitats

Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA):

- 1993: Afforestation - The DANI Statement on Environmental Policy

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 2014: No. 24, Managing Open Habitats in Upland Forests

Forestry Commission Scotland Practice Guide:

- 2015: No. 104, Deciding future management options for afforested deep peatland

4.6 Watershed management and erosion control

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard
- UKFS guidelines:
 - Forests and Soil
 - Forests and Water

4.7 Maintenance of biodiversity and ecological functions

Natural England: English Nature Research Reports:

- 2000: No. 384, Natural Reserves in English Woodlands
- 2000: No. 385, A Provisional Minimum Intervention Woodland Reserve Series for England with Proposals for Baseline Recording and Long-term Monitoring Therein

Natural England: English Nature Report:

- 2000: Veteran Trees – A Guide to Good Management

The Tree Council:

- 2013: Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management

The Woodland Trust:

- 2022: Ancient and veteran trees: An assessment guide <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/51153/ancient-and-veteran-trees-an-assessment-guide.pdf>

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 2012: Managing Deadwood in Forests and Woodlands

Quarterly Journal of Forestry (QJF):

- 2002: There's Life in that Deadwood by Kirby K, Currie F and Butler J. QJF Vol 96 No 2

4.8 Maintenance of local native seed sources

Legislation:

- 2002: Forest Reproductive Materials Regulations 2002
- 2002: Forest Reproductive Materials Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002

Forestry Commission:

- 2019: Forest Reproductive Material: Regulations controlling seed, cuttings and planting stock for forestry in Great Britain

4.9 Protection of cultural and historic environment sites

Forest Research:

- 2023: The UK Forestry Standard

UKFS guidelines:

- Forests and Historic Environment

4.10 Game-rearing, shooting and fisheries management

Legislation:

- 1981: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and Amendments)
- 1991: Deer Act
- 1996: Deer (Scotland) Act
- 2004: Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- 2011: Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act
- 2016: Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Forestry Commission Practice Notes:

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

Forestry Commission UK Forestry Standard Technical Notes:

- 2019: Controlling grey squirrels in forests and woodlands in the UK

Fishing, Hunting, Game and Shooting Codes of Practice:

- British Association for Shooting and Conservation and others (www.basc.org.uk):
- Undated: Code of Good Shooting Practice (codeofgoodshootingpractice.org.uk)
- 2023: Deer Stalking in the UK: A Code of Practice ([Deer Stalking in the UK – Code of Practice](#))
- Undated: Code of best practice on the use of snares for fox control in England ([Code of practice on the use of snares for fox control in England](#))
- 2015: Code of best practice on the use of snares in fox control (Wales)
- Undated: Grey squirrel control with live capture traps (BASC web-based portal)

Deer Initiative (thedeerinitiative.co.uk):

- Best Practice Guides (England & Wales) (web-based portal)

NatureScot:

- Various dates: Wild Deer Best Practice Guidance for Scotland (web-based portal)

Game Wildlife & Conservation Trust (gwct.org.uk):

- Undated: Guidelines for Sustainable Gamebird Releasing

Hawk Board (hawkboard.uk):

- 2021: Code of Welfare and Husbandry for Falconry

Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra):

- 2010: Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes (applies to England)

Scottish Government:

- 2011: Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes (applies to Scotland)

Welsh Government:

- 2011: Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes: welfare code of practice (applies to Wales)

Section 5: People, communities and workers

5.1 Public access rights, permissive uses, traditional rights, and the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities

Legislation:

- 2000: Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000
- 2003: Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- 1983: Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983
- 2010: The Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010
- 2010: Equality Act 2010
- 1995: Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) (Northern Ireland)
- 2010: Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Section 75)

Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra):

- 2010: Authorising structures (gaps, gates & stiles) on rights of way: Good practice guidance for local authorities on compliance with the Equality Act 2010

Woodland Trust:

- Responsible Foraging Guidelines (web-based portal with links to various good practice codes)

Scottish Forestry: Forestry Commission Scotland Practice Note:

- 2013: No. 104, Managing Woodland Access and Forest Operations in Scotland

Natural England (web-based portal):

- Public rights of way: landowner responsibilities
([gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-landowner-responsibilities](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-landowner-responsibilities))
- Open access land: management, rights and responsibilities
([gov.uk/guidance/open-access-land-management-rights-and-responsibilities](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-access-land-management-rights-and-responsibilities))

Scottish Outdoor Access Code (web-based portal): ([outdooraccess-scotland.com](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)):

5.2 Minimising adverse impacts

Forestry Commission Practice Guide:

- 2000: No. 13: Hazards from Trees: A General Guide

Health and Safety Executive:

- Managing Health and Safety in Forestry– see 5.4 below

National Tree Safety Group (<https://ntsgroup.org.uk/>):

- 2024: Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (2nd Edition) (full guidance)
- 2024: Common Sense Risk Management of Trees: Summary (2nd Edition)

Timber Transport Forum (web-based portal):

- Agreed Routes Maps for Timber Transport covering most of the forested areas of Scotland, Cumbria, North Yorkshire and North-East England. See timbertransportforum.org.uk
- 2020: The Road Haulage of Round Timber: Code of Practice. 5th Edition
- 2012: Managing Timber Transport: Good Practice Guide
- 2014: Tread Softly: Lower impact vehicles for timber haulage
- 2023: Loading Timber from Roadside Forests: Good Practice

5.3 Local economy

None specified

5.4 Health and safety

Legislation:

- 1974: Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (and Amendments)
- 2009: Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations

Health and Safety Executive (HSE):

- 2013: Lifting equipment at work: A brief guide
- 2013: Providing and using work equipment safely: A brief guide
- 2014: First Aid at Work – Your Questions Answered
- 2013: Reporting accidents and incidents at work: A brief guide to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)
- 2013: Chainsaws at Work
- Tree work- Guidance (web-based portal) (<https://www.hse.gov.uk/treework/index.htm>)
- Forestry publications, refer to [hse.gov.uk/pubns/forindex.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/forindex.htm)

HSE Leaflets on Forestry:

General:

- Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain: 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023
- 1998: Agriculture Information Sheet No 27: PUWER 98: How the Regulations apply to Agriculture and Forestry

HSE:

- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) (web-based portal) (www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/loLER.htm)

Forest Industry Safety Accord Safety Guides (<https://ukfisa.com/Safety/Safety-Guides>):

- General:
 - 2019: FISA Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry
- Establishment:
 - 103 Planting
 - 104 Fencing
- Maintenance:
 - 203 Clearing Saw
 - 204 Flails and Mulchers in Tree Work
- Chainsaws:
 - 301 Using Petrol-Driven Chainsaws
 - 302 Basic Chainsaw Felling and Manual Takedown
 - 303 Chainsaw Snedding
 - 304 Chainsaw Cross-Cutting and Manual Stacking
 - 306 Chainsaw Clearance of Windblow
 - 307 Chainsaw Felling of Large Trees
 - 310 Use of Winches in Directional Felling and Takedown
- Extraction:
 - 501 Tractors Units in Tree Work
 - 502 Extraction by Skidder
 - 503 Extraction by Forwarder
 - 504 Extraction by Cable Crane
 - 505 Traction Assist
 - 506 Extraction by Horse
- Processing:
 - 601 Mobile Circular Saw Bench
 - 602 Mobile Peeling Machine
 - 603 Mechanical Harvesting
 - 604 Wood Chippers
 - 605 Mechanical Roadside Processing
 - 607 Firewood Processors
 - 608 Tree Shear and Grapple Saw
- Vehicles:
 - 701 ATV Quad Bikes
 - 702 All-Terrain Vehicles
 - 703 Debugging and Recovery of Forestry Machines
 - 704 Excavators in Tree Work
 - 705 Steep Slope Working in Forestry
 - 706 Timber Haulage
 - 707 Roundwood in Ports
- General Safety:
 - 802 Emergency Planning
 - 803 Firefighting
 - 804 Electricity at Work: Forestry
 - 805 Training and Certification
 - 806 Welfare
 - 807 Working near Railways
 - 808 CDM in Relation to Forestry

Forestry Commission Practice Note:

- 2013: No. 19, Managing public safety on harvesting sites

National Tree Safety Group (<https://ntsgroup.org.uk/>):

- Undated: Managing Trees for Safety
- 2011: Common Sense Risk Management of Trees
- Undated: Common Sense Risk Management of Trees - Landowner Summary

Visitor Safety Group (VSG) (<https://www.visitorsafety.group/>):

- Undated: Managing Visitor Safety in the Countryside: Principles and Practice (and other publications)

5.5 Training and continuing development

Forest Industry Safety Accord:

- 2023: FWM (Forestry Works Manager) Framework for Competence and Continuing Professional Development ([FWM Framework for Competence and CPD - December 2023](#))

5.6 Workers' rights

The ILO Conventions represent the consensus by representatives of 187 member countries of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and all have been adopted and/or endorsed by the International Labour Conference or the Governing Body of ILO. They include Conventions and Recommendations which are formal legal instruments.

- ILO Conventions:
- 1930: 29: Forced Labour Convention
- 1948: 87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Conventions
- 1949: 97: Migration for Employment (Revised) Convention
- 1949: 98: Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention
- 1951: 100: Equal Remuneration Convention
- 1957: 105: Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
- 1958: 111: Discrimination (Occupation and Employment) Convention
- 1970: 131: Minimum Wage Fixing Convention
- 1973: 138: Minimum Age Convention
- 1975: 141: Rural Workers' Organisations Convention
- 1975: 142: Human Resources Development Convention
- 1975: 143: Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention
- 1981: 155: Occupational Safety and Health Convention
- 1989: 169: Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention
- 1999: 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention
- 2006: Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention

Other ILO Documents:

- 2024: Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work (revised version of the 1998 code of practice)
- 1970: Recommendation 135: Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation

Refer also to [ilo.org](https://www.ilo.org)

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

Legislation:

- 1998: National Minimum Wage Act 1998
- 2015: Modern Slavery Act 2015
- 2016: National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Regulations 2016

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS):

Statutory Code of Practice:

- 2015: No. 1, Disciplinary and grievance procedures

Guides:

- 2019: Equality and discrimination: understand the basics
- Preventing discrimination: Advice for employers (web-based portal)
- Discrimination at work: How and when discrimination can happen (web-based portal)

Labour Relations Agency (LRA) (Northern Ireland):

- 2011: Code of Practice on Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures

5.7 Insurance

None specified

3. Availability of documents

The main documents are available from the following organisations:

Legislation

- UK Legislation legislation.org.uk
- Health and Safety Executive hse.gov.uk

Environmental regulations

- England gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency
- Scotland & Northern Ireland www.netregs.org.uk
- Wales <https://naturalresources.wales>

British Crop Protection Council

- bcpc.org

The Deer Initiative

- thedeerinitiative.co.uk

Wild Boar Best Practice

- wild-boar.org.uk

Forest Industry Safety Accord

- ukfisa.com

Forestry Commission (publications)

- forestresearch.gov.uk/publications

Health and Safety Executive

- hse.gov.uk

Health & Safety Executive (pesticides)

- hse.gov.uk/pesticides

Natural England

- naturalengland.org.uk

NatureScot

- <https://www.nature.scot/>

Northern Ireland Forest Service

- daera-ni.gov.uk/forest-service-publications

Soil Association

- soilassociation.org

UK Woodland Assurance Standard

- ukwas.org.uk

Information on certification scheme requirements

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

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

- FSC International fsc.org
- FSC UK uk.fsc.org

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

- PEFC International pefc.org
- PEFC UK pefc.co.uk

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